

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

18 September 2017



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Neuadd y Sir  
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Councillor Sarah Merry  
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
CARDIFF  
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2017 to provide an opening statement and answer questions on the **Provisional School results and Corporate Performance report for Quarter one**.

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar and Jackie Turner for their presentation of the report, provisional school results update, together with the answers to Members questions. Members welcomed the report and acknowledged that more detailed information and analysis would be presented to Committee in January 2018, however Members agreed to highlight a few issues, in this letter.

The Committee firstly reviewed the provisional school results, and during the way forward, expressed concern at the continued gap in performance between FSM and non FSM pupils. The Committee requested that further analysis of the FSM data, by group (LAC, SEN, ALN, ESL), be included in the January report, to help identify any specific groups causing concern.

The Committee also inquired about the performance of pupils who had moved out of FSM. The Committee noted a reference to "Ever 5 Services funding" and requested further information on this funding. The Committee also requested a briefing paper on the monitoring and assessment process, by schools, of the Pupils Deprivation grant.

When reviewing the quarter one performance report, the Committee expressed concern at the difficulty in recruiting senior leaders to Catholic Schools and experienced Teachers for Welsh Medium Schools. Whilst the Committee understood the difficulties, the Members requested further information on the strategies and plans that the Council has implemented or supported to help address these difficulties.

I hope that these comments, advice and requests for information detailed above will be of use and support in improving outcomes for Cardiff's pupils. The Committee looks forward to receiving further briefings, requests for information, and as such the Members require a formal response to this letter within the next month.

To recap, this letter requests several actions, requests for information and recommendations, as follows and requires:

- Analysis of the FSM data by group (LAC, SEN, ALN, ESL), to be included in the January report;
- Information on “Ever 5 Services funding”
- A briefing paper on the monitoring and assessment process for the use by schools of the Pupils Deprivation grant.
- Information on the strategies and plans that the Council has implemented to help address the difficulty in recruiting senior leaders for Catholic Schools and experienced teachers for Welsh Medium Schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN**  
**Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning  
Jackie Turner – Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong learning  
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger