



**ADDYSG CYMRU**  
**EDUCATION WALES**

cenhadaeth ein cenedl | our national mission



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# 14 to 16 Learning in the Curriculum for Wales

# Parents and carers in Wales, we need your thoughts!

We're inviting you to complete this consultation to share your views on how schools across Wales will teach 14 to 16 year olds.

Your feedback will help shape the final version of the 14 to 16 Learning Guidance published this summer term. We want to offer the best possible support to schools in planning for and designing their curriculum offer for learning and teaching in years 10 and 11. **Our goal is to ensure learners are taught a broad and balanced curriculum as they move towards exams, qualifications, and the future.** We want all children and young people to thrive as lifelong learners, equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to succeed.



# Education is changing



In Wales, it's our [National Mission](#) to achieve high standards and aspirations for all.

We introduced the [Curriculum for Wales](#) to support children and young people to be healthy, engaged, enterprising and ethical citizens of Wales and the world - ready to play a full part in life and work. In 2022 we began rolling out this new way of teaching, and from September 2026 all children will be learning under the Curriculum for Wales.

The Curriculum for Wales covers learners aged 3-16, but we know requirements for young people aged 14-16 are different to those for younger learners. Learners at this age will consider their options in relation to qualifications and the opportunity to specialise, as well as identifying and starting to realise their individual pathways.

There can be many choices for young people at the end of year 11 as they transition to further education, training, and employment.

We want to make their transition to life after year 11 easier, with support to overcome any barriers<sup>1</sup> on their journey.

## New National 14 to 16 Qualifications

To support the Curriculum for Wales, [Qualifications Wales](#)<sup>2</sup> is reforming qualifications in Wales. This covers the full 14 to 16 qualifications offer, including GCSEs, as set out in their [Qualified for the Future reform](#) programme. New GCSEs will be available for first teaching for year 10 from September 2025.

For full details and timelines, please visit the [National 14 to 16 Qualifications webpage](#).

1. The Hefin David report outlines barriers in [Transitions to Employment](#)  
2. the independent regulator of qualifications in Wales



# Key features of the 14 to 16 Learning Guidance



**We want all learners completing their education at 16 to have the skills, knowledge, and wider understanding that enables them to develop the capacities, dispositions and attributes described in the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales. This will also support learner transitions post-16.**

To achieve this, it is important that learners in year 10 and 11 continue to benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum, with learning continuing across all Areas of Learning and Experience and in the mandatory elements of the curriculum, no matter their choices of study for qualifications.

**The 14 to 16 Learner Entitlement aims to support this.** It outlines the curriculum that all learners in years 10 and 11 will be entitled to. Specifically, they will be offered teaching and learning across the following four components:

- **Qualifications in literacy and numeracy** - the best possible literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy (mathematics) education before they finish school.
- **Qualifications to encourage breadth** - broad and balanced choices, including general, vocational and skills-based qualifications, at all appropriate levels. This will include a qualification in the sciences. All learners should also continue to have the opportunity to study towards a suitably challenging and ambitious qualification in Welsh – to meet goals set by Cymraeg2050.

- **Wider Learning and Experiences across the Curriculum** - in all areas and mandatory elements (including [RSE and RVE](#)), no matter their chosen qualifications. Not all learning experiences will result in a formal qualification; however, wider learning across the curriculum will encourage deeper learning and independence.
- **Post-16 planning** - dedicated time to focus on next steps and understand all options available to them as they move into post-16 education, training or employment, across all aspects of life. This means that learners will be given the support they need to reflect on their strengths, areas of improvement, goals and ambitions, which will set high standards and develop learner effectiveness.

**The entitlement will guide schools when choosing the qualifications they offer to year 10 and 11 learners. A challenging and ambitious offer will need to be provided for each learner, and account for individual needs.**

**Learners will also be supported by their 14 to 16 learning to:**

- Understand the full range of options available to them in both vocational and general qualifications post-16.
- Understand the implications of their choices within and beyond compulsory education.
- Encounter authentic and meaningful experiences of work.
- Make the right choices for their individual pathway.

# Over to you...



Your opinion is crucial to ensuring our education system meets the needs of all learners across Wales. We invite you to share your thoughts on the 14 to 16 Learner Entitlement which sets out the Welsh Government's policy for learning in years 10 and 11 under the Curriculum for Wales. Please make sure you read the full [14 to 16 statutory learner guidance document](#) before responding to the questions.

**Q1.** Do you understand what a school should be offering your child in years 10 and 11?

Yes  No  Comment

**Q2.** Do you agree with the Welsh Government's 14 to 16 Learner Entitlement?

Yes  No  Comment

**Q3.** Does the entitlement capture everything important to your child at 14 to 16?

Yes  No  Comment

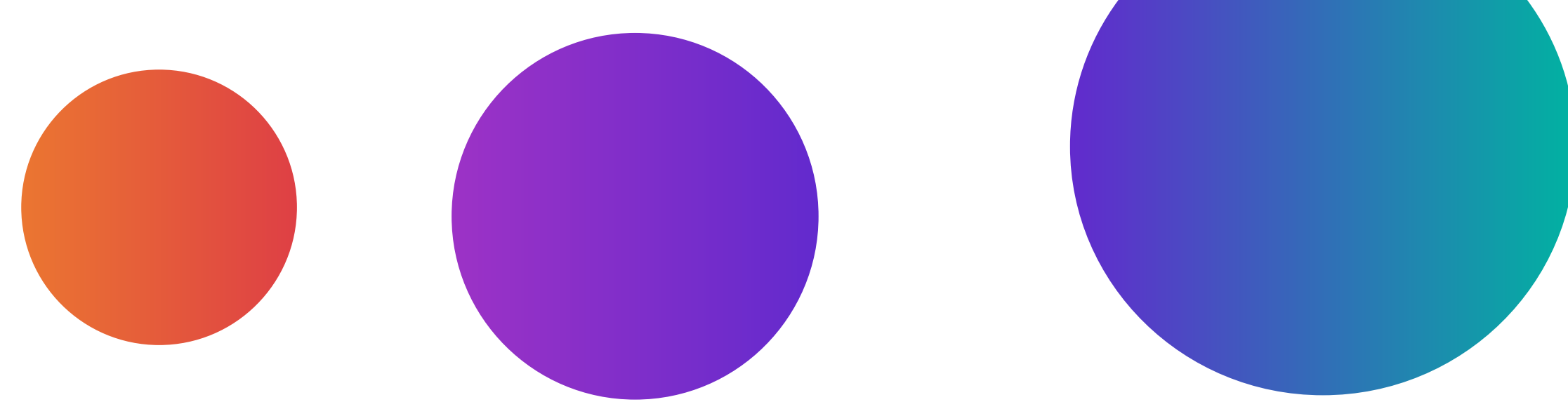
**Q4.** Are there things that are important to your child's learning at 14 to 16 not captured by the entitlement and if so, what?

Comment

**Q5.** Do you agree the policy promotes opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language?

Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

Comment



**Q6.** Do you agree that the policy promotes opportunities for all learners, including those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with Additional Learning Needs, and protected characteristics (disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race; religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation)?

Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

Comment

## How to respond

**Submit your comments by 8 May 2024, in any of the following ways:**

**Online:** <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/YCDAX2/>

**Email:** Download the [response form](#), complete and return to:  
**Dysgu.14-16.learning@gov.wales**

**Post:** Download the [response form](#), complete and return to:  
**School Improvement and Qualifications Policy Division  
Public Services and Welsh Language Group  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park, Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ**

## Next steps

This guidance will support schools to feel confident with their curriculum over this period of transition and beyond.

We intend to publish the final guidance and supporting materials in the summer term, to support schools in their preparations to start teaching year 10 learners under Curriculum for Wales in September 2025.

To access the full consultation, 14 to 16 statutory learner guidance and questions please go to [14 to 16 learning under the Curriculum for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)