

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg | Children, Young People and Education
Committee

Hynt y gwaith gan Lywodraeth Cymru wrth ddatblygu Cwricwlwm newydd Cymru |
Welsh Government's progress in developing the new Curriculum for Wales

CR 06

Ymateb gan: Gwasanaeth Addysg yr Eglwys Catholig
Response from: Catholic Education Service

5th December 2018

**Consultation Response: The Children, Young People and Education Committee scrutiny
of the Welsh Government's progress in developing the new Curriculum for Wales**

Organisation responding: The Catholic Education Service

The Catholic Education Service is the education agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Bishops' Conference is the permanent assembly of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales and the CES, as an agency of the Bishops' Conference, is charged with promoting and securing education on behalf of the bishops.

The Catholic Education service welcomes the key principles set out in *Education in Wales: Our National Mission* and fully supports the recent developments in the educational landscape of Wales, including the establishment of the National Academy for Educational Leadership; the developing confidence of the education workforce, particularly as students of the curriculum; the *Professional Standards for School Practitioners in Wales* and the *Professional standards for teaching and leadership*; the emerging changing nature of Estyn and the role of the education regions; and, for the purposes of this consultation, some of the key drivers underpinning the development of the new curriculum in Wales. Key amongst those are the focus on academic research, the use of highly research-focused school practitioners in the development of the curriculum and the collaborative nature of their work with colleagues in the wider educational landscape.

Specifically in terms of the Catholic Church's relationship with the Welsh Government, the Catholic Education Service wishes to set on record our thanks to senior officers of the Welsh Government for the high levels of supportive and constructive partnership-working evidenced throughout these developments. There is a very clear recognition in Welsh Government of the rights (not least under Charity Law) and responsibilities of Catholic Bishops to direct and inspect on the moral and religious formation of children and young people in Catholic schools in Wales.

We particularly welcome the many meetings that have taken place between the Catholic Education Service and Welsh Government on the areas of Religious Education and Relationships and Sexuality Education, which have ensured these rights are protected within the developments of the new curriculum. We also welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to funding the development of 'Curriculum Guidance' materials for Catholic schools, which will help set out how Catholic schools can develop and deliver the new curriculum in Wales, whilst fulfilling the requirements of their Bishops circumscribed in Canon Law and UK Legislation.

This level of partnership-working is a strength of national policy and practice in Wales and we look forward to continuing to work with the Welsh Government in the further development and implementation of the new curriculum. We would be happy to meet with you at a Children, Young People and Education Committee meeting to explore this further.

In terms of the areas of interest outlined in the consultation letter, we are unable to comment specifically on them but we do know that Catholic Pioneer Schools are very involved in the development of the new curriculum and we have asked local diocesan officers to encourage their schools to respond to this consultation.