

EM9

Proposed Education (Wales) Measure

Response to On-line Survey

Name: - J Jones

Organisation: - Parent.

2. Is there a need for a Measure to make collaboration commonplace in the education system, to improve school governance and to simplify the planning of school places in Wales?

No

Wales has an impossible dual medium education system where Welsh medium schools are allowed to come into existence at will and parents allowed to choose these schools from out of catchment area. The result is that the number of schools grows and WM schools become smaller on average whilst the larger EM schools are closed or amalgamated. Average size of a WM secondary school is 743 pupils and an Em secondary is 974. At primary level the difference is greater. Despite this, advantageous funding of WM schools results in better teacher pupil ratios (15to one WM 16.7to one EM). Freedom to choose a WM school has resulted in marked socio-economic stratification. 10.87% of pupils in WM schools are on Free School Meals in EM schools it is 20.08%. 85.3% of WM GCSE pupils are in schools with less than 15% on FSMs. 43.5% of EM GCSE pupils are in schools with less than 15% on FSMs Socio economic stratification is most marked in places like Cardiff where the WM secondary schools have the lowest number of Ethnic minority pupils (6% against an average 23% for EM schools) and amongst the lowest percentage on FSMs. Nevertheless these schools are given an extra £98,000 a year so that they can have pupil teacher ratios of 14 to one! Since 2007 the performance gap between pupils on FSMs and Non FSMs has widened from 28.8 to 31.3. This under a socialist government! The Assembly are ideologically mired and devoid of the will to Educate the poorest in society whilst pouring money into the lap of Middle class Welsh speaking parents. A disgrace.

3. What are your views on collaboration by education bodies? (Sections 1 to 9 of the proposed Measure)

No Response

4. What are your views on a federation of maintained schools? (Sections 10 to 20 of the proposed Measure)

No Response

5. What are your views on training for governors and clerks and provision of clerks? (Sections 21 to 24)

Clerks to Governors should not only be trained but should not be the school secretary in the school for which they are Clerk. School secretaries cannot maintain confidentiality or independence when they are under the daily control of the Head

6. What are your views on foundation schools? (Sections 25 to 29)

They are essential to allow schools such as the one where my child is educated to escape the vindictive and nasty attempts by an ideologically driven LEA to emsculate the most successful and diverse school in the County. Elsewhere in North Wales Foundation schools have given choice to parents where none was offered by the LEA. Caergeiliog primary offers English medium education and as a consequence is the biggest primary in Ynys Mon. Ynys Mon LEA denies parents the right to choose English medium education for primary children. In Conwy the most successful secondary school (taking into account the deprivation levels of pupils) is a foundation school. LEA's are hide-bound unimaginative and Ideologically driven groups of often incompetent time servers. Foundation schools are essential to compare with LEA controlled schools. See what works and copy it!

7. What are the potential barriers to implementing the key provisions of the proposed Measure (if any) and does the proposed Measure take account of them?

No Response

8. What are the financial implications of the proposed Measure for your organisation? In answering this question you may wish to consider Section 8 of the Explanatory Memorandum, in which the Minister provides an estimate of the costs and benefits of implementation of the proposed Measure.

No Response

9. Do you think an appropriate balance has been struck between powers on the face of the proposed Measure and those contained in Regulations to be made by the Welsh Ministers?

No