



Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council

Cabinet Office
The Guildhall,
Swansea, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk

Cllr Lynda James
Convener, Schools Scrutiny
Performance Panel

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Direct Line: 01792 63 7429
E-Mail: cllr.jennifer.raynor@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: JR/HS
Your Ref: ref
Date: 11 January 2019

Dear Cllr James

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel – 11 December 2018

Thank you for your letter dated 9 January 2019. Since the panel met in December, I am pleased to report that the reform of ERW is now securely underway with firm proposals for the Joint Committee to consider next month.

The new professional standards will take time to embed thoroughly but are aligned to curriculum reform. The work of officers in supporting schools with new standards will be monitored during the next few years. The five top priorities will help ensure our relentless focus on education and skills.

A review of local school improvements shows aspects that are very good, others are satisfactory and even a few that have yet to be addressed. However, the impact is seen in pupil performance across the authority. I am pleased that pupil performance and school performance against national criteria will be scrutinised fully in January 2019.

The Welsh *Siartr Iaith* (Language Charter) work is gathering momentum in Swansea and is in keeping with curriculum reform and professional standards. I expect to see all schools in Swansea receiving accreditation for promoting bilingualism and incidental Welsh during the next three years.

As accountability measures in schools in the future will focus more on mental and physical health, it will be interesting to see how we define and quantify wellbeing.

Swansea's digital strategy is a good example of partnership working and addresses the requirement for equity of opportunity for all learners. However, there is still work to be done to ensure that we provide our children with the skills for future occupations.

The opportunity for stakeholder opinion to be formally captured will be fed back to the interim Managing Director of ERW. Useful surveys have been conducted in the past and I am aware of a current survey to capture the views of headteachers on the value for money provided by the funding stream for curriculum reform.



The pupil development grant requires careful monitoring to ensure value for money. It is pleasing to report an increase in 2017-2018 in the proportion of free school meal pupils achieving five A*-C grades, including mathematics and English/ Welsh at GCSE.

The operational detail is confidential, not for publication with the papers. It is shared with the Panel in response to their request for additional information. Names have not been redacted to illustrate the high level of joint work across schools, the department and ERW.

I trust that the panel is now satisfied with the level of detail presented.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Raynor', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Jennifer Raynor
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT, LEARNING & SKILLS