

Reading List Education and Lifelong Learning

Date: **May 2016**



National Assembly for Wales
Research Service

The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Education and Lifelong Learning

Key Information for the Fifth Assembly

Tripartite Programme of Reform

The Minister for Education and Skills has described a Tripartite Programme of Reform in education. This involves a new curriculum; the overhaul of initial teacher education and training; and the new deal for the professional development for teachers. The key documents relating to these reforms are:

- **A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life** sets out the plan for taking forward the recommendations within **Successful Futures: Independent review of curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales**, Professor Graham Donaldson’s report on revising the curriculum in Wales.
- **A Review of Initial Teacher Training in Wales**, Professor Ralph Tabberer reviewed the quality and effectiveness of Initial Teacher Training.
- **Teaching Tomorrow’s Teachers**, Professor John Furlong’s report on the future of Initial Teacher Education and Training.
- Written Cabinet Statement on the **New deal for the education workforce** set out the concept behind the New Deal.

Additional Learning Needs

The **Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill and the Draft Code** sets out proposals for a new legislative system for supporting children and young people, aged 0-25, who have additional learning needs. It has been proposed that the Bill will be introduced during the Fifth Assembly. See the **Research Service blog post on this topic**.

Higher Education

The Diamond Review, **Independent review of higher education funding and student finance arrangements**. The Review includes widening access; the skill needs of Wales; strengthening part-time and postgraduate provision; and long-term financial sustainability. This a factual interim report and a final report should be published by September 2016. See the **Research Service blog post on this topic**.

Legacy Reports

Fourth Assembly Children, Young People and Education Committee, **Fourth Assembly Legacy Report** (PDF 3MB), March 2016.

Fourth Assembly Enterprise and Business Committee, **Fourth Assembly Legacy Report** (PDF2MB), March 2016.

Strategy and Policy Documents

Early Years

Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan defines what the Welsh Government means by the early years and sets out the Welsh Government's vision for the services and system that supports them. It includes information on children's health and well-being; families; and education and childcare. The Welsh Government have also published two progress reports.

Schools and School Improvement

Qualified for Life is the Welsh Government's education improvement plan for 3-19 year old learners in Wales until 2020. It sets out four key strategic objectives in relation to the workforce; the curriculum; qualifications; and leadership. An update on progress in the form of an annual **Report Card** (PDF 206KB) was published in March 2016.

The **Literacy and Numeracy Framework** was introduced in schools in September 2013 to improve standards of literacy and numeracy in Wales. It set national expectations of pupils' standards in literacy and numeracy for each year group from Reception to Year 9.

The National Literacy and Numeracy Programme - a strategic action plan is an updated overview of the Welsh Government's vision for literacy and numeracy.

Rewriting the Future sets out what schools, working with their parents/carers, can do to break down the barriers faced by children from deprived backgrounds by acting as the central locus for interventions and support. An update was published in July 2015.

The **Welsh-medium education strategy** provides the direction for making improvements in the teaching and learning of Welsh as a language, including, in particular, Welsh second language.

The **National Model for Regional Working** details the scope and role and functions of the four education regional consortia which took over and pooled local authorities' school improvement functions.

Global Futures is a plan to improve and promote Modern Foreign Languages in Wales.

Post 16 Education

In July 2015 the Minister for Education and Skills announced Professor Ellen Hazelkorn would lead a review of the oversight and regulation of post-compulsory education and training in Wales. The review has been undertaken with particular reference to the future role and functions of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. In March 2016, the Welsh Government published Professor Hazelkorn's final report: **Towards 2030: A framework for building a world-class post-compulsory education system for Wales** (PDF 990KB), March 2016.

The **Policy statement on skills** focused on employment and skills and covered four priority areas: skills for jobs and growth; skills that respond to local needs; skills that employers value; and skills for employment.

This was supported by the **Skills Implementation Plan** which set out the key actions up to 2016–17 to secure a resilient and sustainable skills system for Wales.

Framework for co-investment in skills supports the implementation of the Welsh Government's policy for rebalancing the responsibility for skills investment. The framework identifies the government-led investments which will continue to provide support for employers to take the lead in the skills needed of their workforce. The framework should be fully implemented by 2017.

Youth Engagement and Progression Framework aims to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The **Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy** aims to equip young people aged 5-25 with entrepreneurial skills and attitudes to help realise their potential.

Higher Education

Policy Statement on Higher Education set out the future direction of higher education in Wales.

Reviews

During the Fourth Assembly, there were a number of reviews into specific curriculum subjects. They were mostly taken forward by Professor Donaldson's review:

- **Physical Literacy - an all Wales approach to increasing levels of physical activity for children and young people** provided recommendations on how to develop the roles of schools in increasing the levels of physical activity in children and young people.
- **One language for all: review of Welsh second language at Key Stages 3 and 4** considered what changes should be made to teaching and assessment of Welsh second language at Key Stages 3 and 4 to enable more learners to use the language.
- **Arts in Education in the Schools of Wales** looked in depth at the relationship between the arts and education sectors in Wales.
- The **Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and the story of Wales** considered the best means of ensuring that the Cwricwlwm Cymreig is delivered across the curriculum and whether there is sufficient emphasis on the teaching of Welsh history and, the resources available to support its teaching.
- The **ICT Steering Group's report to the Welsh Government** considered the future of computer science and ICT in schools in Wales.

The **Independent review of childcare and early education registration, regulation and inspection** considered and tested the regulatory and inspection systems for early years provision in Wales and identified recommendations for improvement.

Improving Schools in Wales: An OECD Perspective proposes a comprehensive strategy for Wales to support equity and quality in its school system building on a comparative perspective (PDF 3.57MB).

Maths Task and Finish Group - report and recommendations considered a range of issues of what works well in mathematics teaching and learning in Wales.

The **Report of the Task and finish group on music services in Wales** sets out the findings of the group which examined the role of local authority music services in supporting schools to deliver high quality music education.

Sources of Data

Welsh Government

National Categorisation of Schools. Schools are placed into different colour categories based on the quality of leadership, performance data, self-evaluation and wider capacity to improve. The main purpose is to demonstrate the level of support individual schools need.

StatsWales includes a range of data from the Welsh Government. Below are links to education related statistics:

- **Schools and teachers.**
- **Local authority education expenditure.**
- **Post 16 education and training.**
- **Student support.**
- **Young people not in education, employment or training-** quarterly statistics.
- **Participation of young people in education and the labour market** – annual statistics.
- **National Survey for Wales** The survey covers a range of topics with a focus on well-being and people's views on public services. These statistics cover education issues such as parents' views on the education system.

Statistical bulletins and releases: **education and skills.**

- **Address list of schools in Wales.**
- **My local school website includes school level data including academic achievement, attendance and school categorisation.**

Other Sources of Statistics:

- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales: **statistics.**
- **Higher Education Statistics Agency.**
- Student Loans Company: **Statistical releases.**

Information which may help with Casework

- **School Organisation Code** and **School Organisation Proposals Quick Guide** (PDF 300KB), January 2015.
- **School Admissions and Admissions Appeals Code.**
- **Learner Travel Operational Guidance** (PDF 792KB).
- **Special Educational Needs Code of Practice** and **SEN Research Paper** (PDF 730KB), June 2015.
- **How schools are funded** – information on how schools receive their funding from the Welsh Government.
- **School Governors Guide to the Law** – although aimed at school governors, this provides a general overview of the education system in Wales.
- **Student Finance Wales.**

- **Post-16 funding for learners with learning difficulties at specialist colleges** this guidance on the process by which the Welsh Ministers determine the funding of placements for learners, aged 16-25, with learning difficulties, at specialist further education establishments.

Legislation passed during the Fourth Assembly

The **School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013** includes provision for intervening in schools causing concern, school improvement, school organisation, Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, annual parents meetings, school-based counselling, primary school free breakfast initiatives and flexible charging for school meals.

The **Further and Higher Education (Governance and Information) (Wales) Act 2014** enhances the autonomy and decision making abilities of Further Education Institutions. One of the main purposes of the Bill was to achieve a reversal of the Office for National Statistics' re-classification of the further education sector in Wales.

The **Education (Wales) Act 2014** included the establishment of the Education Workforce Council, extending the registration and regulation of teachers to the wider education workforce and allowed for harmonisation of school term dates.

The **Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015** provides for a revised regulatory and governance framework for higher education in Wales. It reformed the functions of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), reflecting the fact that institutions now receive the majority of their income from students' tuition fees rather than from the Welsh Government via HEFCW.

The **Qualifications Wales Act 2015** provided for the establishment of Qualifications Wales as the independent regulatory body responsible for the recognition of awarding bodies and the review and approval of non-degree qualifications in Wales.

Useful Websites

- **Estyn** as well as inspection reports, Estyn publish **thematic reports** about standards and quality across a variety of educational topics.
- **Education Workforce Council.**
- **Qualifications Wales**, the regulator of non-degree qualifications in Wales which was established in September 2015.

Regional Consortia:

- **Central South.**
- **Education Through Regional Working** (Mid and West Wales).
- **GWE** (North Wales).
- **Education Achievement Service** (South East Wales).
- **The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.**
- **Colleges Wales.**
- **OECD: Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).**