

CYPE(5)-20-20 - Paper to note 18

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Suzy Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales West

Suzy.Davies@senedd.wales

20 July 2020

Dear Suzy,

The role of the RSE Working Group is to inform and assist with the design of the new RSE guidance, working closely with practitioners on its re-drafting following the public consultation in 2019.

We have a broad range of stakeholders on the group, including a representative from the Office of the Children's Commissioner, who provide independent advice and challenge in relation to the development of the RSE statutory guidance.

We recognise that the provision of RSE to children and young people is a sensitive matter and our consultation on ensuring access to the full curriculum reflected strong and deeply held views. We understand the need to work with communities and other interested parties in co-constructing the learning and teaching for RSE, and in developing a shared understanding of the issues and the sensitivities. This is why in addition to the RSE Working Group we recently established a BAME/Faith Communities Involvement Group to help co-construct the new RSE guidance.

One of the key roles of the Involvement Group is to consider how to best engage with children and young people. Part of this is to ensure that as we co-construct the guidance the voice of children will be heard, which will be done through a range of focus groups across our communities.

As with the development of the wider Curriculum for Wales we are mindful that participation is a key principle of the UNCRC. In developing their curricula we expect schools to involve learners, parents, carers, partner agencies and the local community. This is an important means of ensuring the curriculum meets learners' needs and is authentic to their context within the national framework. Schools and practitioners also play a critical role in ensuring learners, parents, carers and communities understand the vision and ethos underpinning the curriculum.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The 'Designing your curriculum' section of the Curriculum for Wales specifically refers to schools 'Working with parents, carers and stakeholders' as well as with learners themselves to develop their curriculum within the Curriculum for Wales framework. Subject to enactment of the Bill, the framework will comprise of statutory codes, statutory guidance and non-statutory guidance.

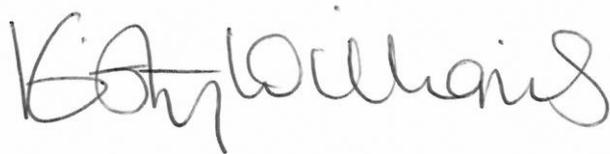
You may also be interested in the following links:

Education is changing website aimed at parents - <https://gov.wales/education-changing>. This helped inform parents meaning that they could respond to the consultation on the draft curriculum in April 2019.

A guide for children, young people and families is also available to help involve them in this process: <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/a-new-curriculum-in-wales-a-guide-for-children-young-people-and-families/>

We are satisfied that the Welsh Ministers have had due regard to the rights of the child protected by Article 12 of the UNCRC. We will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education