

# **The Foundation Phase**

## **Y Cyfnod Sylfaen**

- **The Foundation Phase covers the period from 3 to 7 years.**
- **It combines the current Early Years and Key Stage 1.**
- **The curriculum will be formed under areas of learning rather than subjects.**
- **It will have a list of experiences and objectives for children's learning.**

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**The proposed changes :**

- build on good practice in Wales;**
- relate to research on early years; and**
- reflect good practice in other countries.**

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Curriculum changes:

- **Personal and Social Development and Well-Being;**
- **Language , Literacy and Communication Skills;**
- **Mathematical Development;**
- **Bilingual and Multi-cultural Understanding;**
- **Knowledge and Understanding of the World;**
- **Physical Development; and**
- **Creative Development.**

# **The Foundation Phase**

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**The Foundation Phase will have:**

- a learning continuum from 0-7 that links with the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2; and**
- a focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children will require to be successful in Key Stage 2 and later in their education.**

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- **The consultation ran from 12 February to 30 May 2003.**
- **Two main strands: questionnaire and seminars.**
  - **644 written responses were received.**
  - **4000 people attended the seminars.**
- **Requests for document from Scandinavia, Singapore and Australia etc**

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- In the questionnaire there were 19 questions covering each of the five chapters in the document.**
- 96% of responses supported the proposal to introduce the Foundation Phase.**
- All the proposals were supported and had a clear majority in favour.**

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- **As with any new initiative a few concerns were raised.**
- **These were mostly related to the interpretation of the proposals.**

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## **Y Cyfnod Sylfaen**

### **The Way Forward:**

- **an action plan prepared;**
- **a project board set up to have strategic management of the Foundation Phase;**
- **criteria being developed for the selection of pilot schools and settings; and**
- **a training audit under way to provide data for a Training Pathway.**



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## **Y Cyfnod Sylfaen**

- **2003 criteria for pilot schools produced, training and development plan prepared along with a draft of the Framework for Children's Learning;**
- **2004 pilot in selected setting for 3-5 year olds and guidance materials developed;**
- **2005 Year 1 to join the pilot ( possibly Year 2 in mixed age classes)**

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- **2006 Year 2 to join the pilot, all settings to introduce the Foundation Phase for 3-5 year olds, ratio 1-13;**
- **2007 all Year 1 to introduce the Foundation Phase for 5-6 year olds; and**
- **2008 all Year 2 settings to introduce the Foundation Phase for 6-7 year olds, ratio 1-8.**