
Ymateb i Ymgynghoriad / Consultation Response

Enw / Name:	Owen Evans
Rôl / Role:	His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
E-bost / Email:	ChiefInspector@estyn.gov.uk
Rhif Ffôn / Tel No:	029 2044 6446
Dyddiad / Date:	13.11.23
Pwnc / Subject:	Curriculum for Wales: continuing the journey

Background information about Estyn

Estyn is the Office of His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. As a Crown body, we are independent of the Welsh Government.

Our principal aim is to raise the standards and quality education and training in Wales. This is primarily set out in the Tertiary Education and Research Act 2022 and the Education Act 2005. In exercising its functions, we must give regard to the:

- Quality of education and training in Wales;
- Extent to which education and training meets the needs of learners;
- Educational standards achieved by education and training providers in Wales;
- Quality of leadership and management of those education and training providers;
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners; and,
- Contribution made to the well-being of learners.

Our remit includes (but is not exclusive to) nurseries and non-maintained settings, primary schools, all age schools, secondary schools, independent schools, pupil referrals units, further education, adult community learning, local government education services, work-based learning, and initial teacher training.

We may give advice to the Welsh Parliament on any matter connected to education and training in Wales. To achieve excellence for learners, we have set three strategic objectives:

- Provide accountability to service users on the quality and standards of education and training in Wales;
- Inform the development of national policy by the Welsh Government;
- Build capacity for improvement of the education and training system in Wales.

This response is not confidential.

Response

Introduction

Estyn recognises and welcomes the attempt to provide succinct and helpful guidance to schools to support their curriculum design and delivery.

There is currently a large amount of guidance available to schools and we would encourage Welsh Government to consider how the 'Continuing the Journey' guidance could be refined and the content more focussed. It might be helpful to use 'The Journey to Roll Out' as a template for future revisions to the 'Continuing the Journey' guidance.

We welcome the drawing together of guidance but think it may be helpful to consider how messages can be simplified and reduced to make the guidance more digestible for school leaders and staff. It may be helpful to develop a 'guidance on a page' document as a one stop place for schools to access important information and guidance.

Consultation questions

Do you work in or support the delivery of education?

Yes	✓	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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(i) If yes, what is your organisation? (If no continue to iii below)

Non-maintained funded nursery setting		Higher education institution	
Primary school		Diocesan authorities	
Special school		Regional consortia/partnership	
Secondary school		Local authority	
All-through school		Private training provider	
Pupil referral unit (PRU)		Third sector	
Other EOTAS setting		Government	
Teaching union		Governing body	
Further education		Awarding organisation	
Regulatory body (includes Inspectorate)	Yes		
Other (please specify):			

(ii) What is your primary role?

Headteacher		Chancellor/Vice-chancellor	
Teacher		Lecturer	

Practitioner		Inspector	Yes
Newly qualified teacher		Governor	
Teaching assistant		School improvement officer	
Senior leader		Other (please specify):	
Supply teacher			
Principal/Vice-principal			

(iii) If you do not work in or support the delivery of education, in what capacity would you like to provide feedback?

Parent or carer		Employer	
Adult 18+ (not a parent or carer)		Apprentice	
Child or young person (under 18)		Other (please specify):	
Student/academic			

(iv) Are you providing feedback on behalf of an organisation or group?

Yes	✓	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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(v) If 'yes' please specify

Estyn

Question 1 – To what extent do you agree that this proposed Continuing the journey guidance, alongside existing Curriculum for Wales guidance, articulates expectations for implementing Curriculum for Wales?

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	✓	Somewhat disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please explain your answer.

We welcome the attempt to simplify guidance for schools as there is currently a broad range of guidance for them to consider. However, we are concerned that in its current form, the 'Continuing the Journey' guidance will not help schools to be clear about expectations and legislative requirements relating to Curriculum for Wales. We would encourage Welsh Government to

consider how the 'Continuing the Journey' guidance could be refined to provide schools with a clear overview of expectations and the steps they can take to develop and roll out their curriculum.

It may be helpful to consider 'The Journey to Roll Out' guidance as a baseline for developing the 'Continuing the Journey' guidance. It would also be helpful to consider developing 'a guidance on a page' document to support schools in accessing the relevant information and guidance.

Question 2 – To what extent do you agree that this proposed Continuing the journey guidance contains an appropriate level of detail?

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please note here where you think the gaps are and what should be added or what can be removed.

Whilst the guidance provides some helpful summaries of expectations, it is still somewhat detailed and will take some time for schools to digest and consider. It may be worth considering if this guidance could be further refined and set out in a similar way to the 'The Journey to Roll Out' guidance. This would help schools to see clear expectations and consider how they might plan overtime to improve and develop their curriculum.

Question 3 – To what extent do you agree that this proposed Continuing the journey guidance effectively signposts Curriculum for Wales supporting materials and other relevant sections of the Framework guidance?

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please note here supporting materials that are missing and that would be useful.

The links to other guidance are helpful but there is a large amount of guidance for school leaders and staff to engage with. It may be helpful to display this guidance in a more digestible format with a summary of what each part of the guidance will contain.

It would also be helpful for Welsh Government to consider outlining how they expect schools to use 'Continuing the Journey' guidance to support their planning and development.

It may also be helpful to highlight that schools may find the guidance for non-maintained settings helpful when they are planning for children who have their early educational entitlement in schools.

Question 4 – To what extent do you agree that the guidance on curriculum summaries provided in Continuing the journey is useful?

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please note here what additional information or support for developing and publishing a curriculum summary would be helpful.

The guidance on curriculum summaries provides a helpful overview of expectations and the links to examples may be helpful to schools.

It may be worth considering how any guidance could further support schools to develop their curriculum summaries, for example, by identifying the level of detail that is required for different aspects. As part of this, it may be helpful to provide a clearer expectation about how schools should provide information about how the school is approaching learning progression.

Overall, schools are finding it difficult to develop their approaches to progression and assessment. It would be helpful for Welsh Government to provide clear guidance about the differences between planning for progression and securing progress in learning.

Question 5 – What, in your opinion, would be the likely effects of this ‘Continuing the Journey’ section of Curriculum for Wales guidance on the Welsh language? We are particularly interested in any likely effects on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English.

Do you think that there are opportunities to promote any positive effects?

Do you think that there are opportunities to mitigate any adverse effects?

Supporting comments

This guidance is not likely to treat the Welsh language any less favourably.

Question 6 – In your opinion, could this Continuing the journey section of Curriculum for Wales guidance be formulated or changed so as to:

- have positive effects or more positive effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English; or
- mitigate any negative effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?

Supporting comments

It would be helpful to use ‘The Journey to Rollout’ as a baseline guide to formulate any additional guidance.

We would also encourage Welsh Government to consider how they might support the system by developing minimum expectations that pupils across Wales should be making

at different points. This would help to maintain high expectations across Wales and support schools in their curriculum planning and development.

Question 7 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: