

## Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill

Evidence submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

### About you

Organisation: The National Library of Wales

## 1. The Bill's general principles

### 1.1 Do you support the principles of the [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#)?

Partly

### 1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1500 words)*

The National Library agrees with the majority of the content of the Measure (the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill), and the principles behind the Measure. The National Library agrees that it is time to "replace the existing national curriculum in Wales, established in 1988 on an England and Wales basis, with a new Curriculum for Wales". The Library agrees in part with the principle of adopting a curriculum that gives schools the flexibility to provide a local curriculum in accordance with the needs of their pupils. However, the National Library disagrees with the decision not to set out clearly in the curriculum what pupils need to know in order to understand the story of Wales, and to outline a 'common body' of information that every pupil in Wales should know about the country. We believe that Wales, like most other countries around the world, needs to ensure that our nation's story is at the heart of every school's curriculum in the country. Pupils should be encouraged to study and understand their local area, the ethnic and cultural diversity of Wales, and the communities, history, culture, landscape and industry of Wales, so that they can learn how Wales has developed into what it is today. We also believe there should be a study of how Wales's relationship, and even parts of Wales, with the rest of Britain, Europe and the rest of the world is complex and constantly changing. In this way the curriculum can promote understanding of the relationship of the people of

Wales with the rest of the world, and the part that Wales has played in shaping the modern world. The National Library notes that the national heritage bodies have rich collections that could be used to tell the story of Wales, and welcomes opportunities to contribute learning resources to this goal. As the National Library of Wales we believe it is important that schools tell our national story. The Library welcomes the references to the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Vision, and agrees with the aim in the measure to make Welsh compulsory and to replace the current distinction between first language Welsh and second language Welsh. The National Library supports the main principles of the Measure, the four purposes of the curriculum, the six Areas of Learning and Experience, and the three mandatory cross-curricular skills. We believe it is important to highlight that we have collections that can support work in many of the areas of learning and experience, particularly the expressive arts, humanities, and languages, literacy and communication. We agree that this should be a curriculum that caters for pupils of different ages, abilities and aptitudes, and welcomes the emphasis on research, curiosity and exploration to learn about the past, present and future.

### **1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?**

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)*

Legislation is needed to ensure that the new curriculum is adopted throughout Wales, and to ensure equality of opportunity for pupils throughout Wales, and consistency of educational standards throughout Wales.

## **2. The Bill's implementation**

### **2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1**

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)*

We note that the timetable for preparing and implementing a new curriculum by September 2022 is tight. Schools will need intensive support to plan their curriculum, train teachers, develop resources, and prepare to implement the curriculum.

### **2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?**

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)*

The measure states that the curriculum will not be introduced to all learning years at the same time

### **3. Unintended consequences**

**3.1 Do you think there are there any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1**

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)*

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### **4. Financial implications**

**4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#))? If no, go to question 5.1**

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)*

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### **5. Powers to make subordinate legislation**

**5.1 Do you have any comments on the appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#)). If no, go to question 6.1.**

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)*

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### **6. Other considerations**

**6.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?**

*(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)*

It is important that the learning resources are in place before the new curriculum is implemented in September 2022 in primary school and in Year 7 initially, and then up to Year 11 in 2026/27. It will be necessary to ensure that resources, teachers and qualified educators are in place in order to achieve the aim of teaching Welsh to all young people up to the age of 16.

