



**David Chadwick MP**

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Dear Lynne,

### **Godre'r Graig Primary School**

It is deeply troubling that this situation remains unresolved.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting Godre'r Graig Primary School, and I was impressed by the dedication of the Headteacher and his staff. Their hard work and enthusiasm ensure that Godre'r Graig School ("the School") maintains its warm welcome and sense of community, and this, plus their belief that there will soon be plans for them to return to their village, provides children with a sense of belonging, which is of course a vital component for a successful educational journey.

However, the truth that now seems to be surfacing is that there is no real plan in place for the School to return to Godre'r Graig and perhaps there never was. This is unacceptable. The general principle that children should be educated in accordance with their parents' preference is a fundamental right, and my constituents in the upper Swansea Valley should be able to send their children to an English Medium Primary School, should they wish. This situation remains a matter of public concern and remains a deeply contentious issue.

Quite frankly the vast majority (if not all) of the residents, pupils and parents (past and present) of Godre'r Graig are very cynical of the circumstances surrounding the School's move to temporary portacabins and the subsequent demolition of their school building. They feel they have not been told the full truth by various public authorities. Your department's decision not to provide funding for a new school building in Godre'r Graig has only fuelled this suspicion further, which has been exacerbated by the First Minister's recent comments in the Chamber.

In light of this public concern, I call upon you to commence a public enquiry.

As per the recommendations set out by Lord Howe, in the Public Administration Select Committee 2005. A public enquiry will be able to establish the facts and provide a full and fair account of the history surrounding the decision to move the school to temporary portacabins and demolish the original School building without a plan in place for the future. It will be an opportunity for catharsis and resolution, for reassurance and to help rebuild public confidence. Importantly, it will also provide an opportunity for accountability and a learning opportunity to ensure the same mistakes are not repeated.

This situation has continued for far too long, our children deserve better and my constituents in Godre'r Graig and the surrounding communities deserve answers.

I await your urgent response.

Yours sincerely

David Chadwick MP