

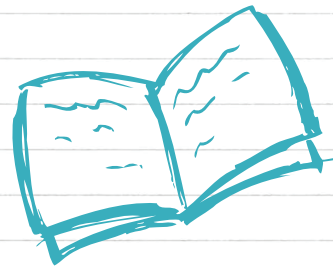


A CURRICULUM FOR WALES



Consulting children and young people



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk



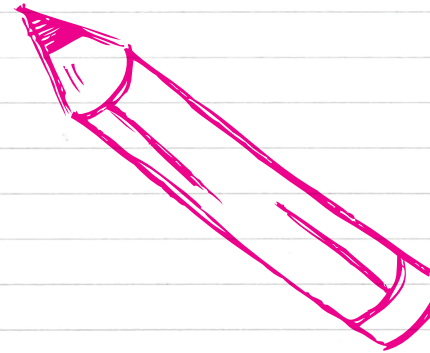
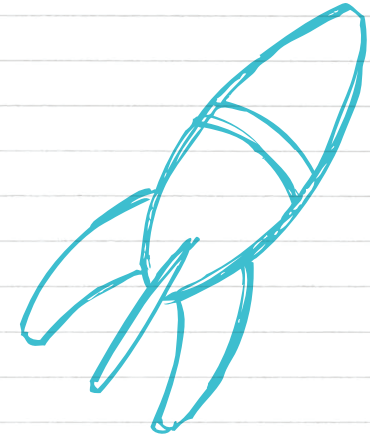
The subjects children and young people study in school and the content of their lessons are known as the curriculum.

What is taught in schools and how it's taught needs to change, and doing that means a lot of thought and getting opinions. Some of the most important opinions we need to hear are from children and young people.

This booklet sets out what we are thinking about doing, and why we are thinking about doing it. We want to know what you think about the changes.

Interesting Fact

The word Curriculum is Latin. It means 'the course of a race' the word 'course' means the direction learners take through school.



FACT FILE

Foundation Phase – Ages 3-7 (Pre-school, Reception, Years 1-2)

Key Stage 2 – Ages 7-11 (Years 3-6)

Key Stage 3 – Ages 11-14 (Years 7-9)

Key Stage 4 – Ages 14-16 (Years 10-11)

WORDS
AND NUMBERS

1

ABC
123



Literacy and numeracy refer to our ability to use words (reading, speaking them and writing them) and numbers (mathematics).

LNF stands for Literacy and Numeracy Framework – a tool that teachers use in the teaching of literacy and numeracy.

Literacy and numeracy are vital in everyday life, and eventually in working life. The improvements we want to make start right from when children start school, and carry on through Key Stages 2 to 4 when learners will really sharpen and strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills.

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OTHER AREAS



We know that literacy and numeracy are not the only areas in need of attention. In fact, we've been looking at lots of different aspects of the curriculum. These have included the role of Arts in Education; Computer Science and ICT; Cwricwlwm Cymreig, the history and story of Wales; Physical Activity and Welsh Second Language.

Right now though we want to focus on literacy and numeracy. These other areas will be looked at later on (Phase 2).

TIMING



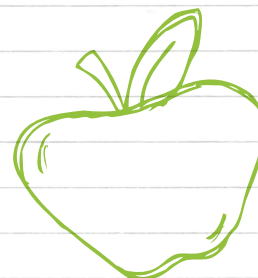
We are developing the new curriculum in two phases.

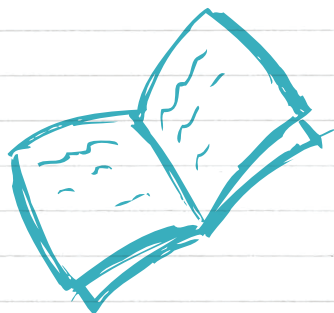
Phase 1 is all about literacy and numeracy, as well as the learning of skills, like problem solving, that will really help later on in life and make learning of all subjects easier.

Phase 2 is the bigger picture. Here we want to make sure that the curriculum is varied and teaches learners the skills and knowledge they are going to need to make sure they are ready to take their place in the world of the future.

We will be looking at several things in this second phase:

- Some think that in Key Stage 2 there is too much content, so we will be looking closely at this stage of education;
- In Key Stage 3 we think learners should be able to delve into themes and topics that really interest them; learning is easier when something especially grabs a person and we are also going to look at maybe involving organisations outside of school to make it even more interesting;
- we are thinking about marking the end of Key Stage 3 with a special graduation ceremony, as a 'well done' for all learners' hard work and as they get ready for the next big step – Key Stage 4;
- we will be talking to lots of people in the world of business, to make sure the Curriculum is preparing learners for the world of work; and
- In Phase 2 we will also be having a long, hard look at Science subjects. This is a hugely important area, and opens up some amazing, well paid job prospects as Wales really needs people with scientific knowhow.





IT ALL STARTS
WHEN CHILDREN START SCHOOL

Interesting Fact

The use of words and numbers has always been at the heart of a good education. Nowadays we call our use of words and numbers literacy and numeracy. Not that long ago it was known as 'The three R's', a phrase Sir William Curtis a well-known Member of Parliament came up with in 1795, which stood for Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.



We are looking to introduce changes to the Curriculum right from the beginning in the Foundation Phase of schooling and keep it going through to Key Stage 4. These changes are aimed at building new ways of teaching literacy and numeracy, as defined by the LNF, into the Curriculum.

To help, we will be producing some documents which will explain to learners and teachers what kind of things we are expecting to see as the new ways of teaching literacy and numeracy within the LNF are introduced.

The model will be introduced for learners aged 5 in Foundation Phase and continue through to Key Stage 4, when new GCSEs in English, Welsh and Mathematics Techniques will be taken. We will also be extending the LNF so that children as young as 3 can be supported with their literacy and numeracy all the way through to when they turn 16.



LEARNING ABOUT LIFE

We believe that learners will really benefit by developing some important skills for both learning and later life, including:

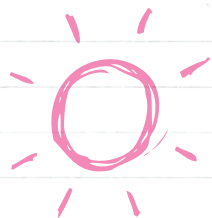
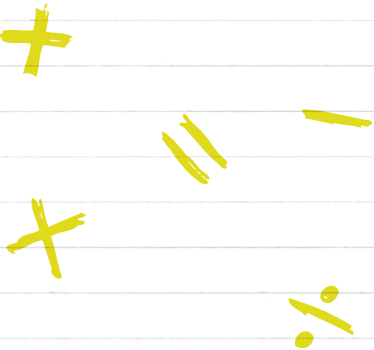
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Planning and Organising
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness
- Digital Literacy

This too will start in Foundation Phase and go right through to Key Stage 4.

HOW WE WILL BE
KEEPING TABS ON EVERYTHING

We will be looking very closely at how the proposed new programme is going in all areas and at the end of each Phase and Key Stage will be getting a great deal of feedback from teachers as to what progress is being made.

As reading, writing, numbers and speaking are crucial to everyday life, teachers will be feeding back to parents/carers, ourselves, and of course to you, the learners on how you are doing.

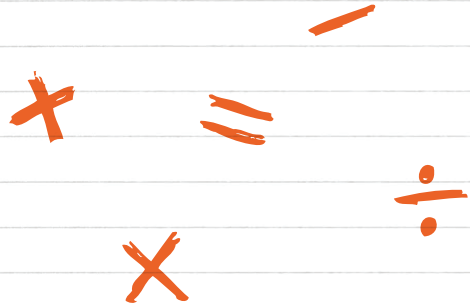


FOUNDATION PHASE



Small children will be learning Language, Literacy and Communication, and Mathematical development in the new, and better ways we are looking at introducing.

However, this is when children are not just starting out in school, but also in life, so aside from looking at how they're getting on with reading, writing, speaking and numbers, we will also be looking at how they are getting on with Personal and Social Development, Well-being and Cultural Diversity.



KEY STAGE 2

It's really important that learners develop their skills with words and numbers whilst they are in primary school. That is why we will ask schools to tell us how you are progressing in literacy and numeracy in the context of English, Welsh and Maths.

To help teachers do this we are thinking of asking learners to carry out special tasks called 'rich learning' tasks. These will show learners how they can apply their skills, including literacy and numeracy, across a wide range of subjects.



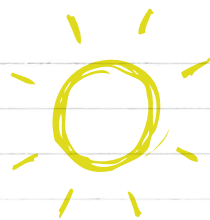
KEY STAGE 3

Literacy and numeracy are still very important in secondary school. That is why we will still ask schools to tell us about how you are progressing in literacy and numeracy in the context of English, Welsh and Maths. They will also report to us on how you are doing in Welsh Second Language and in Science, as we feel that this is a really important area to learn about, especially during this stage of education. It will no longer be necessary for findings on any other subjects to be reported back to us.

How you are progressing will also go to parents/carers, and to you the learner. Parents/carers will also receive a report on every Curriculum subject which will let them know your progress in each area.



LEARNERS' VIEWS
AND WHEN THIS IS ALL HAPPENING



$$X + Y =$$



The consultation period, which is when we need all opinions, including learners', starts on 22 October and runs until 17 January 2014.

We are looking to introduce these changes to the curriculum at the start of the new school year in September 2014. Schools do not have to start teaching it then, but can if they want.

Every school must teach the new Curriculum, in September 2015.



Let us know what you think by taking a few minutes to complete the questionnaire.



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