



## Appendix 1

### **Jennette Arnold OBE AM Chair of the Education Panel**

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

cc: Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare

15 October 2020

Dear Sadiq,

#### **Data collection to understand the impact of the COVID-19 school closures in London.**

On 30 September 2020, the London Assembly Education Panel held a formal meeting to explore the effect that the COVID-19 school closures have had on education inequality in London.

The Panel heard from expert witnesses Stuart Darke (Regional Organiser, Greater London Regional Centre, NASUWT), Rebecca Montacute (Research and Policy Manager, Sutton Trust), Rob Coe (Senior Associate, Education Endowment Foundation), as well as your Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney. We also received written testimony from Steve Chalke (Founder, Oasis Academies) and London Councils.

During the meeting, it became apparent that there currently is not any robust London-specific data that measures the effect of the COVID-19 school closures on education inequality in London. Although there have been a number of national studies by respected bodies such as University College London's Institute of Education,<sup>1</sup> as Rob Coe put it in our meeting:

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<sup>1</sup> Green, [Schoolwork in lockdown: new evidence on the epidemic of educational poverty](#), 2020

*“London is quite different from the rest of England. I do think that when policymakers are making decisions about how they address these kinds of issues, it probably is quite important to have local information.”*

The COVID-19 school closures are relatively recent developments, and the Panel is aware that collecting robust, local and granular data takes time. However, we would like to be reassured that data collection is ongoing, or that firm plans are in place to collect data, so that the full impact of the school closures on London’s young people is known. Only then, we believe, can Mayoral policies to help redress any widening of education inequalities, alongside effective and informed advocacy to national government on behalf of London’s young people, take place.

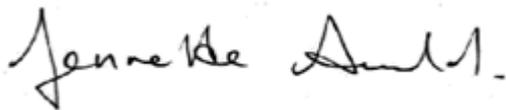
Furthermore, in the meeting the Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare agreed with our guests that producing granular data, to understand whether school closures have had a differential impact on young people from different ethnic backgrounds, “going forward is certainly something that we should be doing”. Currently, as the Panel were informed by the Deputy Mayor, this is not taking place.

The Education Panel therefore recommends that:

- **The Mayor should inform the Education Panel about ongoing or planned data collection to understand the effect of the COVID-19 school closures on education inequality in London, including the collection of ethnicity data.**

I would be grateful to receive this information by 30 October. Please copy your response to the Panel’s Committee Assistant, Lamide Odanye, [lamide.odanye@london.gov.uk](mailto:lamide.odanye@london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennette Arnold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM**  
**Chair of the Education Panel**