



Kirsty Williams AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education

15th June 2016

Dear Kirsty

I am pleased that you felt able to accept my invitation to join the Welsh Government and it is pleasing to note that, in doing so, you have received the support of your party. During our discussions ahead of you accepting a Ministerial appointment we agreed on a number of specific outcomes to be delivered during the course of this administration. At this early stage it is important that the details of our agreement are formally recorded and understood across the Welsh Government. We agreed the following:

Common Priorities

We agree that working together we will bring forward proposals that are ambitious, optimistic and innovative so that:

- There are more nurses, in more settings, through an extended nurse staffing levels law;
- The recommendations of the Diamond Review are considered, with a view to early implementation where appropriate, but there will be no negative effect on the higher education budget if there are any changes;
- 20,000 extra affordable homes are funded;
- A new 'Rent to Own' housing model is introduced;
- Funding is provided to put in place a floor for future local government settlements;
- Welsh agriculture is supported by introducing a small grants scheme in the rural development plan;
- Mental health discrimination is ended

Education Priorities

As First Minister and Education Minister we agree that high-quality education is the driving force for social mobility, national prosperity and an engaged democracy. We commit to:

- Infant class sizes are reduced;
- Ensuring every child gets the best start in life through an expanded Pupil Premium;
- Prioritising schools access to super-fast broadband within the national programme;

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- Incentivising, recognising and promoting teaching excellence so that we raise standards across the board;
- Promoting and enhancing both academic and vocational routes into and through further and higher education, and the national, international and civic roles of our educational institutions. This includes both full and part-time opportunities that will benefit learners of all ages, employers and communities.
- The impact of current policy on surplus school places is reviewed, with emphasis on rural schools, to better take account of future growth trends;
- Consulting further on the specific recommendations of the Hazelkorn review.
- Exploring a potential expansion of the remit of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to include further education
- Prioritising support for enhanced links between education and industry, enabling innovation and entrepreneurship across our public and private sectors in collaboration with our universities and colleges.

As Cabinet Secretary for Education you are, of course, a fully fledged member of this Government and you will play a full role in Cabinet deliberations. In addition you and I will meet regularly to ensure that the terms of our agreement are being met and to discuss other issues as they arise. As the Ministerial Code makes clear, collective responsibility is binding on all of us in Government and this calls for a disciplined and consistent approach to conducting business.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that you agree these arrangements. I then propose to copy this to Cabinet and Ministerial colleagues.

Yours sincerely

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

CARWYN JONES