

**COVID 19 response: Evidence for operation of schools (meeting 5)  
9 June 2020, 13:30 – 15:00**

**Attendees**

**Welsh Government (WG):**

Steve Davies (Chair)

Huw Morris

Alan Woods

NR

Ruth Conway

NR

NR

(note taker)

**Unions:**

Elizabeth Williams, Voice the Union

NR

GMB

Eithne Hughes, ASCL

NR

Unison

Laura Doel, NAHT

Dilwyn Roberts-Young, UCAC

Neil Butler, NASUWT

David Evans, NEU

**Actions**

Action	Lead
1. Final draft Guidance to be circulated to members	NR
2. Update members following meetings with Minister & WLGA	Steve Davies
3. Meetings to be arranged going forward	NR
4. Members to feedback any comments regarding the guidance to be considered going forward.	All members

**Summary meeting note**

Huw Owen welcomed all to the meeting and all members agreed the note of the last meeting.

Steve Davies reminded members that the content of the meeting was confidential. He updated members on the rationale for the Ministers announcement regarding the extra week. In the absence of an agreed position across the Unions, there were a number of issues that would need to be worked through together in the coming week regarding the next stage.

Huw Owen requested feedback from all representatives on the general feeling of members.

- Main concern was the lack of guidance and information at the time of the announcement.
- Extra week an issue, consternation amongst members, some already booked holidays, have worked throughout lockdown including Easter and half term holidays and feel they have fulfilled their contractual duty.
- What is the educational purpose of the extra week?
- Choice of words used in announcement damaging, exploring should have been paramount, future announcements should be firm decisions.
- Half the unions agreed to the additional week but not half the workforce.
- Concern how it would be implemented, is the intention to exercise emergency powers and is it voluntary?
- Would the decision be changed in light of the change today in England?
- Pay & conditions need a national approach from WLGA, if not would be inequity in the system. 1 piece of work not 22 LA's
- Support extra days, at odds with others, and can work through contractual issues.
- Engaging with WLGA as unlikely that 22 LA's will agree, a lot of time will be needed for individual issues.
- Clarity needed quickly.
- Do the Unions have a role in future discussions, what mechanisms are in place
- How does the scientific paper deem it safe, scenario 7, TTP performance needs reassuring
- Term time only staff – Joint Council for Wales statement – Staff asked to volunteer with pay, likelihood that support staff numbers could prove difficult as many have other jobs during holidays

Steve said that in her press release the Minister announced that it was her intention that from 29<sup>th</sup> June that children would have the opportunity to check in, catch up and prepare, and at no point has she said that all schools will be available for all children. The Minister recognised all the hard work that school staff had put in and was not taking advantage. The intention was in the interest of all children and teachers' wellbeing and that the additional week in the autumn would also be more beneficial educationally.

Ruth Conway added that all decisions are taken to minimise risk, all measures, reduced numbers, social distancing, staggered starts etc. are all addressed in the guidance.