



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**  
**DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE**

Cllr Fiona Gordon  
Convener  
Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

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Date / Dyddiad: 12 April 2017

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.**

Dear Cllr Gordon

**Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel**

Thank you for your letter regarding your meeting with Birchgrove School. This is a school which has faced a decline in numbers and in lifting outcomes for pupils.

The education improvement team supports the position taken by Birchgrove to recall their head of science. In the City & County of Swansea (CCoS), officers take the view that teachers may apply for secondment to work across the ERW education consortium with the consent of the school's governing body. ERW has confirmed that consent for the secondment was provided at the time and that the new headteacher's desire to recall the member of staff was honoured as soon as practically possible.

Performance in science is relatively strong across CCoS compared to other areas in Wales. At key stage 4, in biology, chemistry, physics, additional science and core science pupils make significantly greater progress than other similar pupils do in Wales. Nevertheless, in a few schools science outcomes are not as strong as they

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should be, such as in Birchgrove. In these cases challenge advisers work closely with the schools to provide the correct level of challenge and support needed to raise outcomes.

Currently, there are no local authority strategies to counter aggressive pupil recruitment policies from other local authorities. This matter will be raised in forthcoming hub meetings between CCoS and the Neath Port Talbot Council.

Yours sincerely

**COUNCILLOR JENNIFER RAYNOR**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION**

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