



What did we say we were going to do?

To support an excellent professional workforce with strong pedagogy based on an understanding of what works we have:

- implemented Rewriting the future
- launched the New Deal – creating an entitlement to focused professional learning and developed the new Professional Learning Passport
- delivered the new Welsh Language Sabbatical scheme
- progressed plans to reform support for learners with SEN including publishing a draft Bill and Code
- seen around 200 of the first cohort of newly qualified teachers complete the Masters in Educational Practice with some 600 still engaged in the programme
- developed Accreditation Standards for all courses of Initial Teacher Education backed by a reform programme
- established the Education Workforce Council and will have registered the school and FE workforce by April 2016
- launched Hwb with around 500,000 learners and teachers provisioned onto the platform.

To support a curriculum which is engaging and attractive to children and young people and which develops within them an independent ability to apply knowledge and skills we have:

- published *A curriculum for Wales: a curriculum for life* and put in place a network of over 175 Pioneer Schools to lead the development and support of the new curriculum
- refreshed and updated the National Literacy and Numeracy Programme
- developed a strategic Foundation Phase plan and a new baseline assessment for the Foundation Phase
- introduced new statutory arrangements for cluster moderation of teacher assessment and a programme of external verification
- introduced the Common Area Prospectus of all post-16 curriculum opportunities
- rolled out the Enhanced Employer Engagement project

- provided a range of support to implement the new Areas of Learning for Language, Literacy and Communication Skills, Mathematical Development and programmes of study for English, Welsh and mathematics.

To ensure that the qualifications young people achieve are nationally and internationally respected and act as a credible passport to their future learning and employment we have:

- put in place a new specification for GCSE English Language, Welsh Language, Mathematics and a new Numeracy GCSE
- introduced a more rigorous Welsh Baccalaureate
- introduced revised AS and A levels
- put in place new criteria for the accreditation of vocational qualifications
- established Qualifications Wales
- introduced new Essential Skills Wales qualifications.

To ensure that leaders of education at every level working together in a self-improving system, providing mutual support and challenge to raise standards in all schools we have:

- revised the national model for regional working and established Schools Challenge Cymru
- provided guidance on procedures for teacher and headteacher capability
- published an Individual Leadership Review tool for aspiring and existing leaders
- launched the Seren Network
- strengthened the National School Categorisation System
- created the Education Improvement Grant
- reviewed the existing school governance framework
- developed a leadership programme for senior college leaders
- worked with ColegauCymru to publish the new code for governors in further education
- committed almost £2 billion to improve educational infrastructure.

We have made improvements across all phases*

Foundation Phase

- 86.8% of 7-year-olds achieved expected outcomes in all areas of mandatory learning (AoL) – 1.6% points higher than in 2013/14
- 75.1% of 7-year-olds entitled to free school meals achieved expected outcomes in AoL – 2.7% points higher than in 2013/14

Key Stage 2

- 87.7% of 11-year-olds achieved expected levels or above in English/Welsh, mathematics and science (core subject indicator) – 1.6% points higher than in 2013/14
- 75.1% of 11-year-olds entitled to free school meals achieved the expected levels in core subjects – 3.2% points higher than in 2013/14

Outcomes

Key Stage 3

- 83.9% of 14-year-olds achieved expected outcomes in core subjects – 2.9% points higher than in 2013/14
- 65.9% of 14-year-olds entitled to free school meals achieved expected outcomes in core subjects – 4.6% points higher than in 2013/14

Key Stage 4 (GCSEs)

- 57.9% of 15-year-olds achieved 5 GCSE grades A*–C including Mathematics and English/Welsh (Level 2 inclusive) – 2.5% points higher than in 2013/14
- 31.6% of 15-year-olds entitled to free school meals achieved the Level 2 inclusive threshold which is 3.9% points more than in 2013/14
- 84.1% of 15-year-olds achieved 5 GCSE equivalents graded A*–C
- 64.4% of 15-year-olds achieved A*–C in Mathematics – 2.7% points higher than in 2013/14
- 69.7% achieved A*–C in English/Welsh – 2.5% points higher than in 2013/14

We are narrowing the poverty attainment gap at every key stage of statutory education.

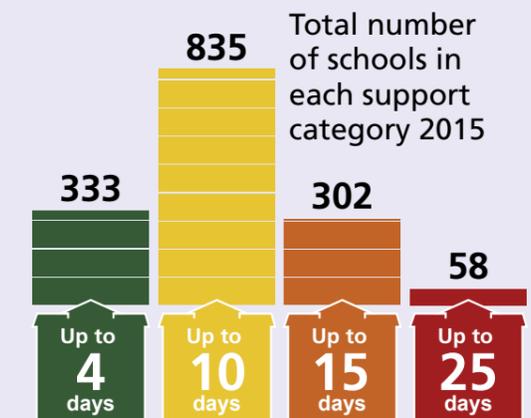
Level 2 inclusive percentage pass rates



...the greatest progress of all is that the number of schools now getting below the 50% Level 2 inclusive mark has almost halved since 2012. The number of schools getting below 40% has reduced by two thirds while the number of schools getting below 30% has reduced by three quarters.

Huw Lewis AM
Minister for Education and Skills

National School Categorisation System



Schools will receive challenge adviser time based on their colour category.