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CURRICULUM FOR WALES NETWORKS

Terms of reference



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Terms of reference

1. Background & context

Wales is committed to an ambitious reform agenda to realising a transformational curriculum. The Curriculum for Wales is a purpose-led curriculum placing the 4 Purposes at the heart of all teaching and learning and as the shared vision for every child and young person in Wales.

The publication of the [Curriculum for Wales guidance](#) in January 2020 signalled the next phase of curriculum reform and the rollout of Curriculum for Wales in all primary schools, maintained nursery schools and non-maintained nursery settings and from September 2022. Those secondary schools ready to roll out the curriculum in year 7 will be encouraged to do so, however formal implementation of the new curriculum will not be mandatory until 2023, with roll out in that year to years 7 and 8 together.

Across GwE, schools have previously been supported to engage with the Curriculum for Wales through Curriculum for Wales Cluster Facilitators. Professional learning and funding have been available to networks and clusters of schools to develop collaboration with practitioners across the 3-16 continuum. The Curriculum for Wales networks are the next stage in this development, looking to develop collaboration across the whole curriculum.

GwE have worked with fellow regional consortia, Estyn and Welsh Government to set out the expectations on schools and settings in respect of reform as we move towards implementation of Curriculum for Wales in [Curriculum for Wales: The journey to 2022](#). This document also acknowledges the challenge that Covid-19 continues to present to all schools within the renew and reform strategy.

In June 2021, schools were invited to express an interest to be part of the regional Curriculum for Wales networks to contribute to GwE's ongoing support programme for schools in the following areas:

- Whole school Curriculum Design
- Unpacking the potential of one of the AOEs
 - Language, Literacy and Communication (both Welsh and English)
 - Mathematics and Numeracy
 - Science & Technology
 - Humanities
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Expressive Arts
- Assessment

The Curriculum for Wales Networks will work in partnership with Professor Graham Donaldson, GwE and the six North Wales LAs in developing effective AOEs practice which will help schools on the Reform Journey. The work of the networks is fully aligned to the expectations detailed within the [Curriculum for Wales: The journey to 2022](#) document and represent the principles within of:

- Co-construction
- Pedagogy
- Engagement with professional learning, expertise and networks

- Schools as Learning Organisation
- Wider school context

2. Main purpose

Contribute to developing, planning and designing models to support schools. This will promote trialling, evaluating and preparation of the workforce for first teaching through evidence-based practice informed exemplification.

Maintain the overall direction of the Curriculum for Wales networks which includes:

- **Overseeing ongoing conversations:** providing assurance that these are proceeding as expected and are supported by the right people, resources, and inputs.
- **Maintaining coherence with wider work:** ensuring that ongoing and future planned conversations complement existing work – at the local, regional and national levels – in terms of the timing of conversations and the questions and outputs we are seeking from these
- **Setting direction of future conversations:** draw on feedback from ongoing conversations, emerging challenges and needs, and suggestions directly from practitioners on what issues they would like to see discussed at the Network. The group will use this feedback to plan which issues will be considered as conversations by the Network.
- **Planning communications around conversations and outputs:** ensuring that conversation outputs are shared widely and quickly, embedding good practice and new approaches across the system. Learning will be shared on digital platforms and through regular dialogue with all schools.

3. Aims & objectives

- Contribute to regional and local planning, designing and sharing of curriculum practice.
- Work collaboratively with a group of peers supporting curriculum design on a local level and support AOLE development on a regional level.
- Communicate and cascade learning and successful practice across the schools within the local authority.
- Support the development of a consistent and inclusive common programme of Professional Learning around curriculum design and assessment within AOLES.
- Contribute to developing planning and design models to support schools in trialling, evaluating and preparing the workforce for first teaching.
- Ensure appropriate cohesiveness and capacity to provide high quality regional resources in this area.
- Support the development of the Regional Strategy for North Wales.

- Consider Welsh Government's current policies and activity within integrating fields in order to react to them on a national level.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Regional groups	Local groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend regional professional learning and discussion forums under the facilitation of Professor Donaldson. • Lead and chair a local group of peers to work collaboratively supporting and modelling curriculum design. • Unpacking the potential of AOLE development. • Plan and design models to support schools with trialing on an evidence-based approach. • Evaluate impact of work. • Communicate and cascade learning and successful practice across the schools within the local authority and bring key messages back to the Regional Group. • Disseminate and share practice between the 8 Regional Groups. • Select a representative to attend the Overarching Executive Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clear communication for effective collaboration with the Regional Group. • Maintain a clear rationale for each AOLE, ensuring work is aligned to the <i>Curriculum for Wales</i> framework and national priorities, and planned towards a continuum of learning from 3 to 16. • Plan and design exemplar models to support schools - unpacking the potential of AOLE development. • Promote collaborative working across schools to develop, trial, evaluate and share effective practice locally and across the region. • Encourage engagement of practitioners at all levels and disseminate successful practice across the AOLE partnerships and to wider audiences. • Support the development of a consistent and inclusive common programme of Professional Learning around curriculum design and assessment within AOLEs. • Promote school engagement and collaboration with wider stakeholders including learners, parents, local business and agencies and other educational establishments regarding curriculum planning.
GwE	Local Authority Members
<p>Attend all regional meetings so that they can contribute to discussions, help facilitate and support the Chair in leading the discussions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Regional Chairs as required. • Attending local group meetings as required. • Reporting regularly to the wider GwE team on how the work is progressing 	<p>Attend local network meetings as required and ensure that the key messages are passed to local authority teams.</p> <p>Support schools' discussion within the networks and contribute to local sense making.</p>

Support the Chair to ensure that the key messages from the regional group are passed to the local group and all schools for implementation.	Promote collaborative working across schools to develop, trial, evaluate and share effective practice locally and across the region.
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5. Membership

Regional	Local
8 groups	Within each Local Authority – 8 groups
<u>Members:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Graham Donaldson (Advisory role) • 2-4 reps from each LA across settings / GwE leads. • Occasional attendees can be invited in line with the determined priorities and the themes that will be discussed. 	<u>Members:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools who expressed interest, nominated GwE leads and LA officers. • Occasional attendees can be invited in line with the determined priorities and the themes that will be discussed.
<u>Function:</u> Input according to themes / share work / consistent messaging.	<u>Function:</u> Working through themes, practical work / models within local contexts.

6. Meetings

Regional groups	Local groups
<u>Autumn Term 2021</u> Regional meetings: Half day meetings per half term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21/09/2021 • 06/10/2021 • 16/11/2021 • 14/12/2021 	<u>Autumn Term 2021</u> Local meetings: 3 x half day meetings per half term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting 1 – w/c 04/10/21 • Meeting 2 - between 11/10/21 and 16/11/21 • Meeting 3 - between 17/11/2021 and 20/12/2021
<u>Spring Term 2022 Overview</u>	<u>Spring Term 2022 Overview</u>
<u>Summer Term 2022 Overview</u>	<u>Summer Term 2022 Overview</u>

7. Secretariat

Regional groups	Local groups
<p>The Regional Networks will receive administrative support from GwE.</p> <p>GwE will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise the meetings and circulate agendas, papers and updates. • Maintain the CfW Networks Teams area. 	<p>Local meetings to be arranged by Local Chairs for the 8 groups.</p> <p>It may be possible to join groups from more than one LA if numbers are small enough.</p> <p>GwE to support establishing local Teams area as needed.</p>

8. Governance

Regional groups	Local groups
<p>Reporting mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Groups - the issues highlighted as ones that need attention will be referred to the Overarching Steering Group and/or GwE Management Board for further consideration, and then to the GwE Joint Committee as needed. 	<p>Reporting mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Groups - Report back to regional meetings and contribute any lessons learnt during the process.

Appendices / Supporting documents