

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

21st April 2021

Subject

The Curriculum for Wales

Purpose:

To provide an overview of the support available for our schools and specialist settings as they implement the Curriculum for Wales, by September 2022.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- The National Mission: The Curriculum for Wales
- Support available for our schools and specialist settings from Carmarthenshire County Council and from the regional consortium, ERW.

Reasons:

- To update the scrutiny committee on the journey towards the Curriculum for Wales, to date
- To reflect on the nature of support being provided
- To propose additional / alternative strategic approaches to enhance the current provision.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Glynog Davies, Executive Board Member for Education & Children

Directorate

Education and Children's services

Name of Head of Service:

Aeron Rees

Report Author:

Ann James

Designations:

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee
21st April 2021

Subject and Purpose
The Curriculum for Wales

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The Local Authority is developing a professional learning proposal for the Curriculum for Wales that complements the inclusion team.

The aim is to ensure that a good pedagogy meets the needs of individual pupils at all levels and that schools effectively progress in line with the aims of the National Mission.

In addition, through regular and thorough liaison with the authority's Education Support Advisers, inclusion, behaviour and educational psychologist's teams, the local authority holds ongoing constructive conversations with individual schools to discuss its progress with the transition to the curriculum for Wales, as well as the Additional Learning Needs transition.

This report aims to update the scrutiny committee in relation to the Curriculum for Wales and journey currently being undertaken by the Carmarthenshire schools and specialist settings. It also provides an opportunity for the committee to inform the strategic direction of the department and refers to:

- The current context and the schools' engagement with the new curriculum to date
- The strategic approach of the Education and Children's services department
- Support available to schools and specialist settings
- The engagement of schools and specialist settings
- Questions for governors as they support their schools on this journey
- Research and Professional Learning networks
- Expectations
- The role of ERW.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: *J. Aeron Rees*

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

2. Legal

The Wales Curriculum Bill is expected to receive royal assent in April 2021. This will pave the way for the new statutory curriculum for Wales. The commencement date for Nursery to Year 7 is set for September 2022. Subsequent years (8-11) will come on stream in a rolling programme to September 2026.

5. Risk Management Issues

As a result of the pandemic, there has been some disruption to the timetable of planning and design of the new curriculum in schools. This has affected some schools more than others, with potential to widen gaps between schools regarding the depth, breadth and rigour of the design process. Officers and school leaders are taking stock of the requirements in advance of the September 2022 national commencement date (nursery to year 7) and are/will be making the necessary adjustments to ensure that challenges to preparation will have been surmounted by the due date. Despite the pandemic, Welsh Government have been steadfast in relation to the commencement date, which remains unaltered. As we come out of the most recent lockdown, the summer term of 2021 augers to be a period where we can take stock and accelerate preparations in our schools.

ERW, the regional consortium has been taking a lead in the preparations. Erw is currently undergoing a period of transition, though it is anticipated that this will not unduly affect the preparations for the new curriculum.

6. Staffing Implications

Staff have been involved in specific training to prepare for the new curriculum and directed time has been allocated to ensure that practitioners and school leaders have sufficient time to make the necessary preparations.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: *J. Aeron Rees*

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

1. Local Member(s) - Numerous members will have been appraised of developments in their capacity as school governors

2. Community / Town Council

3. Relevant Partners

ERW

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Curriculum matters are periodically discussed in ECS Employee Relations Forum

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Curriculum for Wales Documentation		https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales https://hwb.gov.wales/cwricwlwm-i-gymru