



ADDYSG CYMRU EDUCATION WALES

cenhadaeth ein cenedl | our national mission

Your update on Education in Wales: our national mission

April 2018 / Issue: 02

Welcome to issue 2 of the newsletter that updates you on Wales' education reforms, term by term.

Work on transforming education in Wales, including the development of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements for use in schools by 2022, has continued apace.

A programme of head teacher conferences is underway to enable joint working and share progress with the profession on our ambitious reforms.

If you have feedback or queries, please contact: CurriculumforWales@gov.wales

See below for details of what has been happening this term:

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Transformational Curriculum

This term the Pioneer network has been continuing to develop the six 'Areas of Learning and Experience' (AoLEs) and to determine 'what matters' for each. These "what matters" statements will set out the core principles of each AoLE, supporting development of the four purposes while also reflecting the key ideas about important disciplinary knowledge, skills and competencies for the domains within each AoLE.

They will provide schools and professionals with a starting point for school level curriculum development. These concepts are an organising structure that will help to avoid excessive variation in school level curriculum design from school to school, while allowing for local flexibility.

AoLE pioneer groups have also begun to develop the detail of progression within each AoLE. Through the CAMAU Project, the University of Glasgow and the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David are supporting pioneers and bringing a Higher Education perspective on developing and describing progression within each AoLE.

Our recent '[Dysg' special](#)' contains updates on all aspects of curriculum reform, including short videos, papers about AoLE developments and a list of interesting items on the curriculum for Wales blog.

Developing the Profession

Pioneer Development Programme – Spring Term

Professional Learning Pioneers are currently accessing a programme of support to enhance their understanding of curriculum design so they can better support the wider school network with implementation.

The next workshop will prepare them to lead the testing of the draft progression framework to support the new curriculum in the summer term and identify professional learning implications.

National Pioneer Event January 2018

Professional Learning Pioneer schools attended a national event at the SWALEC stadium in Cardiff to update fellow pioneers about progress with developing professional learning in the context of curriculum reform. Keynote speakers included Mark Priestley and Professor Mick Waters who encouraged teachers to enjoy the challenge of making the new curriculum a reality through professional learning <https://curriculumforwales.gov.wales/2018/03/15/the-challenge-of-making-a-new-curriculum-work-were-professionals-lets-enjoy-it/>

Schools as Learning Organisations - Survey

As stated in our National Mission, Wales has an ambition that all schools develop as learning organisations, in keeping with OECD principles. 40% of schools across Wales were invited to participate in an online OECD survey to review professional learning approaches and capacity for improvement. The findings of the survey will

inform an OECD report scheduled for publication in July this year focused on 'Developing Schools in Wales as Learning Organisations.' Information about schools as learning organisations and the SLO model for Wales can be found [here](#).

Children, Young People & Education (CYP&E) Committee Inquiry – Teachers' Professional Learning and Education

In 2017, the Children, Young People & Education (CYP&E) Committee commissioned an inquiry into Teachers' Professional Learning and Education. See an [Overview of the final recommendations and the Welsh Government response](#).

Leadership

The National Academy for Educational Leadership (NAEL) will be launched in the Summer. It will operate at arm's length from Welsh Government and will broker, co-ordinate and quality assure a range of leadership programmes.

- Interviews for the Chair and Board took place this month. Selections will be finalised in April.
- 12 Associates have already been recruited to act as role models for school leadership. Their induction programme took place in March. [Our written statement expands](#).
- An information session on the process for endorsing programmes has been arranged for learning providers on 20th April in the MRC

Evaluation and Accountability

A national secondary headteacher conference in March focused on 'Developing robust evaluation and accountability arrangements to support a self-improving system'

In the context of the new curriculum, Heads discussed assessment for enabling improvement and accountability. They also discussed ideas for developing value added measures to support self evaluation and improvement.

Estyn and the OECD led a session on creating a National Self Evaluation Toolkit. See the [press notice here](#). The implications of new models of self evaluation and toolkits were discussed in a session led by the four Education Consortia Managing Directors.

Equity and Wellbeing

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Transformation Programme

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill was unanimously passed by the National Assembly for Wales on 12 December 2017 and became an Act on 24 January 2018 following Royal Assent.

The Act will be supported by regulations and a new ALN Code, both of which will be revised and then consulted on in autumn 2018. It is anticipated that both will be in place by the end of 2019 following Assembly scrutiny. [Read more here](#)

Other Education News

[Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams attended a turf cutting ceremony to mark the official launch of works on the building of a replacement site for Brecon High School in March.](#)

[The devolution of teachers' pay and conditions is an opportunity to elevate the status of the teaching profession in Wales.](#)

[Schools are to receive £14 million for small scale repairs and maintenance under plans announced in March.](#)

[Wales' brightest and most talented pupils are set to benefit from £3 million of support over two years as part of plans announced in February.](#)

[£100m is to be invested over the next three years to accelerate the delivery of the 21st Century Schools and Education programme.](#)

[Seren Network unveils 'life-changing' scholarship with Yale University, as independent report finds project is 'adding value' and 'plugging gaps'](#)

[School categorisation information published in February shows that there has been an improvement in school performance.](#)

["Estyn Report shows Welsh education is uniting in a mission of self-improvement" - Kirsty Williams](#)

[The inaugural meeting of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Board was held in January.](#)



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