

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-396
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/01303/13

William Powell AM

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21 May 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 7 May about the possible inclusion of Emergency Life Skills as a core component of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

The current model for the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification includes a Personal and Social Education (PSE) component. Issues such as Emergency Life Skills can be delivered under this component. You will be aware that, following the Review of Qualifications in Wales, the Welsh Baccalaureate is being revised to make the qualification more rigorous. A Steering Group has been established to oversee this development and a number of working groups are considering the elements of the Welsh Baccalaureate Core in detail.

Whilst decisions about the precise content of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate have yet to be made, it is unlikely that the place of PSE and opportunities for issues such as Emergency Life Skills will be diminished. I will ensure that the Steering Group is aware of the Committee's views about the importance of these skills. A revised model with draft core content will be available for stakeholder feedback in the autumn and responses will feed into the further development of the draft model.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is designed for learners aged 14-19. More generally in schools, the Personal and Social Education Framework for 7 to 19-year-olds in Wales provides opportunities for learners to develop the practical skills necessary for everyday life, including emergency aid procedures and how to administer basic first aid.

The delivery of the curriculum in Wales is a matter for schools as they are best placed to make decisions about their curriculum based on the needs of their children and local community. Therefore, the precise content of a school's PSE programme lies with head teachers and their governing bodies; this includes deciding whether to work with specialist providers to ensure that they deliver relevant learning experiences.

The Welsh Government's PSE guidance website has links to a range of voluntary organisations that support schools with the teaching of ELS. Schools also work alongside specialist providers, such as the British Heart Foundation, to ensure the most relevant learning experiences for their learners.

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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On 1 October, I made a cabinet statement announcing my intention to review assessment and the National Curriculum in Wales. I have, however, no plans to review the non-statutory PSE framework for 7 to 19-year-olds in Wales.

I hope that this information reassures you that there are opportunities for learners in Wales to develop their Emergency Life Skills, both through the PSE curriculum in schools and through the Welsh Bacallaureate.

Yours sincerely


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