Dear SACRE members,

Thank you for considering the content of the last update regarding Religious Education and the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) within the new curriculum for Wales, sent to you in July 2017. We are grateful for the responses received so far. We are still in the process of receiving comments and are currently collating the feedback to inform the development work.

Timelines
In September 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Education published 'Education in Wales: Our National Mission'. This action plan includes revised timelines for the new curriculum. Please see below the relevant key dates:

- April 2019: Draft curriculum available for feedback
- January 2020: Final curriculum available
- September 2022: All maintained schools and settings using new curriculum and assessment arrangements (roll-out starting with primary and Year 7 and then year by year)

The What Matters approach
In considering an approach to developing the new curriculum, pioneer school practitioners involved in the design process identified that teaching 'what matters' was the starting point from which to build the new curriculum. As a result, pioneer groups – including the Humanities – have begun the process of developing key concepts to organise their AoLE by identifying 'what matters' in their fields i.e. the key elements that all learners should experience within their areas during their journey along the continuum of learning.

Each AoLE will consist of What Matters key concepts. These concepts are being developed to avoid excessive variation from school to school while allowing for local flexibility. The What Matters key concepts across the AoLEs will support the development of the Four Purposes of the new curriculum and will also reflect current ideas about important disciplinary knowledge, skills and competencies for each domain.

The development process for Humanities
In order to identify 'what matters' within the various subjects and disciplines that form the Humanities, we commissioned experts to prepare a series of papers to support the pioneer group's work. These included papers relating to history, geography, business, social studies and Religious Education. The focus of these papers was to outline for each discipline:

- the core of knowledge/concepts and associated skills and competencies deemed essential for all pupils to learn.

- progression for the above, and an indication of what pupils should learn/experience relating broadly to expectations at ages 5, 8, 11, 14, 16.
- building on the above, suggested What Matters key concepts.

WASACRE was commissioned to prepare a discussion paper relating to Religious Education. Representatives also attended a Humanities pioneer group workshop in November 2017 to present the paper and work with the group to develop proposals for the AoLE. Please find attached a copy of the commissioned paper.

Drawing on the expert input outlined above and identifying 'what matters' for each component discipline within the Humanities provided firm foundations for the pioneer group to develop overarching What Matters key concepts as a means of organising the AoLE.

The What Matters Proposals
I attach initial proposals for the What Matters key concepts for the Humanities AoLE. The content of the report was developed in December 2017 for submission to our Curriculum and Assessment Group, and reflects the Humanities pioneer group's thinking at that time. The group continues to meet every three weeks and has begun developing progression frameworks to underpin each of these What Matters statements. In developing these frameworks as well as the detail of the AoLE during the spring term, the wording of the key concepts outlined in the attached document will naturally change and be refined.

We would like to invite you as a SACRE to consider these initial What Matters proposals and provide comments and/or suggestions for consideration during the next phase of the development work.

Further information, as well as the proposals for all six of the AoLEs, including the Humanities, will be published shortly on our website: http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en

We would appreciate if you would send your comments to me: manon.jones@gov.wales

Next steps
Over the coming months, the Humanities pioneer group will focus on developing progression frameworks for the AoLE, supported by the CAMAU project (colleagues from University of Wales Trinity St David and Glasgow University). During this time, the content of the AoLE be developed in more detail.

We will send the next update to you at the end of May, and again invite your views on the proposals produced. We will also contact you in due course to outline further engagement opportunities for you to contribute to the curriculum development process during the summer term.

Best wishes,

Manon

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Annwyl Aelodau o'r Cyngor Ymgynghorol Sefydlog ar Addysg Grefyddol (CYSAG),

Diolch am ystyried y diweddariad diwethaf ynghylch Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad y Dyniaethau o fewn y Cwricwlwm Newydd i Gymru, a anfonwyd atoch chi ym mis Gorffennaf 2017. Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r ymatebion yr ydym wedi'u derbyn hyd yn hyn. Rydym yn dal i dderbyn sylwadau, ac rydym wrthi'n coladu'r adborth er mwyn ei ystyried fel rhan o'r gwaith datblygu.

Amserlenni
Ym mis Medi 2017, cyhoeddodd Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg '*Addysg yng Nghymru: Cenhadaeth ein Cenedl*'. Mae'r cynllun gweithredu hwn yn cynnwys amserlenni diwygiedig ar gyfer y cwricwlwm newydd. Wele isod y dyddiadau allweddol perthnasol:

- Ebrill 2019: Cwricwlwm drafft ar gael er mwyn cael adborth arno
- Ionawr 2020: Cwricwlwm terfynol ar gael
- Medi 2022: Pob ysgol a lleoliad a gynhelir i ddefnyddio'r cwricwlwm a'r trefniadau asesu newydd (caiff hyn ei gyflwyno gan ddechrau gydag ysgolion cynradd a blwyddyn 7, ac yna fesul blwyddyn)

Yr Ymagwedd 'Beth sy'n Bwysig'
Wrth ystyried sut i ddatblygu'r cwricwlwm newydd, penderfynodd ymarferwyr yr ysgolion arloesi a oedd yn rhan o'r broses ddylunio mai addysgu 'beth sy'n bwysig' fyddai'r man cychwyn ar gyfer llunio'r cwricwlwm newydd. O ganlyniad, mae grwpiau arloesi – gan gynnwys grŵp y Dyniaethau – wedi dechrau'r broses o ddatblygu cysyniadau allweddol ar gyfer trefnu'u Meysydd Dysgu a Phrofiad, a hynny drwy bennu 'beth sy'n bwysig' yn eu meysydd – hynny yw, beth yw'r elfennau allweddol y dylai pob dysgwr eu dysgu a'u profi yn y meysydd dan sylw yn ystod eu taith drwy'r continwwm addysg.

Bydd pob Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad felly'n seiliedig ar gysyniadau allweddol 'beth sy'n bwysig'. Mae'r cysyniadau hyn yn cael eu datblygu fel nad oes gormod o amrywio o ysgol i ysgol ond, hefyd, i sicrhau rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd yn lleol. Bydd y cysyniadau 'beth sy'n bwysig' ar draws y Meysydd Dysgu a Phrofiad yn cefnogi'r gwaith o ddatblygu Pedwar Diben y cwricwlwm newydd. Byddant hefyd yn adlewyrchu syniadau cyfredol mewn perthynas â gwybodaeth, sgiliau a chymwyseddau disgyblaethol pwysig ar gyfer pob maes.

Y broses ddatblygu
Er mwyn pennu 'beth sy'n bwysig' yn y gwahanol bynciau a disgyblaethau sy'n rhan o Faes Dysgu a Phrofiad y Dyniaethau, comisiynwyd arbenigwyr i lunio cyfres o bapurau i gefnogi gwaith y grŵp arloesi. Ymhlith y rhain mae papurau ar Hanes, Daearyddiaeth, Busnes, Astudiaethau Cymdeithasol ac Addysg Grefyddol. Nod y papurau hyn yw amlinellu'r canlynol ar gyfer pob disgyblaeth:

- y craidd: hynny yw'r wybodaeth / cysyniadau, a'r sgiliau a'r cymwyseddau cysylltiedig, y mae angen i bob disgybl eu dysgu;
- dilyniant ar gyfer yr uchod, a mynegiad o'r hyn y dylai disgyblion ei ddysgu neu gael profiad ohono, a hynny'n gysylltiedig, yn fras, â'r disgwyliadau ar gyfer 5 oed, 8 oed, 11 oed, 14 oed ac 16oed.
- Gan adeiladu ar yr uchod; awgrymu cysyniadau allweddol ar gyfer 'beth sy'n bwysig'.

Comisiynwyd Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru i baratoi papur trafod mewn perthynas ag Addysg Grefyddol. Hefyd, aeth cynrychiolwyr i weithdy arloeswyr y Dyniaethau ym mis Tachwedd 2017 i gyflwyno'r papur a gweithio gyda'r grŵp i ddatblygu cynigion ar gyfer y maes dysgu a phrofiad. Mae copi o'r papur hwn yn atodedig.

Gyda chymorth y mewnbwn arbenigol a amlinellir uchod a chan bennu 'beth sy'n bwysig' ar gyfer pob disgyblaeth sy'n rhan o'r Dyniaethau, darparwyd sylfaen gadarn i alluogi'r grŵp arloesi i ddatblygu cysyniadau allweddol 'beth sy'n bwysig' trosfwaol ar gyfer trefnu'r Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad.

Y Cynigion 'Beth sy'n Bwysig'
Atodaf gynigion ar gyfer cysyniadau allweddol 'beth sy'n bwysig' ym Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad y Dyniaethau. Datblygwyd y cynnwys ym mis Rhagfyr 2017 i'w gyflwyno i'r Grŵp Cwricwlwm ac Asesu, ac mae felly'n adlewyrchiad o'r hyn oedd dan ystyriaeth y grŵp arloesi bryd hynny. Mae'r grŵp yn parhau i gwrdd bob tair wythnos ac mae bellach wedi dechrau datblygu fframweithiau dilyniant ar gyfer pob un o'r datganiadau 'beth sy'n bwysig' hyn. Wrth ddatblygu'r fframweithiau hyn a manylion eraill y Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad yn ystod tymor y Gwanwyn, bydd geiriad y cysyniadau allweddol yn y ddogfen atodedig yn siŵr o newid.

Hoffem eich gwahodd, fel CYSAG, i ystyried y cynigion cychwynnol hyn ar gyfer 'Beth sy'n Bwysig' a rhoi sylwadau neu awgrymiadau i'w hystyried yn ystod cam nesaf y gwaith datblygu.

Bydd gwybodaeth bellach, ynghyd â'r cynigion ar gyfer y chwe maes dysgu a phrofiad, gan gynnwys y Dyniaethau, ar gael yn fuan ar ein gwefan:

http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?skip=1&lang=cy

Gwerthfawrogwn pe baech chi'n anfon eich sylwadau ataf i: manon.jones@gov.wales

Camau Nesaf
Dros y misoedd i ddod, bydd Grŵp Arloesi'r Dyniaethau yn canolbwyntio ar ddatblygu fframweithiau dilyniant ar gyfer y maes dysgu a phrofiad, gyda chymorth prosiect CAMAU (cydweithwyr o Brifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant a Phrifysgol Glasgow). Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, caiff cynnwys y Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad ei ddatblygu'n fanylach.

Fe anfonwn ni'r diweddariad nesaf atoch tua diwedd mis Mai, gan ofyn eto am eich barn. Hefyd, fe gysylltwn â chi yn y man i ddweud wrthych am gyfleoedd i gyfrannu at y gwaith o ddatblygu'r cwricwlwm yn ystod tymor yr haf.

Cofion gorau,

Manon

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