

PE1759/H

Dumfries and Galloway Council submission of 14 October 2020

In Dumfries and Galloway we concentrate on the quality of learning experiences which take place across the four contexts for learning – the totality of all that is planned for children’s education through school and beyond. We prioritise this over a specific model of a school week or stipulated length of a school day; I know of no educational evidence which draws a causal link between the length of a school week with improvement in attainment. I endorse the views set out by COSLA (submission of 20 December 2019).

I believe that the length of the school day should be a matter for local authority discretion, and that this is in keeping with education empowerment expectations.

In an empowered system, we should continue to accept challenge to custom and practice - school communities may wish to explore considerations related to a change of the shape of the school week, changing the choices we offer our young people, working differently with our wide ranging partners and maximising digital delivery. Recently, we have required to have the flexibility to respond to changing expectations. I trust that in order to meet the needs of pupils within a learning community the majority of decisions should be made at school level; it is my view that a national minimum of hours per week will not make a difference to these outcomes.