

Lynne Neagle AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ94636

Samuel Kurtz MS

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18 November 2024

Dear Sam,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in response.

On 9 October you inquired about the percentage of children who leave primary and secondary education classified as functionally illiterate.

The term 'functionally illiterate' is not recognised or collected as a data item by the Welsh Government, nor is it used by Estyn in their school inspection reports. This includes the Chief Inspector's annual report, which considers reading skills across all types of school and setting, as well as regular thematic reviews including the [September 2024 review](#) of Welsh reading skills and [May 2023 review](#) of English reading skills.

Schools and local authorities have their own sources of data and information as well as information provided to them by Welsh Government to inform their local understanding of schools and learning. Nationally we have a range of data and information available including qualifications data, our assessment data including online personalised assessments, our results from PISA and other comparator analyses, [statistical releases](#) as well as information from Estyn and from our regular engagement with partners. Many of these datasets are published on a regular basis for the purposes of transparency and to support improvement. Through our formative [evaluation programme](#), researchers are working with schools across Wales to understand progress in the implementation of Curriculum for Wales, including how schools are delivering the mandatory cross-curricular skills of Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence. Taken together, this information gives a rounded and balanced picture of schools and learning in Wales.

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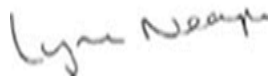
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I have been clear that literacy is a key part of delivering on the Welsh Government's priority to improve standards in education. I set out the action I am taking to support literacy under Curriculum for Wales in my [Written Statement](#) on 4 October.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Neagle". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**

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