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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government  
Consultation Document

## Draft framework guidance on embedding a whole-school approach

Draft framework guidance on embedding a whole-school approach to mental health and emotional well-being

Date of issue: 8 July 2020

Action required: Responses by 30 September 2020

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

# Draft framework guidance on embedding a whole-school approach

## Overview

This consultation seeks views on the Welsh Government's draft framework guidance

## How to respond

Responses to this consultation should be e-mailed/posted to the address below to arrive by **30 September 2020** at the latest.

## Further information and related documents

**Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.**

The consultation documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at <https://gov.wales/consultations>

## Contact details

Health and Well-being in Schools  
Support for Learners Division  
The Education Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

**e-mail:** [Mentalhealth.Schools@gov.wales](mailto:Mentalhealth.Schools@gov.wales)



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## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation

If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

## Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

e-mail: [Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales](mailto:Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales)

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or  
0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

## Summary

### Why are we proposing this guidance?

In recent years media attention has focused on a 'crisis' in children's mental health, not just in Wales, or the UK but internationally. In 2018 the National Assembly Children, Young People and Education Committee published *Mind Over Matter*<sup>1</sup>, a report which identified a step change needed in emotional and mental health support for children and young people. The report made a number of recommendations, including several relating to the provision of support in education settings and on the development of the whole-school (as part of a wider whole-system) approach to meeting the mental health and emotional well-being needs of children and young people. In particular, the report highlighted the needs of the 'missing middle' of children and young people with poor mental health, but who have no diagnosable mental illness. These children and young people, who fail to reach the criteria for treatment by specialist services, often end up with little or no support.

### What is the consultation about?

The framework is intended to support schools in reviewing their own well-being landscape and in developing plans to address their weaknesses and build on their strengths. It recognises that the school alone cannot meet all the needs of a complex population of children and young people, and sets out the role of regional bodies, the NHS and others such as the third sector, in supporting the school. It is meant to support and complement the new national curriculum for Wales and in particular the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning Experience.

Estyn's 'Healthy and Happy'<sup>2</sup> report shows approximately one-third of secondary and two-thirds of primary schools already adopt whole-school approaches to some degree. For these schools the guidance is intended to support the process of reviewing and improving work that has already been done. For schools that have yet to embark on the journey, this guidance can form a starting point for supporting the well-being of children and young people.

### Where are we now?

In 2018 the Minister for Education and Minister for Health and Social Services jointly convened a group of experts drawn from across the health, education and third sectors to advise them on the work needed to embed consistent whole-school approaches across Wales. One of the key commitments of the group was the development of a whole-school approach framework to provide guidance to schools. This builds on a range of good practice and initiatives already occurring across Wales, such as the successful school counselling service and CAMHS school-in reach.

In recent months, the coronavirus pandemic has brought many new challenges for children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being. In the current climate, a whole-school approach which places the health and well-being of both learners and staff at its heart is more important than ever.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11522/cr-ld11522-e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/thematic-reports/healthy-and-happy>

This activity and a collaborative approach to gathering and incorporating the views of stakeholders has informed development of the guidance now presented for public consultation.

## **The framework consultation**

This consultation seeks to gather views on the clarity and usefulness of the framework guidance to support embedding a whole-school approach to mental health and emotional well-being.

The framework is intended to provide a valuable resource for schools and others in developing and implementing their own whole-school approaches, promoting consistency of provision and equity for children and young people. It will be supported by a range of other resources such as a toolkit of universal and targeted interventions, upon which schools can draw; and teacher training materials on a range of issues, including mental health and emotional well-being, child development and neurodevelopmental conditions.

The framework is divided into:

1. Ministerial foreword
2. Intended audience
3. Background
4. Introduction
5. Scoping stage
6. Action plan and implementation
7. Evaluation and co-production
8. Governance and accountability

Annex 1 - The strategic and legislative framework

Annex 2 - Draft mental well-being criteria for the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes National Quality Award

The document also includes a number of case studies of good practice.