



Education in Wales is changing

A brief summary of
the changes planned
for education in Wales



Background

Have you heard that education in Wales is changing?

You might have experienced some of that change already, but it's going to have an even bigger impact on the children and young people who follow in your footsteps through school.



It's all part of the Welsh Government's plan to improve learning – something that your teachers, future employers and politicians are all agreed needs to happen. We hope you're on board, too, and we'd like you to tell us whether we're on the right track.

In Wales there are over 26,000 teachers, teaching millions of facts and figures, across masses of subjects, to almost half a million children and young people across over 1,500 maintained schools. Teachers also support learners in developing life skills and help them prepare for their futures outside school.

**WE WANT
YOUR FEEDBACK
AS WE CHANGE.**

The story so far...



In 2015, Professor Donaldson wrote an important report called *Successful Futures* with the aim of shaping a **successful and exciting future** for the children and young people of Wales.

Everyone had a chance to throw in views and ideas in the **Great Debate**, which resulted in:

a more fine-tuned report called *A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life* (2015). This outlined the steps to get us to where we want to be.

Schools from across Wales were asked to help develop the new curriculum and test out the changes to see if they worked. These are our **Pioneer schools**.

Since 2015 the Welsh Government has worked alongside schools and experts to design the new curriculum for Wales.

In January 2019 a legal document on the changes was shared for people to comment on. Welsh Government are now looking at these opinions and will make changes suggested.

On 30 April 2019 Welsh Government published guidance on how schools can create a new curriculum. The feedback period is open from **30 April** and closes on **19 July 2019**.



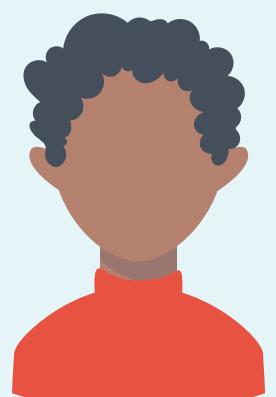
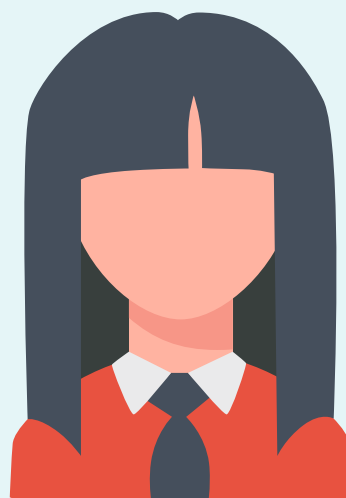
What's next?

The feedback period is now open and will run until **19 July 2019**.

Welsh Government will use this information to help further refine the draft Curriculum for Wales ahead of making it available to see in **January 2020**.

To make sure we are still on the right track to improve education for children and young people there are a few things we want to hear from you about.

For the new curriculum to work well, we need a really good base to build on, so we've come up with four purposes, which are our **starting point**.



The **Four Purposes** will help learners to be:

Ambitious and capable, ready to learn throughout their lives.

Enterprising and creative contributors to life, ready to play a full part in life and work.

Ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world.

Healthy and confident, ready to lead life to the full and be valued by those around them as valued members of society.

We think teachers need more freedom to help children and young people achieve the Four Purposes. To help teachers our idea is to split learning into six Areas of Learning and Experience (which is a bit of a mouthful, so we'll be referring to them as AoLEs).

As a guide for teachers, we will list the **key aspects of learning** of each AoLE, and we'll call these **'what matters'**. They'll be a bit like an instruction booklet. Every school needs to make sure that they use the **'what matters'** when planning their lessons.

So, every AoLE has key aspects of learning, and teachers will be helped by the 'what matters' statements, which will help them to plan lessons to fit learners' needs so that they get the most from everything they learn.

Children and young people will still be taught the subjects they're familiar with already, it's just that they'll be under these broad headings:

- **Expressive Arts**
- **Health and Well-being**
- **Humanities**
- **Languages, Literacy and Communication**
- **Mathematics and Numeracy**
- **Science and Technology**



Summary

There's a lot to take in, so here's a quick summary



We want to make sure that learning and experiences in school better prepare children and young people for life outside of school with things like career paths and the part they play in their community.



Our starting point is the four purposes of the curriculum – supporting learners to become ambitious and capable, enterprising and creative, ethical and informed, healthy and confident.



Our education system needs to work for young people and needs to be more fluid and flexible, so we're going to reorganise subjects into Areas of Learning and Experience so existing subjects can be taught in a way that links them together.



We also want to give teachers more freedom in the classroom over how and what they teach (although, they will be supported by the 'what matters' Statements).



a more gradual process of learning. Literacy, numeracy and digital competence are so important, that they'll be central to learning, and we're going to call them Cross Curricular Responsibilities (CCRs).



Relationship and sexuality education will become something everyone has to learn about up to 16 and will be much broader (with a focus on relationships).

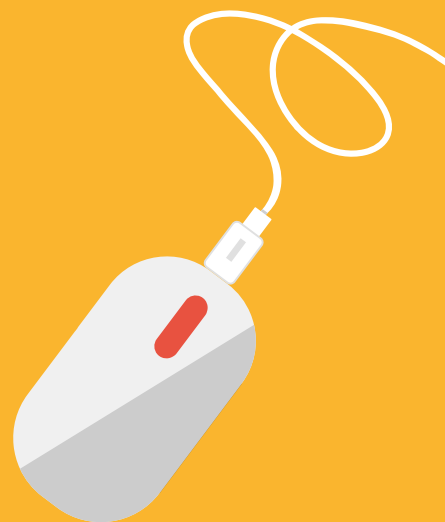


Religious education will also be something everyone has to learn up to 16, and will look at different beliefs as well as non-religious views.



Welsh and English will be seen as equal and the aim will be that all children and young people in Wales will be able to use Welsh in everyday situations.

The key stages will be changed to



The feedback
period closes on

19 July 2019

To give us your views please visit
[https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum
-for-wales-2022/have-your-say/](https://hwb.gov.wales/draft-curriculum-for-wales-2022/have-your-say/)



OGL

Digital ISBN 978 1 83876 480 7
© Crown copyright 2019
WG38065