

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19 ar blant
a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

COV 49a
Ymateb gan: Chwarae Cymru

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on
children and young people in Wales

COV 49a
Response from: Play Wales

In our submission dated 11 May 2020, Play Wales provided a section titled **Thinking ahead - returning to school.**

Following the announcement from the Education Minister that Welsh Government is proposing that all schools in Wales will start the next phase of reopening from 29 June, we provide further evidence.

Playing is the most natural and enjoyable way for children to keep well and be happy. It is their way of supporting their own health and well-being. Play Wales endorses the calls made by mental health experts in Play First: Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Wellbeing During and After Lockdown which focus on the importance of giving children opportunities to play. We continue to stress that when schools reopen, the initial focus should be on play and mental health, rather than "curriculum catch-up".

We have co-written a blog post with Cathy Atkinson, Senior Lecturer in Educational and Child Psychology at the University of Manchester calling for play and children's well-being to be prioritised when schools reopen.

The blog can be read here:

http://blog.policy.manchester.ac.uk/posts/2020/05/prioritising-play-to-promote-wellbeing/?fbclid=IwAR15XWAWi_ZaMzXwqKIQ8piSGxCDTe4YtWmruJFPOWcHhJskJydwdTxzaRA