

Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill

Evidence submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

About you

Organisation: Neath Port Talbot Local Authority

1. The Bill's general principles

1.1 Do you support the principles of the [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#)?

Yes

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1500 words)

Now, more than ever, young people in Wales need to be adaptable to change, capable of learning new skills throughout life and equipped to cope with new life scenarios (including the ability to communicate through both Welsh and English). Advances in technology and globalisation have transformed the way we live and work. These changes have profound implications for what, and how, children and young people need to learn.

The Curriculum for Wales (CfW) is more likely to engage the interest of all children and young people to help them reach their potential. It will bring this about by making learning more experience-based, purposeful and authentic and the assessment of progress more developmental. It will also allow teachers the flexibility to deliver in more creative ways that suit the learner they teach. Subsidiarity is key to the successful implementation of the CfW. Hence, we welcome the opportunity for schools to have the freedom to design their own curricula so that our young people can aspire to be the innovators of the future.

The CfW is based on the premise that an effective, purpose led curriculum recognises that curriculum, pedagogy and assessment cannot exist independently of each other. There is an expectation for schools to link curriculum design as closely as possible to pedagogy and assessment; all three are essential, interlocking elements.

We welcome that the CfW gives equal weighting to all areas of learning experience. Additionally, we agree with the principles of RSE and its incorporation within the health and wellbeing area of learning and experience. We believe it would be advantageous to learners not to be withdrawn from RSE as religion, values and ethics falls within the Humanities AOLE and, as such, if a learner is withdrawn it would have a detrimental effect on their progress and attainment in relation to the four purposes. Within the languages, literacy, and communication area of experience, we welcome the emphasis on creating a bilingual nation. As a part of this, we fully support the implementation of the concept of one continuum of learning and we agree with the removal of the Welsh first and second language programmes of study.

1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

Yes. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the CfW, legislation will enable curriculum reform to take place successfully. Legislation will ensure that the key principles of the curriculum will be statutory.

2. The Bill's implementation

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

We believe the following could be a potential barrier:

. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic (in terms of time scales relating to the implementation of the CfW).

2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

No. However, we appreciate it is difficult to legislate for a global pandemic.

3. Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are there any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

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4. Financial implications

4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#))? If no, go to question 5.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

We welcome the detailed financial considerations made within the explanatory memorandum. We believe the need to plan for and provide financial support for professional learning is of vital importance.

5. Powers to make subordinate legislation

5.1 Do you have any comments on the appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#)). If no, go to question 6.1.

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

We recognise that the new curriculum may need to evolve and adapt over time to reflect and maintain its relevance in light of future societal change. However, if Ministers in future wish to make changes, it will be important to ensure that the principles of the CfW are considered. Where they may add to the areas of learning and experience, they may wish to consider how they would protect the new curriculum from becoming overloaded or too prescriptive.

6. Other considerations

6.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

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