

**Craffu ar Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant-
Cefnogaeth Cwricwlwm i Ysgolion**
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny
Curriculum Support for Schools

23.1.2023



sirgar.llyw.cymru
carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Supporting the Implementation of the Curriculum for Wales in Carmarthenshire Schools, Settings and PRUs

Context:

- Curriculum Implementation for Primary schools – September 2022
- Curriculum Implementation for Secondary schools – September 2022 or 2023. Carmarthenshire Secondary schools have opted for 2023.
- The Curriculum for Wales contains a range of complex mandatory elements for schools to address when designing their curriculum. See below.
- Schools note how challenging a task this is, with time capacity and expertise noted as some of the key challenges. There is much positive work being developed across the schools within Carmarthenshire, however this is variable across schools.

Mandatory Elements of the Curriculum for Wales:

| Four purposes | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Ambitious, capable learners | Enterprising, creative contributors | Ethically, informed citizens | Healthy, confident individuals | | | | | |
| Developing a shared understanding of progression | | | | | | | | |
| The principles of progression and the descriptions of learning are intended to guide the development of a curriculum which reflects appropriate progression | | | | | | | | |
| Principles of progression | | | | | | | | |
| Increasing effectiveness | Increase breadth and depth of knowledge | Deepening understanding, ideas and disciplines | Refinement and growing sophistication | Making connections and transferring learning | | | | |
| Assessing for the future | | | | | | | | |
| Assessment has three main roles in the process of enabling learner progression | | | | | | | | |
| Supporting individual learners on a day to day basis | Identifying, capturing and reflecting on individual learner progress over time | | Understanding group progress | | | | | |
| Principles of curriculum design | | | | | | | | |
| Evidence-based | Authentic | Responsive | Inclusive | Ambitious | | | | |
| Unified | Empowering | Engaging | Based on subsidiarity | Manageable | | | | |
| Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) | | | | | | | | |
| The 27 statements of what matters are the basis of learners progression throughout CfW and its 3-16 learning continuum. Descriptions of learning provide guidance on how learners should progress within each statement of what matters as they journey through the continuum of learning | | | | | | | | |
| Expressive arts | Health and well-being | Humanities Includes Religion, values and ethics (RVE) | Languages, literacy and communication | Mathematics and numeracy | Science and technology | | | |
| Cross-curricular skills | | | Integral skills | Cross-cutting themes | | | | |
| Literacy | Numeracy | Digital competence | Personal effectiveness Creativity and innovation Planning and organising Critical thinking and problem solving | Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) | Human Rights | Diversity | Careers and work-related experiences | Local, national and international contexts |
| Pedagogical Principles | | | | | | | | |



The Partneriaeth Business Plan

Vision

Partneriaeth Mission Statement

Partnership working to achieve excellence for all.

Our Aims

- 1) We lead schools and settings to design, develop and deliver a curriculum with equity and excellence at its core.
- 2) We support schools and settings to become ambitious, self-improving learning organisations.
- 3) We provide professional learning and opportunities for collaboration in order to develop strong and supportive partnerships.

Strategic Objectives:

Priority 1– Curriculum & Assessment - Supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners

Priority 2– Developing a high-quality education profession - improving the teaching & learning in our schools

Priority 3 – Leadership and Career Pathways - supporting inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards. Includes future leadership & professional networks

Priority 4– Strong & inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity & well-being

Priority 5– Supporting a self-improving system - supporting a system in which the education profession have the skills, capacity & agency to continually learn & improve their practice

Priority 6– Ensure that Partneriaeth has strong governance and effective business and operational support that provides value for money

Partneriaeth Business Plan:

Priority 1 – Curriculum & Assessment - Supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners

SSA: Cressy Morgan

1. Curriculum & Assessment Reform

2. Curriculum reform professional learning programme (Curriculum Design and Development + New PL for curriculum)

- a. To develop the capacity of schools to engage in curriculum reform through a flexible, implemented programme of targeted interventions.
- b. To continue to support the national PL programme for Curriculum for Wales.
- c. To continue to provide asynchronous CfW support for middle leaders and teachers.
- d. To support schools with the collaborative development of shared understandings on curriculum and assessment in line with Curriculum for Wales guidance.
- e. To continue to support schools in progression conversations.
- f. To continue to support schools in their reform journey from curriculum vision to design and implementation.
- g. To ensure high-quality collaboration within Partneriaeth and with partners in the middle-tier.
- h. To deliver bespoke support for schools with furthest to go on reform journey.
- i. To support and facilitate local and national engagement through a range of focused networks.
- j. To develop and deliver a range of support for current qualifications and the Qualified for the Future agenda.

The Partneriaeth Professional Learning offer

[Cynnig Dysgu Proffesiynol 2022/23 \(partneriaeth.cymru\)](http://partneriaeth.cymru)

Partneriaeth strives to deliver a consistent school improvement service, focused on challenge and support strategies that improve teaching and learning in classrooms and lead to improved pupil attainment and progress in all schools.

Our aim is to build school capacity through support, challenge and intervention so that schools become self-improving, resilient organisations. We facilitate school led support and intervention programmes at a peer to peer, department to department and school to school level according to the area of need that has been identified within the school.

The region will build school capacity through continuing support, challenge and intervention to become self-improving, resilient organisations which continually improve outcomes for learners. This regional strategy for a self-improving system is well underway and is firmly founded in the principles of school-to-school improvement.

Partneriaeth is committed to the Welsh Language and its prosperity, and the language is an integral part of all the administrative procedures of the organisation. We consider Welsh to be a central element of the identity of the region, and we will continue to do as much as we can to promote the language and its use.

The Professional Learning offer focuses on:

- The Curriculum of Wales
- Cross Curricular Skills
- Pedagogy
- National Leadership Development Programmes
- Equity and Wellbeing
- Cymraeg Mewn Addysg
- Secondary Subject Support
- Induction for Newly Qualified Teachers.

The Carmarthenshire ECS Department School Improvement Strategy works alongside schools reflecting on the progress achieved by pupils as a result of the school's curriculum provision.

This aligns to the Welsh Government Guidance for School Improvement.

Focus areas include:

1. Are learners progressing in the ways described in the principles of progression, supporting them to develop towards the four purposes?
2. Is the pace of learners' progress in line with the expectations of teachers and the curriculum?
3. Improving pupils' progression by ensuring their learning is supported by a range of knowledge, skills, and experience
4. Reducing the impact of poverty on learners' progression and attainment

The Carmarthenshire Professional Learning offer for schools focuses on:

- The development of Maths and Numeracy skills,
- Language Literacy and Communication skills in Welsh and English
- Digital skills
- The Curriculum for Wales
- Inclusion and Additional Learning needs
- Progression and assessment
- Equity
- Family and community engagement
- Positive behaviour management
- Progression in RSE
- Early Years foundation learning
- Leadership and Governance
- Cymraeg
- And so forth

Please log into your HWB site so that you can access these platforms. We will navigate these during the Scrutiny meeting.

Professional learning CCC - PORTH

[PobCwrs - AllCourses \(google.com\)](#)

Professional Learning Resources – Sharing effective practice across and between schools. GOOGLESITE

[Adnoddau Resources \(google.com\)](#)

Challenges / Areas for development:

- Headteacher Survey notes that schools are not receiving the support for curriculum development that they need. 2021 2022
- Uptake of Carmarthenshire schools in the Partneriaeth professional learning offer is low. Possibly 4 / 5 / 6 schools attending a training session. Anecdotally some schools note that they value the progression workshops delivered by Partneriaeth, for example. However, the number of schools participating is low. Our maximum capacity for each event is 10 schools.
- Input from schools, notes that further support is required in the following areas:
 - Curriculum Design - Understanding of the mandatory elements and organising planning effectively.
 - Cross Curricular skill development – Literacy, numeracy and digital
 - Assessment and progression – what does this look like?
 - What do standards look like in relation to each AOLE?
 - Understanding and implementation of learning opportunities in relation to the integral skills
 - Understanding of the cross-cutting themes.

Next Steps:

The Carmarthenshire ECS departmental Curriculum strategy focuses on the following priority areas during 2022 2023:

- Sharing key national messages in a timely manner.
- Curriculum Design - mandatory elements in particular
- Cross-curricular Skill progression
- Cluster working
- Transition
- Assessment and progression (within each AOLE)
- Professional learning

Actions include:

| Timeline | Focus area | What will we have achieved during this time? |
|------------------|---|--|
| Sept to Dec 2022 | 1. Implementation of the Curriculum for Wales – September 2022 for Primary schools and optional for secondary schools, 2022 or 2023. 2. Update School Improvement strategy in line with the WG guidance. Key focus | 1. The Partneriaeth PL offer will support the implementation of the curriculum. 2. The SCIMP strategy will be based on a combination of the Estyn Framework, The School Improvement guidance and the principles of progression. Pupil progress in school will increasingly be monitored in the context of the curriculum for Wales. |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| | on Literacy, Numeracy and digital skills. | |
| Jan to April 2023 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding of the mandatory elements (EF) 2. Cluster Working (EG) 3. Curriculum Design (EF) 4. Transition (AL) 5. Assessment and progression - Shared understanding of progression (within each AOLE) (MO HAJ) 6. Professional learning (CLJ) 7. Ensure that the SCIMP team invest time in familiarising themselves with their lead AOLE, followed by expectations in relation to cross cutting and integral skills. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint planning (Carmarthenshire and Partneriaeth) for the AOLE delivery to ensure that schools have a practical understanding of the Mandatory elements of the curriculum. See diagram below for reference. 2. The Cluster Working strategy will ensure there is a standardised approach across all clusters. 3. Partneriaeth will deliver PL on curriculum design that meets the needs of schools. A Carmarthenshire 'Sharing event' (6.2.2023) will launch the Curriculum and Evaluation platform and we will have more strategic methods to share effective practice in relation to Curriculum design. 4. Transition Plan will be launched. Resources developed. Cluster to complete the transition plan. 5. We will have developed a strategy to bring schools together to share pupil progress, across a cluster. 6. Partneriaeth and CCC PL offer will be aligned avoiding duplication and ensuring that PL meets the needs of schools. Professional learning in relation to pupil skill progression continues on a bespoke basis, via networks and training sessions. |
| April to July 2023 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cluster Working Strategy. 2. Professional learning offer 3. Monitoring pupil progression 4. SCIMP strategy, 5. ESAs deployment. 6. Sharing effective practice | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cluster Working Strategy will be refined ensuring consistency of progress across all clusters. We will have a robust understanding of grant expenditure across clusters. Sharing effective practice will become more routine. 2. PL offer from Partneriaeth and CCC will be aligned for 2023 2024, addressing the areas for development for our schools robustly. 3. We will be prepared for monitoring pupil progression in line with the curriculum mandatory elements, AOLEs, cross cutting themes, cross curricular and integral skills. Team development programme in place. Strategic monitoring plan drafted. 4. Revised SCIMP strategy, addressing the principles of progression and the contributory factors. 5. Consider how ESAs are deployed from September onwards. Should this now be on a cluster basis? 6. A short, medium and long-term strategy is in place in relation to sharing effective practice. |

In addition, we need to:

- Ensure efficient use of all financial resources in relation to Curriculum development, impacting positively on staff development and pupil progress at all times.
- Ensure that strategy and professional learning meets the needs of schools effectively.
- Strengthen strategies to ensure that messages regarding curriculum design and delivery, emanating from Welsh government or cross regional meetings, are shared with LA officers in a timely manner. Messages are currently not influencing school improvement strategy and approaches quickly enough.
- CCC delivered an AOLE developmental session on the Expressive Arts to schools, September 2022, to explore approaches. 42 schools attended. Feedback was very positive. As a result, in the Spring term 2023, CCC officers, supported by Partneriaeth officers, will delivery AOLE support for schools. 1 session per AOLE. We aim to translate the theory into practice, in line with school requests.
- Strengthen the facilitation of sharing effective practice to inspire innovation between teachers and leaders, securing pupil progression, wellbeing and enjoyment in their learning.

How will we know that our curriculum support for schools is successful?

- Pupils will be achieving good progress in relation to their starting points and teachers' expectations across all mandatory areas of the curriculum. This will be reflected in ESA reports following support visit to schools.
- There is a shared understanding of progression across the cluster.
- Schools will have developed a purpose led curriculum which supports them to realise their vision. Schools will be able to exemplify and communicate their curriculum development journey.
- Our schools' curriculum is inclusive of all and enables all to develop in line with the four purposes of the curriculum.
- Teaching is of a high standard across all schools and aligns to the 12 pedagogical principles.
- Assessment informs the planning of teaching and learning experiences, routinely.
- Pupils are fully engaged in their learning and contribute towards curriculum design effectively.

The Education Support Advisers evaluate progress and impact routinely alongside our schools.

Our professional learning offer is amended as a result.

Our strategy will be further updated for September 2023 ensuring that there is a rigorous focus on the principles of progression as well as the Welsh Government's School Improvement guidance and Estyn framework.