

Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill

Evidence submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

About you

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1. The Bill's general principles

1.1 Do you support the principles of the [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#)?

Yes

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1500 words)

It is vitally important that our education system equips our young people for the challenges of the 21st century. Those challenges have changed considerably since the last major educational reform and as the national mission outlines it is critical that our education system equips our young people, so they are successful in life as well as successful in exams. I believe that the proposed Bill does this as there is a focus not just on developing the knowledge and skills our young people need, but also the dispositions and competencies they will need to be successful. Acquisition of knowledge on its own is no longer a key to unlocking success. The ability to apply that knowledge in a range of contexts through critical and creative thinking is a vital competency now needed by all.

N.B I would question the way the proposed curriculum has been presented in the first bullet point above "as purpose-led and skills-based." It is very much a purpose led curriculum, but it is a common misconception that CfW is a skills based curriculum, it is a curriculum that focuses on Knowledge skills and experiences. Indeed it might even be better to consider all these elements as types of knowledge; conceptual knowledge, procedural knowledge and experiential knowledge

1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

There is a need for legislation to outline the principles and key elements of the curriculum reform to ensure consistency across all settings. However, one of the guiding principles of the reform is that schools have the opportunity and responsibility to personalise their curriculum to the needs of their learners, so legislation which prescribes or dictates a curriculum would not be appropriate. I am confident that the right balance has been achieved with the proposed bill.

2. The Bill's implementation

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

Professional learning for the teaching profession to fully understand, engage with and implement the reforms will be needed and this often comes down to time.

2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

The proposed timeline does take account of the point raised above. Clearly there will be questions now about the impact of the pandemic and extreme care needs to be taken and support provided to ensure additional strains and pressures are not put on education at this time. However it can be argued quite strongly that the situation has created an opportunity for schools and teachers to analyse and reflect on current pedagogy and practices and consider how they can adopt different approaches to teaching and learning (through CfW) which truly address what is in the best interests of the learner rather than perhaps the school. This all too often has been a focus for many settings; driven by current accountability and performance measures.

3. Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are there any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

The process of curriculum reform has been extremely well informed by international research and expertise. Throughout the intentions have been focused on ensuring we have an education system which addresses learner needs and constantly strives to do the best for our young people in an ever-changing world. To this end the reforms have a number of intended consequences, including developing confident and independent learners and re-establishing many of the professional aspects of being a teacher. One unintended consequence we may see is increased recruitment to a teaching profession which is more valued and respected as a result of the changes made.

4. Financial implications

4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#))? If no, go to question 5.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

By far the biggest requirement in ensuring successful education reform is time invested in the teaching profession and this clearly has a financial implication. This investment will be well worth it and will help to ensure generations of our young people have an education we can all be proud of and which will equip them to be successful far beyond the school gates.

5. Powers to make subordinate legislation

5.1 Do you have any comments on the appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#)). If no, go to question 6.1.

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

My understanding is that this is normal practice as well as ensuring our education system has the ability to develop and respond to future societal needs

6. Other considerations

6.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

No

