YSGOL ABERCONWY

05.02.2024

Annwyl Rieni a Gofalwyr

Bydd llawer ohonoch eisoes yn gwybod bod ysgolion Conwy wedi wynebu toriadau i'w cyllidebau ysgol ers nifer o flynyddoedd oherwydd yr hinsawdd ariannol anodd yr ydym ynddi. Mae'r rhagolygon ariannol gwael hyn yn cael eu hadlewyrchu mewn llawer o ysgolion ar lefel genedlaethol. Fodd bynnag, rydym fel penaethiaid a Chyrff Llywodraethol Conwy yn arbennig o bryderus eleni gan fod Awdurdod Lleol Conwy yn gofyn i ni dderbyn arbedion o rhwng 6% a 10% ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf (Ebrill 2024 – Mawrth 2025). Mae hwn yn doriad sylweddol ac rydym yn dal i aros am benderfyniad terfynol ynglŷn â hyn. Mae’n deg dweud bod unrhyw doriad sy’n cael ei gynnig ar ysgolion yn mynd i wneud gosod cyllideb gytbwys yn sefyllfa hynod heriol i benaethiaid a chyrff llywodraethu. Rydym eisoes wedi ysgrifennu at Weinidog Addysg Llywodraeth Cymru a Chyfarwyddwr Addysg Cymru i fynegi ein pryderon difrifol ynghylch effaith y toriadau hyn ar ein pobl ifanc a’u teuluoedd.

Fel ymateb ar y cyd gan holl benaethiaid a Llywodraethwyr Conwy, sy'n cynnwys ysgolion cynradd, uwchradd ac arbennig rydym am i rieni a gofalwyr gael eu hysbysu'n llawn am yr heriau difrifol yr ydym yn parhau i'w hwynebu. Mae’r sefyllfa ariannol mewn ysgolion bellach yn argyfyngus ac nid oes amheuaeth y bydd toriadau pellach i gyllidebau ysgolion yn cael effaith sylweddol ar yr hyn y gallwn ei ddarparu ar gyfer ein disgyblion. Bydd unrhyw doriad i gyllidebau ysgolion nawr yn effeithio ar y lefelau cymorth y gallwn eu cynnig i'n pobl ifanc mwyaf agored i niwed a'u teuluoedd. Mae ein disgyblion wedi wynebu a goresgyn llawer o heriau dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf fodd bynnag, rydym yn dal i ymdrin â chanlyniad y pandemig a’r effaith y mae wedi’i chael ac yn parhau i’w chael ar addysg ein disgyblion.

Eleni rydym yn rhagweld y bydd mwyafrif sylweddol o ysgolion Conwy yn cael trafferth gosod cyllideb gytbwys. Os na allant wneud hynny, yna bydd angen iddynt dorri costau a fydd yn anochel yn arwain at ostyngiadau staff a diswyddiadau. Mae gan ysgolion ran gynyddol i’w chwarae wrth gefnogi plant a’u teuluoedd ehangach, ond mae hyn i’w ddisgwyl tra bod ein hadnoddau’n cael eu lleihau’n sylweddol. Yn y diwedd, y plant o fewn ein cymunedau fydd yn dioddef – maen nhw’n haeddu gwell.

Mae’n rhaid i ni gyd ystyried penderfyniadau ar lefel ysgol a fyddai’n arwain at: -

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will already know that Conwy schools have faced cuts to their school budgets for a number of years due to the tough financial climate that we find ourselves in. This poor financial outlook is being mirrored in many schools on a national level. However, we as Conwy headteachers and Governing Bodies are particularly worried this year as we are being asked to accept savings of between 6% and 10% by Conwy Local Authority for this next financial year (April 2024 – March 2025). This is a significant cut and we are still waiting on a final decision regarding this. It is fair to say that any cut being proposed on schools is going to make setting a balanced budget extremely challenging for headteachers and governing bodies. We have already written to the Welsh Government Education Minister and the Director of Education for Wales to express our serious concerns regarding the impact of these cuts on our young people and their families.

As a joint response from all the headteachers and Governors in Conwy, which includes primary, secondary and special schools, we want parents and carers to be fully informed about the serious challenges that we continue to face. The financial situation in schools is now critical and there can be no doubt that further cuts to school budgets will have a significant impact on what we can provide for our pupils. Any cut to school budgets, as is being proposed, will now impact on the levels of support that we can offer to our most vulnerable young people and their families. Our pupils have faced and have overcome many challenges over the past few years and we are still dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic and the effect that it has had and continues to have on the education of our pupils.

This year we foresee that a significant majority of Conwy schools will struggle to set a balanced budget. If they are unable to do so, then they will need to cut costs which will inevitably lead to staff reductions and redundancies. Schools have an ever-increasing part to play in supporting children and their wider families but this is being expected whilst our resources are being significantly reduced. In the end, it will be the children within our communities who will suffer – they deserve better.

We are all having to consider decisions on a school level that may result in: -

- Dosbarthiadau mwy a llai o athrawon, staff cymorth a staff uwch
- Adeiladau ac offer ysgol yn dirywio ac yn dyddio
- Methu cynnig pob pwnc dewis i ddysgwyr ar lefel TGAU ac ôl-16
- Toriadau/gostyngiad i wasanaethau bugeiliol a chefnogaeth
- Pryderon ynghylch ein gallu i ateb y galw cynyddol am ddarpariaeth Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol arbenigol, sy'n arwain at fethu â chefnogi dysgwyr sy’n agored i niwed sydd ag amrywiaeth o anawsterau
- Llai o ymyraethau yn cael eu cynnig o fewn yr ysgol ar gyfer codi safonau Llythrennedd a Rhifedd
- Llai o deithiau a gweithgareddau ar ôl ysgol sydd wedi derbyn cymhorthdal neu gynnig am ddim yn flaenorol

Mewn amser bydd y toriadau hefyd yn cael effaith andwyol ar: -

- Gallu ysgolion i wireddu’r weledigaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer Cwricwlwm i Gymru
- Twf addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a chwrdd â thargedau ‘Miliwn o Siaradwyr Cymraeg’ a Chynlluniau Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg Conwy
- Lleihad mewn cefnogaeth i ddysgwyr ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol, cynhwysiant a lles ar adeg pan fo’r rhain yn yrwyr allweddol ar gyfer cefnogi dysgwyr a chyd-destunau cymdeithasol lleol
- Ffrydiau ariannu ychwanegol megis grantiau i gefnogi prosiectau gwella gan y byddent yn cael eu defnyddio i gefnogi darpariaeth graidd ein hysgolion

Fel penaethiaid a llywodraethwyr rydym wedi ceisio gwarchod rhieni rhag yr anawsterau a grybwyllwyd uchod, ond oherwydd nad yw’r sefyllfa’n gynaliadwy, rydym yn gweithio gyda’n gilydd i wneud rhieni’n gwbl ymwybodol. Yn syml, nid oes yr arbedion i'w gwneud a all wneud iawn am y diffyg enfawr yn ein cyllid. Mae'n teimlo'n annheg iawn i'n plant ac i'n staff.

Mae cynrychiolwyr o benaethiaid Conwy eisoes wedi cyfarfod â chynghorwyr lleol i godi eu hymwybyddiaeth am yr effaith y mae'r toriadau yn ei chael. Hoffem ofyn i chi ymuno â ni ac ysgrifennu at eich AC a'ch cynghorwyr lleol fel y gallwch hefyd godi eich pryderon eich hun.

Bydd eich cefnogaeth, a’ch camau gweithredu, oll yn cryfhau ein pryderon ynghylch yr effaith y mae’r toriadau yn mynd i’w chael ar y ddarpariaeth addysgol hirdymor i’ch plant.

Diolch ymlaen llaw am eich cefnogaeth.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Penaethiaid Ysgolion Conwy

- Larger class sizes and fewer teachers, support staff and senior staff
- School buildings and equipment falling further into disrepair and becoming outdated
- Being unable to offer all subject options for pupils at GCSE and post 16 level
- Cuts / reduction to pastoral services and support
- Concerns about our ability to meet the ever increasing demand for specialist Additional Learning Needs provision, this resulting in not being able to support vulnerable learners with a range of difficulties
- Fewer interventions being offered within school for Literacy and Numeracy
- Fewer trips and after school activities that have previously been subsidised or offered free

In time these cuts will also have an adverse impact on: -

- Schools’ ability to deliver on the vision for Curriculum for Wales
- The growth of Welsh-medium education and meeting the ‘Million Welsh Speakers’ and Welsh in Education Strategic Plan targets
- Reduction in support for Additional Learning Needs, inclusion and wellbeing needs at a time when these are key drivers for supporting learners and local social contexts
- Additional funding streams such as grants to support enhanced projects as they would be used to support the core provision of our schools

As headteachers and Governors we have tried to shield parents from the difficulties mentioned above, but because the situation is not sustainable, we are working together to make parents fully aware. There are simply no more savings to be made that can make up for the huge shortfall in our funding. It feels very unfair to our children and to our staff.

Representatives from Conwy headteachers have already met with local councillors to raise their awareness about the impact the cuts are having. We would like to ask you to join us and write to your AM and your local councillors so that you can also raise your own concerns.

Your support, and action, will all add strength to our concerns on the impact the cuts are going to have on the long-term educational provision for your children.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Conwy School Headteachers