

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Education**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay.  
CF99 1NA.

26 June 2018

Dear Lynne,

Development of the new curriculum continues at pace, with a learner progression model now developed and integral to the evolving 'Areas of Learning and Experience'.

I have issued a written statement today updating Members on progress, but I'd like to draw attention to the communications that have been issued this week to ensure we are keeping the profession and key stakeholders informed.

A DYSG special has been issued that brings together insights and updates about developments since March. This includes:

- A short video on activity this year plus a look to the Autumn term
- A 'Curriculum special' podcast: Professors Graham Donaldson, Louise Hayward and Mark Priestley discuss the background, rationale and challenges. This follows the launch of our first Education Wales podcast in April.
- Papers showing how 'Areas of Learning and Experience' are evolving as a central element of the new curriculum, and written a short blog to support the publication.
- The new curriculum is built on 'progression' – see how the model works.

Articles that you may be interested in reading that have been published on the Curriculum for Wales blog since March are:

- Research report: how learning progression is being supported by research
- Estyn report: how primary schools are adapting their curriculum to respond to curriculum and education reforms
- Education Wales podcast: the first edition explains our education reforms and how they complement each other perfectly
- Schools as Learning organisations: new case studies on how working together works for professional learning
- On-line assessments: reading and numeracy assessments will soon move on line – that's good for the new curriculum.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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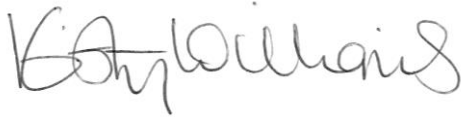
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

You may also be interested in looking at the websites and subscribing to newsletters from the regional education consortia and Estyn who are supporting schools through our programme of transformation.

Yours sincerely

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

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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Cabinet Secretary for Education



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## **WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

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**TITLE**        **New curriculum and assessment arrangements**

**DATE**        **26 June 2018**

**BY**            **Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education**

I would like to update members on the development of new curriculum and assessment arrangements, which are progressing well and to timescale and a draft version will be available in April 2019.

Schools will then have the opportunity to feedback, test and refine, before having access to the final curriculum from 2020, allowing them to get fully ready and prepared for statutory roll-out in September 2022. This is central to our national mission to raise standards, close the attainment gap and create an education system that's a source of national pride.

Since January Pioneer Schools, supported by world leading educationalists, Higher Education Institutions, Welsh Government and our stakeholders have made significant progress.

Pioneer schools have developed 'What Matters' statements for each Area of Learning and Experience - the ways of organising learning across the curriculum. The 'What Matters' statements set out the most important knowledge and skills to be gained and aim to make what children and young people learn relevant to the world we live in today and help them adapt to a changing society and world.

Our new curriculum and assessment arrangements are being built on 'progression'. The CAMAU project run by Yr Athrofa and Trinity St David has supported Pioneers in developing this approach. It will be based on a nationally described continuum of learning from 3 - 16.

Progression Steps will be at ages 5, 8, 11, 14 and 16 and take the form of Achievement Outcomes relating broadly to expectations at those ages. These will help teachers sequence learning purposefully for each learner.

Pioneers are also considering emerging professional learning needs which will inform the National Model for Professional Learning that will be launched in the autumn to support

professionals to move to the new curriculum.

In June, Estyn published a route map to help schools prepare. School leaders can start preparing for change now by using the route map and looking at the case studies across Wales.

Our reforms are being developed collaboratively and transparently, with regularly published updates. This week we have published five papers outlining our approach to the Areas of Learning Experiences, with a further paper to publish in July. We have also released the latest EducationWales podcast focusing on the new curriculum in which teachers and Professors Graham Donaldson, Mark Priestly and Louise Haywood talk about how our reforms are putting Welsh education on the world map.

Anyone interested in following the progress of our reforms can subscribe to the Curriculum for Wales blog, listen to the recently launched EducationWales podcast or sign up to receive the Welsh Government's education newsletter Dysg, which this week will focus entirely on progress in developing curriculum and assessment arrangements.