



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

26 September 2017

Dear Lynne,

As you will be aware, this morning we have published the Government's new action plan: Education in Wales: Our National Mission.

I will be making a full statement in the Senedd this afternoon, but I thought it helpful to provide you, and committee, with some further background information.

You will note that the action plan sets out a clear and transparent timeline for development and delivery of our new curriculum and assessment arrangements. This update will also be publicised through social media channels, direct school and teacher communication and across many other platforms to key audiences.

Securing delivery of the transformational new curriculum and assessment arrangements is at the heart of the action plan, supported by four key enabling objectives. As you will know from evidence to committee, work is well underway on designing and developing the curriculum, in line with the vision set out in Successful Futures.

You will also be aware that the OECD, in its recent report on our reform journey, said *"To support the realisation of its education objectives and ultimately its vision of the Welsh learner, Wales should continue its curriculum reform... ensuring that its reform journey is comprehensive and effective."*

I have also reflected on the committee's challenge and advice regarding curriculum implementation, and have sought further feedback from the profession, international experts and other stakeholders. I believe that it is right that we roll-out the new curriculum, rather than introduce it as a 'big bang', with the support of educational professionals and stakeholders, and in line with international evidence.


The new curriculum and assessment arrangements will be available for schools to feedback, test and refine in Easter 2019. Following that period, all schools will have access to the final curriculum from 2020, allowing them to get fully ready and prepared for statutory

roll-out in September 2022. It will then be introduced from nursery to Year 7 in 2022, rolling into Year 8 for 2023, Year 9 in 2024 and so on as each cohort moves through.

The Pioneer model is working well. Our commitment remains the same - to design and implement a new curriculum for all learners aged 3-16 which is fit-for-purpose, innovative and world-class, and to introduce assessment arrangements which will give primacy to Assessment for Learning and which will support and inform first class teaching and learning.

I look forward to continuing to update the committee on progress in the weeks and months to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education