

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Education**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00148/18

Councillor Annwen Daniels  
Chairman of the Council / Cadeirydd y Cyngor  
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13 February 2018

Dear Councillor Daniels,

Thank you for your letter, dated 25 January, regarding teaching Welsh history, and the availability of supplementary bilingual resources.

Wales has a rich heritage and culture, and Welsh Government believes that it is essential for pupils in Wales to have the opportunity to learn about the history of our country. From the Foundation Phase onward, teachers and schools are encouraged to develop pupils' understanding of Wales' unique cultural identity. This enables them to appreciate the different languages and cultural aspects that are part of Wales today. It also gives them a feeling of belonging to Wales, and an understanding and appreciation of our heritage, our literature and our arts.

In Key Stages 2 and 3, Welsh history is an important part of the study programme for history, and schools are encouraged to focus on local and Welsh contexts, with the emphasis on people's everyday lives. Specifically, in Key Stage 2, there is an opportunity to study Owain Glyndŵr and the Age of the Princes. Welsh Government has also published resources on the national online learning platform, Hwb, which is full of advice and support for schools in relation to the subject.

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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.

The A/AS Level qualification, which began to be taught from September 2015 onwards, and the new GCSE introduced last September, requires learners to consider the Welsh perspective. The new GCSE requires candidates to refer to the impact of historical change on Wales or the Welsh perspective.

During AS/A Level, opportunities are given, where relevant, for learners to consider the Welsh perspective if an opportunity to do so arises naturally from the subject and if doing so enriches learners' understanding of the world around them as citizens of Wales, the United Kingdom, Europe and the world. Also, learners can gain access to original source materials and historic interpretations that reflect the Welsh perspective, where appropriate.

As you mentioned in your letter, a new curriculum is being developed here in Wales, in light of publishing the 'Successful Future' report. In its review of the curriculum and the assessment system in Wales, Professor Donaldson considered a range of evidence, including the Review Group's final report, 'The Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales'. The report's review is available here: <http://learning.gov.wales/resources/browse-all/the-cwricwlwm-cymreig-final-report/?lang=cy>

In the new curriculum, History will be part of the Humanities' Area of Learning and Experience. The new curriculum will ensure that the Welsh dimension is associated with each aspect of learning, where appropriate, in addition to the international standpoint, in accordance with the recommendations of the independent review of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales. There are four key purposes at the heart of the new curriculum. One purpose is that children and young people will become ethical citizens, and knowledgeable about Wales and the world, with knowledge of the culture, communities and history of Wales and its place in the wider world.

The Humanities Group, which includes innovative schools representatives from every corner of Wales who have subject expertise, is in the process of developing a series of 'What Matters' statements along with a logical basis. The group, during this work, has considered a number of reports and contributions from experts. The latest report on each group can be found here: <https://cwricwlwmigymru.llyw.cymru>.

Welsh Government has committed to treat Welsh and English equally. In 'Our National Mission', we are committed to ensuring that the resources we commission are developed in Welsh and English simultaneously to support the new curriculum. This includes Hwb resources, which are all available bilingually.

I hope that this assures you of our commitment to the importance of Welsh History in the curriculum.

Yours sincerely

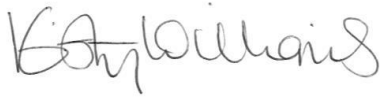
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