



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9TH JANUARY 2018

SUBJECT: CURRICULUM REFORM, PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND THE PIONEER PROCESS

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform members of progress with the curriculum reform programme.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 A new curriculum for Wales is being developed by the programme of work often referred to as the 'Pioneer' programme, the 'Successful Futures' programme or the 'Donaldson' reform programme. This report summarises progress in relation to this work.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 This programme of reform contributes to all of the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

- *A prosperous Wales*
- *A resilient Wales*
- *A healthier Wales*
- *A more equal Wales*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities*
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
- *A globally responsible Wales*

4. THE REPORT

Curriculum Reform, Professional Learning and the Pioneer Process

A new curriculum for Wales is being developed by the programme of work often referred to as the 'Pioneer' programme, the 'Successful Futures' programme or the 'Donaldson' reform programme.

This is the timeline for the reform:



This timeline includes other key elements that will enable and support curriculum reform:

- New **professional standards** that mirror how teachers will work in the context of the new curriculum
- A national approach to **professional learning** for teachers and leaders
- The Academy for Educational **Leadership**
- A **national rollout programme** delivered by the 'middle tier' – the regional consortia, LAs, Estyn and other agencies

The new curriculum will be different from the one we now have in schools in a number of ways.

First, it driven by **four sets of purposes**:

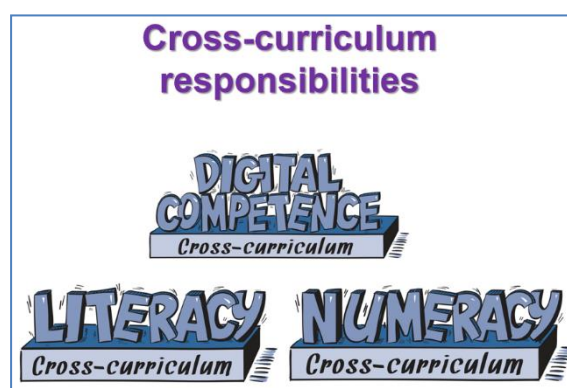
The purposes should form the basis of everything that we do in schools and other settings, and assessment and accountability arrangements should be primarily concerned with whether or not these purposes are being achieved.

- **Ambitious capable learners**, ready to learn throughout their lives
- **Enterprising creative contributors**, ready to play a full part in life and work
- **Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world**; and
- **Healthy, confident individuals**, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

Second, the purposes of the curriculum will be delivered by a new structure of subjects and topics, called the six **Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs)**. So the skills and knowledge in subjects like history and PE will still be taught in schools, but they will be taught in the framework of the AoLEs throughout learners' schooling.



As well as the six Areas of Learning and Experience, schools will deliver three **Cross-curriculum Responsibilities**. These skills will be taught across the AoLEs, in places where they fit best and where they can add the most value to the areas of learning.



So the four purposes will be realised in schools by learners developing skills and acquiring knowledge across a range of AoLEs, supported across the curriculum by the development of critical skills.

In December 2017, this work has been under way for some time. A group of schools called Pioneer schools have been working on the curriculum design work, on the model for professional learning and on the cross-curriculum responsibilities. Across Wales, these schools are moving into the phase of the programme where they will work together to arrive at the detail of the curriculum, and start working with schools who are not Pioneers to bring them up to speed and help them get ready for curriculum availability in 2019.

The current and next steps for the Pioneers are as follows:

By December 2017 Pioneers will:

- Produce an overarching statement on how each AoLE supports the 4 Purposes
- Establish and apply a rigorous process in order to determine 'What Matters' most in each AoLE; ensuring there is meaningful consideration of the 4 Purposes and progression as the AoLE detail is developed
- Produce the initial 'What Matters' statements in each AoLE, outlining the key concepts and skills within the AoLE and including further exemplification of at least one 'What Matters' concept

By April 2018 Pioneers will:

- Develop progression frameworks to support 'What Matters' in each AoLE from 3-16
- Refine 'What Matters' statements for each AoLE alongside the progression framework. This should include the desired achievement outcomes at each progression step in terms of knowledge, skills, experiences and cross-curricular mapping

- Describe how assessment will contribute to learning in that AoLE, along with advice, where appropriate, on how evidence might be gathered
- Develop Professional Learning Pioneers' understanding of curriculum design and development

Ongoing for Autumn, Spring and Summer terms 17-18, Pioneers will:

- Provide support on learning and teaching strategies that are particular to the Area of Learning and Experience as an outcome of testing through the enquiry process by Professional Learning Pioneers
- Identify ways in which key elements in the three cross-curriculum responsibilities of literacy, numeracy and digital competence, and the wider skills, can be promoted and taken forward
- Give consideration to further cross-curricular elements that could support learners' progression towards achieving the 4 Purposes
- Test in collaboration with HEI partners the progression framework with Professional Learning pioneers, their schools and learners

Pioneer Schools in South East Wales, December 2017

Digital Pioneers	Professional Learning	Curriculum
Bassaleg St Julian's Primary St Gwladys, Bargoed	Caldicot School John Frost High School King Henry VIII Lewis School Pengam Newport High St Alban's RC High School St Joseph's RC High School Tredegar Comp School Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni Blaenavon Heritage Eveswell George Street Gilwern Glan Usk Langstone Millbrook Rhiw Syr Dafydd Risca Primary St Gwladys St Julian's Primary Ystrad Mynach YG Casnewydd	Blackwood Lewis Pengam Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni Abertillery Coed Eva Crownbridge Eveswell Garnteg Primary Glan Usk Bassaleg Hendredenny Malpas Court Malpas Park Penllwyn Primary Pentrepoeth Primary Phillipstown Primary Shirenewton Primary Trellech Ystruth Welsh Medium Clusters: 1: Ysgol Casnewydd, Ysgol Ifor Hael and Ysgol Bro Teyrnnon 2: Ysgol Bro Sannen, Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran and Caldicot Comp 3: Ysgol y Castell, Ysgol Caerfilli and Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This programme of work contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that it seeks a new and globally relevant curriculum for learners in schools across the whole of Wales.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The strategies listed in Section 3 and Section 4 all include Equalities and Welsh language considerations, having included relevant officers and groups in the development process. The Council's Policy Unit works closely with the Directorate of Education to support schools and governing bodies in delivering their statutory Equalities duties.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 As detailed below.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That members take note of the contents of the report.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 So that members are informed of the progress of the national curriculum reform programme and its impact on schools in the region.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 N/A.

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Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member, Education & Achievement
Councillor Wynne David, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Gaynor Oliver, Vice Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Corporate Management Team

Background Papers:

Prosperity for All: the national strategy (2017)
gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf

Qualified for life: An education improvement plan for 3 to 19-year-olds in Wales (2014)
gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/qualified-for-lifean-educational-improvementplan/?lang=en

A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life (2015)

gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/151021-a-curriculum-forwales-a-curriculum-for-life-en.pdf

Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers: Options for the future of initial teacher education in Wales (2015)

gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/wagreviews/teachingtomorrows-teachers/?lang=en

Taking Wales Forward 2016–2021 (2016)

gov.wales/docs/strategies/160920-taking-wales-forward-en.pdf

National model for regional working

gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/national-modelfor-regional-working/?lang=en

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

gov.wales/topics/people-andcommunities/people/futuregenerations-act/?lang=en

The Progressive Agreement

gov.wales/newsroom/firstminister/2016/160623-working-together-to-take-walesforward/?lang=en