



ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION IN WALES
CYMDEITHAS CYFARWYDDWYR ADDYSG CYMRU

31st January 2019

Progress in Developing the New Curriculum for Wales

Dear Lynne,

I write on behalf of all Directors of Education and Chief Education Officers

Thank you for your recent communication on this matter.

Firstly, the WLGA and ADEW fully support the development and planned implementation of the new curriculum with its focus on equipping young people with skills for life. We have taken every opportunity to engage in this new and innovative approach. The WLGA and local authorities are supportive of and committed to working in partnership with the Welsh Government and other stakeholders in ensuring the new curriculum is fit for purpose and that it meets learners' needs now and into the future. In responding to the Children, Young People and Education Committee inquiry, the WLGA and ADEW have highlighted positive aspects of the new curriculum but have also provided constructive critique and challenge in areas which, in our opinion, need to be strengthened. It is important that the views of those responsible for managing and delivering education in local authorities and, in particular, schools, are considered to ensure that the new curriculum is one that delivers for the next generation of Welsh learners.

The WLGA shares the Minister and the Welsh Government's ambition to improve outcomes for learners in Wales and views curriculum reform as a significant driver to realise this.

In specific response to the matters raised in your letter:

- The information was collated following contact with the twenty-two LA Directors/Chief Education Officers. Responses were received from more than one representative in each region. The collated response reflected the views that were provided and therefore reflect a widespread view of ADEW in relation to the information available on curriculum development. The themes

of responses were recorded in their entirety including where there were different perceptions. Directors will also have had significant exposure to the opinions of school leaders and this will have been reflected in their responses.

- As stated above, we support the vision of curriculum reform and remain committed to ensuring the successful implementation of the curriculum. A mature education system facilitates debate and discussion relating to policy development. Local authorities are being proactive in engaging with FE, HE and employer partners to contextualise curriculum development for their own unique positions. This ensures that ADEW and the WLGA are key partners in shaping and articulating the vision for curriculum reform
- ADEW's engagement with curriculum implementation board meetings has been limited owing to an administrative error regarding the email address of the association's representative. Whilst not wishing to dwell on the circumstances, this was unfortunate and should have been corrected earlier.
- Both the WLGA and ADEW have discussed issues relating to curriculum reform with relevant Welsh Ministers and senior civil servants within the Education Directorate. Issues relating to communication and engagement can always be improved and both the Welsh Government and we, ourselves need to reflect on this.
- As indicated above, we believe that communication and engagement can and need to improve. Concern has been raised previously that WG contact with regional leads is significantly more developed than with ADEW. Having reviewed the regional response there are several areas of mutual concern but the areas of difference suggest a more developed level of operational knowledge on the part of regional leads which is yet to be reflected at school or LA level.

We trust that this responds directly to the issues raised in your letter. Curriculum reform is a key national policy development that needs to be managed in partnership with all stakeholders; it is a process that deserves and demands the highest possible level of support and challenge which the WLGA and ADEW remain committed to provide as befits a mature education system.

Yours sincerely,



***Cadeirydd, Cymdeithas y Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg yng Nghymru
Chair, Association of Directors of Education in Wales***