



Development of the new curriculum for Wales is well underway. This first stakeholder newsletter will bring you up to speed with some of the developments since *Curriculum for Wales – curriculum for life* was published last November.

Since then work on establishing good foundations has developed at pace. This work is being undertaken collaboratively by teachers as part of a Pioneer Network, which are representative of most types of schools and settings. Estyn and external experts are also involved. Working together through regular meetings, workshops and online networking, they are focusing on three distinct areas: digital competence, curriculum design and practitioner development.

Our aim is that the new curriculum will be available to schools and settings from 2018 and used to support learning and teaching from 2021. However, in order to fast-track the work providing learners with better digital competence, the first version of a Digital Competence Framework will be available to schools from September 2016.

In this newsletter you'll find updates on:

- [Digital Competence Framework](#)
- [Curriculum](#)
- [Practitioner Development 'New Deal' Practitioners](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Moving Forward together](#)
- [Tell us if you found this newsletter helpful](#)

Useful links:

- [More information on the Curriculum for Wales \(www.gov.wales\)](http://www.gov.wales)
- [More information on the Digital Competence Framework \(www.Learning.Wales\)](http://www.Learning.Wales)

Digital Competence Framework

Digital competence is the set of knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable the confident, creative and critical use of technologies and systems.

Having worked swiftly and enthusiastically, the Digital Pioneers have developed a draft Digital Competence Framework (DCF). It was shared widely by regional consortia in June and feedback is now being analysed before the framework is fine-tuned and an online interactive version is made available on Learning Wales to all schools and settings during September 2016.

Throughout the process the Digital Pioneers have been supported by Estyn and regional consortia and the development has benefitted from feedback from a Quality Assurance group Chaired by Professor Tom Crick. Pioneers' background work included drawing on research and consideration of current regional and international digital frameworks.

The expectation is now that schools and settings will familiarise themselves with the framework from September, agreeing their strategic vision for cross-curricular digital competence and considering how to translate this into practice.

The Pioneer Network will collaborate to further refine the DCF, informed by ongoing dialogue with practitioners as they use it and as work on designing the Areas of Learning and Experience develops. The network will also develop a high-level Professional Learning Offer by September 2017 to help ensure that by September 2018 good progress will have been made in using the framework.

An animated explainer and presentation will be made available to explain the framework from September.

For more, contact: CurriculumDesignandDevelopmentUnit@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Curriculum

The Curriculum Pioneers are working on designing the new curriculum. They have divided into four working groups.

The **Cross-curriculum responsibilities** group has met four times and established three subgroups which are:

- developing options for what an 'Area of Learning and Experience' might look like (the AoLE subgroup)
- considering the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework within the context of the new curriculum (the LNF subgroup)

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- developing digital cross-curricular tasks which have a significant Welsh dimension (the DCF subgroup).

The **Enrichment and experiences** group has met regularly and in order to cover more ground has split into six further subgroups, focusing on:

- teaching and continuous professional development (CPD)
- equity and inclusivity
- research
- communications
- partnerships
- transition.

External speakers have been presenting to groups to share best practice.

The **Assessment and progression** group is working on four themes.

- Healthy, confident individuals and what is currently working well in schools.
- Enterprising, creative contributors and ‘the power of yet?’
- Ambitious, capable learners and international models.
- Ethical, informed citizens and e-portfolios.

The **Welsh dimension, international perspective and wider skills** group members have completed their first research tasks and shared their findings. At its June event, the group welcomed external speakers and shared learning experiences.

To coordinate all four strands, a **Strategic design steering group** comprising members from all four groups has been established. It met for the first time on 8 June.

For more, contact: CurriculumDesignandDevelopmentUnit@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Practitioner development ‘New Deal’ Pioneers

All practitioners will need to develop the right skills in pedagogy and leadership to enable them to deliver the new curriculum successfully. The New Deal Pioneer Network will work together to deliver a Professional Learning Offer for all practitioners ahead of the new curriculum becoming available. The network is supported by a steering group which represents schools and consortia from all four regions.

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As with the other Pioneers, extensive research and action enquiry has been a necessary first stage in the overall process. External speakers including Professor Mick Waters from the University of Wolverhampton, who is leading the Welsh Government's review of Professional Teaching Standards, have been contributing to this process.

For more, contact: Newdealpioneers@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Legislation

Jane Ellis and Angela Cheeseman from the Curriculum Reform Legislation Branch joined a Pioneer Schools network meeting on Tuesday 5 July. The schools identified current statutory requirements that might restrict the work of Pioneer Schools over the coming months. During the session a list of potential 'barriers' was identified and where these might resonate with interdependencies across curriculum, assessment and evaluation, accountability, inspection and legislation.

There was some discussion about utilising the 'Power to Innovate' provisions as set out in the Education Act 2002 to potentially release Pioneer Schools from existing requirements associated with the current National Curriculum for Wales.

Reassurance was given that Welsh Government will use the feedback schools provided as the scope of the current legislative framework and the options that might be available are explored. The team welcome Pioneer Schools' continued support to ensure that *A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life* is delivered successfully in Wales from September 2021.

If you have comments or queries, please contact Jane or Angela at:

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Moving forward together

[*The Cab Sec for Education has reaffirmed the Welsh Government's commitment to curriculum reform and creating an education system that works for all children and young people.*](#)

Before the National Assembly for Wales went into recess the Cabinet Secretary outlined her commitment to reform of the education system and the critical importance of a self-improving education system, and signalled her intention to develop a workforce and leadership strategy to support and develop the workforce through the process of change. [Oral statement](#) / [Video](#)

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The full Pioneer Network will come together to share experiences and progress in September. We will provide more updates after that event.

Tell us if you found this newsletter helpful!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. The next one will be available in the autumn.

We're keen to know whether the information is useful. If you have any comments or suggestions of what you would find useful, please contact:

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