

CYPE(5)-32-19 – Paper to note 2

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/KW/5549/19

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee
Cardiff Bay

12 November 2019

Dear Lynne,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on activity undertaken by the Welsh Government in response to three of the recommendations resulting from the Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee inquiry report, *Bacc to the Future*.

In response to the following recommendations, officials have developed guidance, with input from Qualifications Wales and WJEC. The guidance has been published on the Welsh Government website with the accompanying Children's Rights Impact Assessment. The webpage includes links to the relevant pages on the WJEC and Qualifications Wales websites.

Recommendation 1. *That the Welsh Government issue a clearer statement about its vision for the Welsh Bacc, underpinned by guidance that details its expectations in relation to the consistency of the qualification's delivery in Wales and the resources schools and colleges should make available to teach the qualification effectively.*

Recommendation 5. *That the Welsh Government issue as a matter of priority strengthened and more detailed guidance on the policy of universal adoption. This guidance should set out clearly the circumstances in which learners may be exempt from studying the SCC, and be subject to a rigorous and comprehensive children's rights impact assessment.*

The link to the website is below, it appears in the 'Qualifications' section under 'Guidance and services':

English – <https://gov.wales/welsh-baccalaureate>
Cymraeg – <https://llyw.cymru/bagloriaeth-cymru>

As outlined in our response to the report, Qualifications Wales and WJEC have freely available information and resources, including case studies, on their websites. Any

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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.

further information and resources for practitioners delivering the qualification will be made available on HWB.

Another recommendation made by the CYPE committee was:

Recommendation 2. *That the Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales work together to deliver a focused awareness-raising campaign for business and higher education institutions. This campaign should aim to increase understanding of the skills developed under the Welsh Bacc and encourage greater collaboration with those sectors in its design and delivery, to secure their engagement and buy-in*

Officials have established a Welsh Bacc communications group that includes membership from Qualifications Wales, WJEC, FE and regional consortia. The group is in the process of developing an awareness raising campaign to raise awareness of the Welsh Baccalaureate amongst learners, parents, employers and universities. We hope to launch the campaign in the new year.

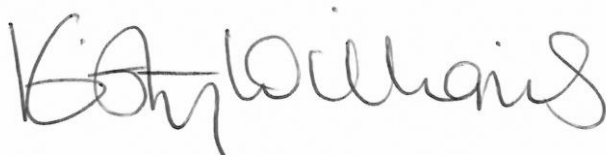
In a further development, Welsh Government received a letter from Qualifications Wales informing them of their intention to discontinue the Foundation (Post 16) and National (Post 16) Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) qualifications. The declining number of learners taking up these qualifications at Post-16 level prompted this action; in 2018/19 there were no learners entered for the Foundation (Post-16) SCC qualification and only 55 for the National (Post-16) SCC qualification. Qualifications Wales considers that these qualifications are no longer viable and will be withdrawn from August 2020. I understand that Qualifications Wales has notified you of this development, and hope that you agree that the discontinuation of these qualifications should simplify the communication of the Welsh Baccalaureate and remove the perceived repetition when progressing from Key Stage 4 to post-16.

Qualifications Wales published a blog on 24 October which explains how this decision was reached. The link to the blog is below:

<https://qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/welsh-baccalaureate/the-latest-on-the-welsh-baccs-skills-challenge-certificate/>

I will provide further information on the implementation of the other recommendations made by the committee when it is timely to do so.

Yours sincerely



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