

A new curriculum in Wales

Changing the way children and young people learn in school



This document was written by Welsh Government. It is an easy read version of ‘The Curriculum for Wales: Guidance on Curriculum Design and Implementation’.

January 2020

How to use this document



This is an easy read version. But you may still need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.

Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word.

If the hard word is used again it is in **normal blue writing**. You can check what all the words in blue mean on page 21.



Where the document says **we**, it means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

E-mail:

CurriculumDesignandDevelopmentUnit@gov.wales

Twitter: @WG_Education

Facebook: www.facebook.com/educationwales

You can also get useful information by following our **Education Begins At Home** social media accounts:

Twitter: @edubeginsathome

Facebook: www.facebook.com/beginsathome



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

Contents

	Page
How to use this document	2
Introduction	4
Rules that schools must follow	5
The 4 main aims of the curriculum.....	6
What should children and young people learn about?.....	7
Expressive Arts.....	7
Health and Wellbeing.....	9
Humanities.....	10
Language, Literacy and Communication.....	11
Maths and Numeracy.....	11
Science and Technology.....	12
Skills for the whole curriculum.....	13
Joined-up learning.....	14
Helping all learners do well.....	17
Getting ready	19
How to get involved	20
Hard words	21

Introduction



In 2022 we are going to change the way children and young people learn in schools.



Schools will now be in charge of writing their own **curriculum**.

A school **curriculum** is a plan for what children and young people will learn at school. It says:

- What they should learn
- How they should learn
- The reasons why they should learn.



Schools will write their own **curriculum** because they know the children and young people they teach. So they know how to meet their needs.



We are writing a new guide about what schools should include in their **curriculum**. We are writing this guide to make sure:



- Every child and young person is learning in a way that is right for them.



- Children and young people understand new ideas and changes to things like **technology**.

Technology is using science and knowledge to help us do tasks, for example using computers and machines to do more and more.



- Children and young people are able to do well and are prepared for the future.

Rules that schools must follow



We will not tell schools exactly what to teach in their lessons.



There will be a new law that says what they **must** include in their new **curriculum**.

The 4 main aims of the curriculum



All schools must write a **curriculum** that helps children and young people to achieve 4 main aims.

The 4 aims are to help children and young people be:



1. **Ambitious and capable learners**

This means they believe in themselves and what they can do. They want to learn and do better. They have the skills to learn.



2. **Enterprising and creative**

This means they can be creative and think of new ideas. They can solve problems. They can use this in their work.



3. **Ethical and informed citizens**

This means they understand their rights and responsibilities. They take part in their community. They care about the world.



4. **Healthy and confident**

This means they have healthy minds and bodies. They feel good about themselves and what they believe in.

What should children and young people learn about?



We want children and young people in Wales to learn about lots of different subjects.



To make sure children and young people learn about lots of different subjects we have written **6 Areas of Learning and Experience:**

1. Expressive Arts

Schools must give children and young people chances to explore the arts. And learn how to enjoy and think about other people's art.



Children and young people should also have the chance to be creative. They can learn these things through a mix of different lessons. Like:



- Art



- Dance



- Film



- Drama



- Music



- **Digital media**

Digital media can include any art you make using technology. Like video, sound recordings and websites.

2. Health and well-being



Schools must teach children and young people how to take care of their health.

This includes:



- Having a healthy body.



- Having a healthy mind.



- Having healthy relationships with people.



- Making good life decisions.



Schools can teach this through things like cooking, sports and lessons about **well-being**.

Your **well-being** is anything to do with your health and happiness.



3. Humanities

Schools must teach children and young people to think about the world to help them understand it better.

This can be through subjects like:



- History



- Geography



- Religion, values and ethics



- Business



- Social Studies



4. Languages, Literacy and Communication

Schools must teach children and young people to understand and use different languages. This includes English, Welsh and other languages.



Literacy means speaking, listening, reading and writing skills which help us to make sense of the world around us.



Schools must also teach children to understand **literature** and create their own.

Literature means things like books, poems and films that you read, view and hear.

5. Maths and Numeracy

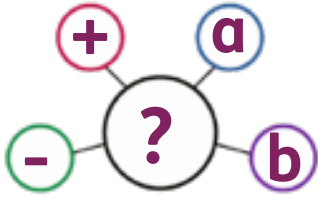


Schools must teach children and young people to understand and to use numbers. Using numbers in daily life is called **numeracy**.

Learning about maths and **numeracy** will include:

- How numbers work





- How **symbols** can be used and what they mean.

A **symbol** is a sign that can tell you what to do. For example, the plus sign means you should add two numbers together. Like $2 + 2$.

Symbols are also sometimes used instead of numbers, for example $a - b$.



- How to measure things and work with different shapes.



- How to collect information. And use this information to make decisions.

6. Science and technology



Schools must teach children and young people to understand nature and living things. They must teach about the **forces** all around us.



Forces are things you cannot see that have an effect on you, like gravity.



Schools should also teach children and young people about how **technology** works and how to use technology to solve problems.

This can be through subjects like biology, chemistry, physics and computer science.

Skills for the whole curriculum

All teachers in all subjects must also help children and young people learn:



- **Literacy** skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing



- **Numeracy** skills – understanding and using numbers.



- Digital skills – being able to learn and understand **technology**. Being able to use digital devices like computers, smart phones and tablets.

Joined-up learning



Schools must teach **Relationships and Sexuality Education**.

Relationships and Sexuality Education covers things like:

- What healthy relationships are.
- Feelings.
- How our sexuality is part of who we are.
- How we think of ourselves.





Schools should also teach children and young people about things that will be important to them in life and things that will help them understand others better. Things like:



- Human rights.



- Respecting people's differences, like their beliefs or where they come from.



- Learning about work and choosing the kind of work you want to do.



- Learning about Wales, your local area and the world.



Schools do not have to plan separate lessons about these things.



Schools should teach these things through all lessons. For example, a teacher could use a history lesson to teach why human rights are important.



Welsh Ministers will write a list of things that are important to learn for adult life. They will be called **Statements of What Matters**.



They will help make sure schools teach the most important ideas in each **Area of Learning and Experience**.



So schools must use the Statements of What Matters to help them write their [curriculum](#).

Helping all learners to do well



Schools will need to check that their **curriculum** is working and that all children and young people are **progressing**.



Progressing means moving forward in learning. It means learning more and understanding better.



Children and young people will progress through the **curriculum** and learn things at different speeds.



Children and young people should be able to start learning the next thing when they are ready.



Children and young people who need more time to understand something should be given the time they need.

The **curriculum** must help all children and young people to:



- Progress.



- Be ready for life after school.



This supports laws that say we should meet young people's different needs. And that everyone should have chances in life.

Getting ready



It is exciting to have a new [curriculum](#) for Wales. The next step is to see it happening in schools.



Schools and teachers will now start changing and getting ready to teach the new [curriculum](#).



Children and young people will learn through the new [curriculum](#) from September 2022. All primary school children and children in year 7 in 2022 will follow the new [curriculum](#).



Children and young people in year 8 and above in 2022 will carry on with the same [curriculum](#) they have now. When they finish school, that [curriculum](#) will end.

How to get involved



You have the right to have a say in the things that affect your life.



We want to know what you think about what you learn and how you learn.



You will get the chance to have your say in your school's new [curriculum](#).



Thank you for reading this.

Hard words

Curriculum

The curriculum is a plan for what children and young people learn at school. It says:

- What they should learn
- How they should learn
- The reasons why they should learn.

Digital media

Digital media can include any art you make using a computer. Like video, sound recordings and drawings.

Forces

Forces are things you can't see that have an effect on you. Like gravity.

Progressing

Progressing means moving forward in learning. It means learning more and understanding better.

Symbol

A symbol is a sign that can tell you what to do. For example, the plus sign means you should add two numbers together, like $2 + 2$. Symbols are also sometimes used instead of numbers, for example a-b.

Technology

Technology is using science and knowledge to help us do tasks. For example using computers and machines to do more and more.

Well-being

Your well-being is anything to do with your health and happiness.