

Global Futures Steering Group online meeting
8th June 2021, 10:00am – 11:30pm

Present:

Glynn Downs, Chair of the Global Futures Steering Group
Dr Walter Ariel Brooks, British Council Wales
Maija Evans, British Council Wales
Emily Daly, International School Linking, Cardiff Council
Lucy Jenkins, Cardiff University
Meleri Jenkins, Routes into Languages Cymru
Dr Liz Wren-Owens, Routes into Languages Cymru
Domini Stone, Goethe-Institut
Carmen Santos Maldonado, Spanish Embassy Education Office
María Antonia García, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Benoît Le Dévédec, Institut Français
Ariane Laumonier, Institut Français
Dr Catherine Chabert, Confucius Institute
Vicky Ucele, Confucius Institute
Stephanie Ellis-Williams, GwE Consortium
Amy Walters-Bresner, CSC Consortium
Carrie Fisher, CSC Consortium
Sioned Harold, EAS Consortium
Anna Vivian Jones, ERW Consortium
Stephanie Grant, Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn
Ceri Griffiths, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni
Penny Lewis, Estyn
Liz Barry, Estyn
Sian Brooks, Swansea University
Helen Phillips, Open University
Eleri Goldsmith, Welsh Government
Ann Bradshaw, Welsh Government
Jane Peffers, Welsh Government
Gerard Pitt, Welsh Government
Manon Edwards, Welsh Government

Simultaneous Translation:

Delyth Davies, Simultaneous Interpreter, CYMEN Agency

Apologies:

Cathryn Billington-Richards, CSC Consortium
Roberta Guzzardi, Education Dept of the Italian Consulate General, London
Professor Claire Gorrara, Cardiff University
Nia Davies, BBC
Beth Titley, Careers Wales
Emma Muggleton, Caerleon Comprehensive School
Catrin Verrall, Qualifications Wales

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Global Futures Steering Group Chair, Glynn Downs (GD) welcomed members, noted apologies and introduced first time attendees:

- Sian Brooks, Subject Lecturer (Modern Foreign Languages) in Initial Teacher Education at the School of Education, Swansea University.
- Liz Barry, HMI Inspector for Estyn
- Maija Evans, the new Education Manager at British Council Wales who has supported the British Council's work previously on languages and Curriculum for Wales.
- Ann Bradshaw, Professional Advisor for Developing Schools as Learning Organizations and Professional Learning in schools within the Welsh Government's Professional Learning Team.

Congratulations on retirement:

- Emily Daly, International School Linking Officer for City of Cardiff Council, announced her retirement. Emily has successfully led on numerous projects for languages over the years through Erasmus+ and its schools predecessor programme, Comenius. The group thanked her sincerely for her all her excellent work and for the positive impact she has made in providing opportunities for linking schools nationally and internationally. We wish her well for the future.

2. Strategic Actions update from members – Chair

Updates:

GD invited members to provide one/two key snapshot updates on activity since the previous meeting, against the agreed actions of the Global Futures Plan 2020-2022. Full written updates on priorities and work undertaken since the meeting in January, together with a forward look at events, activities and opportunities available to learners and teachers across Wales, were circulated to members prior to the meeting for information.

GD thanked everyone sincerely for their huge efforts in continuing to deliver support to schools and providing high-quality language learning experiences for learners over the past months, despite the ongoing effects of disruption caused by the pandemic on learning and development.

Welsh Government update:

Gerard Pitt (GP) highlighted one of the manifesto promises in the new *Programme for Government 2021 to 2026*, which commits to expanding the teaching of MFL in our schools – a positive and welcome endorsement for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) learning and teaching as we transition to the new curriculum. Jane Peffers (JP) added

that *Global Futures* is the vehicle through which that commitment will be developed and taken forward.

and what they might need in terms of support for the new curriculum **Consultation on qualifications for the new curriculum:**

GP confirmed that Qualifications Wales' consultation on which GCSEs and other qualifications should be made available to support the new curriculum, had now closed. Qualifications Wales will carefully review all responses and report in the autumn on their decisions. Over 1,200 responses were received from a wide range of stakeholders, with many coming directly from learners.

Once Qualifications Wales has decided which GCSE subjects are needed, they will be seeking views and ideas on how the content and assessment of each subject should be designed. GP confirmed that regular updates will be given on the Qualifications Wales website over the summer as this work progresses and urged members with an interest to look out for opportunities to get involved.

Language Trends 2021:

Walter Brooks (WB) notified members that British Council Wales has commissioned Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland to undertake the next *Language Trends Survey* for Wales, which will be published around October/November time.

3. Workshop session - International Languages in our Primary Schools

The main focus of the workshop session explored how primary schools can best be supported, as they plan to incorporate international languages in their curricula, to realise the four purposes of the new curriculum and understand and work towards plurilingualism.

To set the context for the workshop group discussions, Anna Vivian Jones (AVJ) delivered a comprehensive presentation overview of the Languages, Literacy and Communication in the curriculum for Wales, outlining key principles of the overarching guidance and describing the renewed vision for languages for children and young people in Wales, in the context of approaches being undertaken in ERW. She noted that the most important thing to understand about Curriculum for Wales (CfW), is that it is purpose driven and there is a shift in emphasis from what learners know to the people that they will grow up to be.

AVJ noted that Curriculum for Wales will require a significant shift in mind-set for all leaders and practitioners as they develop new approaches to learning. She also acknowledged that practitioners will need substantial support to design a curriculum for their learners and outlined the approach taken by the team in ERW to committing to a shared vision for learners as a first and necessary step to curriculum design.

AVJ noted she would be interested to hear about different approaches to new curriculum design being developed elsewhere in Wales. GP invited Sioned (SH) to briefly outline the NC the roll-out approach being adopted in EAS. SH reported recent work with higher-level leadership in schools and continuing work with EAS Lead Multilingual primaries and primary and secondary Learning Network Schools, to research and develop best practice to share more widely across the region and

nationally in future. SH confirmed that she had developed three webinars providing key messages to help schools as they design a curriculum for their learners.

Colleagues split into three groups chaired by Glynn, Gerard and Jane for a 20 minute discussion. Some feedback is captured in the bullets below:

1. What type of messaging is needed to help primary schools plan for the four purposes and plurilingualism?

Feedback:

- Schools are at different stages of their journeys. Message on structuring teaching so that it links back to the four purposes, which should be the starting point and aspiration for schools' curriculum design.
 - Develop a pan-Wales approach (one messaging around the importance of securing an understanding of the linguistic landscape to help schools reflect on what skills they already have and what skills they will need).
2. What type of resources and guidance are needed e.g. good practice examples?

Feedback:

3. What areas are there for greater collaboration between Global Futures partners?

Feedback:

- Nothing specific on this but rather on progression in teaching a language – need more collaboration on this - providing support to schools on progression will be important.
- There is a lot of excellent collaboration already and we will continue to build on this expanding the scope of collaboration as necessary, as we transition to the new curriculum and help schools with the enormous task ahead.

4. Next steps and any other business

- GD confirmed that the next online meeting of the *Global Futures* Steering Group will be held in October 2021 (*date to be confirmed*). GD thanked the group and closed the meeting.