

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymchwiliad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg i weithredu diwygiadau addysg](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) inquiry into [Implementation of education reforms](#)

IER 36

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

Response from: Individual

Dear Jane

I am a Parent of two children with additional needs who both have statements of additional needs. They both attended the Welsh Medium School, [REDACTED]

We as a family moved to Wales from [REDACTED] as we wanted our children to be educated through the Medium of Welsh . What we have witnessed here in the [REDACTED] is a Welsh medium school that is so poor that it has failed [REDACTED] our children. I was so relieved in [REDACTED] to see that Estyn had listened to our concerns and many other parents in their report. It's just a tragedy that both our children and many others experienced so much trauma as a result of this school's incompetence.

Our daughter has a diagnosis of ADHD and dyslexia. Unfortunately this was ignored by [REDACTED] and she was never given any support for her needs. She went through periods of being unable to go to school and eventually had a nervous breakdown at [REDACTED] year of age. [REDACTED], Community Paediatrician wrote to the LEA saying that allowing [REDACTED] to return to [REDACTED] would have a negative impact on her health. [REDACTED] now attends [REDACTED] and is thriving.

[REDACTED] brother [REDACTED] has had a very unsettled time at [REDACTED]. Since [REDACTED] he has been identified as having additional needs and he has been observed and assessed by a number of professionals. He was placed on a pupil support plan in [REDACTED] as he was unable to attend school. This was turned around by two teachers who had a very child centred approach, (who have both since left the school). These two teachers changed the way the school worked with

██████████ and last year he was very happy to attend school. Many of the recommendations his teachers put in place were based on the advice of the many professionals involved. In ██████████ was given a statement of additional needs.

██████████ refused to observe what was listed in ██████████ statement of additional needs. In ██████████ the Engagement team recommended ██████████ met with us as parents to plan his transition, but ██████████ refused to meet with us and sent an email copying this in to ██████████ of the engagement team to confirm this. On ██████████ was very unsettled but ██████████ refused to send ██████████ home. At the end of the day ██████████ had a very high temperature. We took him to the Gp the following day and he was prescribed antibiotics as his throat was so sore it was bleeding. Since then ██████████ has been unable to return to school apart from with me present. In the autumn term we have had regular two weekly meetings with ██████████ at the school and engagement team officer ██████████. It transpired in these meetings that under ██████████ leadership ██████████ was:

- Given an LSA who is agency staff and wasn't the member of staff originally agreed on with ██████████ in the Summer term
- Class teacher is absent on a weekly basis due to meetings with no regular cover plan in place
- All of this is contrary to advice in his statement.

We as parents tried daily to get ██████████ to school in the Autumn term and every attempt failed. In most cases, since September support or intervention for ██████████ has had to be organised by us as his parents. During ██████████ leadership we did not witness any evidence or communication that the school delivered on anything physically within the statement - from basic equipment such as orthopaedic cutlery to practical help such as use of the disabled toilet, to more specialist support such as speech and language referral- which we ended up having pay privately for and self refer to under the NHS. We feel this is due to the lack of leadership given by the ██████████. No indication has been given to us as parents that ██████████ actions have been investigated by the LEA. This in itself is very concerning. I was a senior

leadership teacher in [REDACTED] and a teacher acting so inappropriately, who has received formal complaints from Parents, would always be suspended pending investigation by the LEA. I am surprised this has not taken place here.

We were given less than six days notice for an emergency review to take place on [REDACTED] despite having requested the review in writing two months beforehand and not having heard anything from the LEA or the School. No paperwork to communicate the voice of the child or parental opinion was sent in advance. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We were shocked to hear in the review meeting that out of 36 points on his statement, [REDACTED] of the LEA confirmed that 36 points were failed by the school - all under [REDACTED] leadership. In some instances, recommendations that go back as far as [REDACTED] (Ep report recommended referral to speech therapy) had not been acted upon. [REDACTED] were clearly not meeting our son's needs. Therefore there is little surprise that he feels 'unsafe' visiting the school [REDACTED]

The LEA organised another statement review on [REDACTED] Again no papers were requested in advance to gauge [REDACTED] opinion. During the meeting the professionals involved all agreed that his statement would be ignored. He would be placed at a [REDACTED] and he would be pulled off roll from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The LEA suggested they would not re assess his statement despite the fact there is substantial new evidence to support a new statement or a new IDP. In the past few months he has had a ASD diagnosis, he has been assessed by SALT and Educational psychology. We as his parents would like this new evidence to be considered before placing [REDACTED] in a new school.

The [REDACTED] suggested is for children with an IQ under 50. [REDACTED] has a spiky profile, but he is able in some areas. He is socially adept. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A child who has a IQ under 50 couldn't achieve this. We have visited the [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] on six occasions. We are concerned that none of the other children are cognitively able to communicate with him and he is worried about how he will settle there.

Since [REDACTED] I have written to the LEA many times requesting that [REDACTED] statement is re assessed so we can consider different provision. However the LEA have never responded to my requests.

We as a family have been through enough already, having had to fight to get the support for our daughter, after [REDACTED] failed her.

As a result of the second review meeting we would like to consider other placement options and formally re assess [REDACTED] statement as is the legal procedure. If the Lea are unwilling to re assess we would appreciate formal written confirmation of this so that we can lodge an appeal as is our legal right to do so.

It is with great sadness that there is no Welsh medium school [REDACTED] or In [REDACTED] that can support [REDACTED] needs.

I spoke publicly about our situation on the [REDACTED] on several occasions. The new ALN bill was meant to stop Parents with ALN children from having to fight for support. But from what I have experienced this year, this is certainly not the case with the [REDACTED]

It's very disappointing after all the support that [REDACTED] has had, [REDACTED] has failed [REDACTED] like it has so many others. I work in many schools in other parts of Wales and witness children with many different needs thriving in the mainstream. Why is it that the [REDACTED] cannot deliver on basic education to suit every child through the medium of Welsh?

I kindly request that that you help us by requesting that:

- **Ensure the [REDACTED] LEA considers change of placement in part 3 of [REDACTED] statement or issue an LEA maintained IDP as a matter of urgency.**

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[REDACTED] needs to be in school, he has already missed so much of his education. The LEA need to make him a priority.

During July '23 the LEA issued a new statement of educational needs for my son without our consultation. It was sent to an old email address, so we did not see the email immediately. When we complained to a member of the assembly they retracted the statement- which named a school we did not agree with. They have now provided us with 15 days to suggest a named school for the new statement and give reasons why we disagree with some suggestions in the statement- such as deleting his full time 121 support. We have asked why he is being issued a statement and not an idp. We have not had a response to this. We believe it might be because with the new IDP system the child/ parent has more choice with the placement.