Kirsty Williams AC/AM Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg Cabinet Secretary for Education



All Head Teachers in Wales

September 2018

As part of the Welsh Government's commitment to improve the educational outcomes for looked after children, we want to ensure that adopted children are not overlooked.

It is well documented that formerly looked after children who have been adopted can face barriers to learning as a consequence of early trauma they may have experienced. These challenges do not disappear when an Adoption Order is granted and the type of support schools provide to looked after children can be extremely beneficial to those children who have been adopted too. That is why the Pupil Development Grant for looked after children is aimed at supporting all care experienced children, whether they remain in care or have left.

I am absolutely committed to equity in our education system. I know you will share this commitment and want to ensure that adopted children in your schools have the same opportunities as their peers. The first hurdle to this is identifying those pupils who have been adopted.

I recognise that this will be a sensitive issue for some adoptive parents and they have the right not to share this information. However, these learners in your schools should have the appropriate support to enable them to reach their full potential. Your assistance in achieving this is essential.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM** 

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg Cabinet Secretary for Education

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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.