

Eryl Owain
History of Wales Campaign
Tan-y-dderwen
Penmachno
Betws-y-coed
LL24 0PS

23 March 2017

Dear Eryl Owain

History of Wales and the new curriculum

Thank you for your letter of 4 February regarding the inclusion of the history of Wales within the new curriculum. May I first apologise for the delay in responding to you on this matter.

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is currently scrutinising the implementation of Successful Futures, and will continue to monitor implementation regularly. Part of our current scrutiny has been to consider the wider development of the new curriculum, and the Committee has sought to focus strategically on the way implementation is being carried out rather than concentrating on specific areas / subjects to be included in the new curriculum.

However, a consultation undertaken by the Committee during summer 2016 highlighted a call for greater teaching of Welsh history, and indeed regional and local history. The Committee recognised this, and has already written to the Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding this matter. A copy of the Committee's letter to the Cabinet Secretary, and her response is attached.

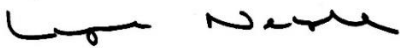
Alongside this, I would like to highlight that a *'Review of the teaching of history in Wales to focus on Welsh culture and heritage'* was recently included in a list of topics for potential areas of work by the Assembly's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee. While the CWLC Committee is not undertaking work on this matter at present, it may be a topic it considers within its forward work programme. I have



therefore copied this letter to the Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee for information.

As outlined above, the Children, Young People and Education Committee will monitor progress on implementation of the new curriculum regularly, and we will look again at the content of the AoLE as the Welsh Government moves forward with their detailed development. Any work we undertake on this will be accessible on the Committee's website.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

C.C. Bethan Jenkins – Chair of Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee



RECEIVED

14 FEB 2017

HISTORY OF WALES CAMPAIGN

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CANOLFAN HANES UWCHGWYRFAI and CYLCH YR IAITH

Please reply to: Tan-y-dderwen, Penmachno, Betws-y-coed LL24 0PS
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F.A.O. Members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

History of Wales and the new curriculum

04 February 2017

Dear *Lynne Neagle*

We welcomed the statement by the then Education Minister, Huw Lewis, in March 2014 that he supported “the development of an unique curriculum for Wales” and the proposal of Professor Donaldson’s report, *Successful Futures*, in February 2015 to create a structure that would make this possible. But we are not confident that sufficient attention has been given to the importance of the Welsh dimension and of the history of Wales in particular within the new curriculum that is being developed.

Although *Successful Futures* refers to the Welsh dimension, that appears to be largely in terms of “language and culture” only. References that the six Areas of Learning and Experience should include the Welsh dimension are vague and generalised.

We understand from the action plan, *A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life* (October 2015) that there will be gradual change from the existing curriculum to the new curriculum and that Pioneer Schools will play a vital part in producing the framework that will be available for schools. In general, we welcome the opportunity given to teachers to design a new curriculum. However, we have grave doubts as to how much attention will be given to the history of Wales if these Pioneer Schools are not given clear guidance and advice.

These doubts are based on the findings of the taskforce chaired by Dr Elin Jones (*The Cwricwlwm Cymreig, history and story of Wales*, September 2013) that insufficient attention is given to the history of Wales and that the history of Wales is ignored largely or wholly in many schools. We hope that you would agree that this is unacceptable and that Welsh pupils should have the opportunity to learn about the history of their country.

There is no basis to believe that this unacceptable situation has changed since 2013. Indeed, there are grounds for concern that less attention is given to the history of Wales as schools, in attempt to act in accordance with the general principles of *Successful Futures*, are using resources from England to teach history, resources which naturally are based on the history of England.

We call upon the Children, Young People and Education Committee to give careful consideration to the need to ensure that the Welsh dimension forms an integral and central part of each Area of Learning and Experience. In relation to the history elements within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, we call for:

- a clear statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education that the Welsh experience in its various forms over the centuries is an integral and central part of the curriculum of all schools in Wales as the basis for understanding what happens outside Wales.
- confirmation that the Pioneer Schools, in developing the new curriculum, will do so on the basis of this fundamental principle in accordance with the commitment of *Successful Futures* to the importance of the Welsh dimension
- the setting up of working parties of practitioners and other experts to review the need for sufficient resources to enable the revised history curriculum to be implemented successfully
- sufficient finance to prepare these resources so that they are available to schools in Welsh and English to a standard comparable to resources available for schools in England

We ask you to give careful thought to these most important issues, to raise them within meetings and the remit of Children, Young People and Education Committee and to ensure that the Secretary for Education takes the necessary steps to establish the Welsh dimension and the history of Wales as an integral part of the curriculum of the future.

We look forward to receiving your response and would welcome the opportunity to explain our position more fully.

Yours faithfully



Eryl Owain
Coordinator History of Wales Campaign

YMGYRCH HANES CYMRU

AR Y CYD Â

CHANOLFAN HANES UWCHGWYRFAI A CHYLCH YR IAITH

Gohebiaeth os gwelwch yn dda i: **Tan-y-dderwen, Penmachno, Betws-y-coed LL24 0PS**
owaintan@hotmail.com ffôn: 01690 760335

I sylw aelodau Pwyllgor Plant, Pob Ifainc ac Addysg

Hanes Cymru a'r Cwricwlwm Newydd

04 Chwefror 2017

Annwyl *Lynne Neagle*

Croesawyd gennym ddatganiad y Gweinidog Addysg ar y pryd, Huw Lewis, ym Mawrth 2014 ei fod am “weld cwricwlwm unigryw yn cael ei ddatblygu i Gymru” ac argymhelliad adroddiad yr Athro Donaldson, *Dyfodol Llwyddiannus*, yn Chwefror 2015 y dylid creu strwythur a fyddai'n gwneud hynny'n bosibl. Ond nid ydym yn hyderus bod sylw digonol yn cael ei roi i bwysigrwydd y dimensiwn Cymreig a hanes Cymru yn benodol oddi mewn i'r cwricwlwm newydd sydd yn y broses o gael ei ddatblygu.

Er bod *Dyfodol Llwyddiannus* yn cyfeirio at y dimensiwn Cymreig, gwneir hynny yng ngydddestun “iaith a diwylliant” yn unig. Arwynebol iawn yw'r cyfeiriad y dylai pob un o'r Chwe Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad gynnwys dimensiwn Cymreig.

Deallwn o'r Cynllun Gweithredu, *Cwricwlwm i Gymru, Cwricwlwm am Oes*, (Hydref 2015) y bydd symud graddol o'r cwricwlwm presennol i'r cwricwlwm newydd ac y bydd gan yr Ysgolion Arloesi ran allweddol yn ffurfio'r fframwaith a fydd ar gael i ysgolion. Ar un ystyr, mae rhoi rôl flaenllaw i athrawon lunio cwricwlwm newydd i'w groesawu. Ond mae gennym bryderon mawr am faint o sylw a roddir i hanes Cymru os nad yw'r ysgolion arloesi wedi derbyn arweiniad a chyfarwyddyd clir.

Sail ein pryder yw canfyddiadau tasglu dan gadeiryddiaeth Dr Elin Jones (*Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig, stori a hanes Cymru*, Medi 2013) mai annigonol iawn yw'r sylw a roddir i hanes Cymru ac, yn wir, bod hanes Cymru'n cael ei anwybyddu i raddau helaeth, os nad yn llwyr, mewn llawer o ysgolion. Hyderwn y cytunwch na ddylai hyn barhau ac y dylai disgyblion ysgolion Cymru ddysgu am hanes eu gwlad.

Nid oes unrhyw dystiolaeth i awgrymu bod y sefyllfa anfoddhaol hon wedi newid o gwbl er 2013. Yn wir, mae lle i bryderu bod llai o sylw i hanes Cymru wrth i ysgolion, mewn ymgais i weithredu'n unol â meddylfryd *Dyfodol Llwyddiannus*, ddefnyddio adnoddau o Loegr ar gyfer dysgu hanes, adnoddau sydd â phwyslais naturiol ar hanes Lloegr.

Galwn ar y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifainc ac Addysg i roi ystyriaeth fanwl i'r angen i sicrhau bod y dimensiwn Cymreig yn rhan ganolog a chreiddiol o bob Maes Dysgu a Phrofiad. O ran elfennau hanes oddi mewn i Faes Profiad a Dysgu Dyniaethau, galwn am

- ddatganiad clir gan Ysgrifennydd Addysg y Cabinet y bydd meysydd llafur hanes holl ysgolion Cymru'n rhoi lle sylfaenol a chanolog i'r profiad Cymreig yn ei holl amrywiaeth dros y canrifoedd fel sail i ddealltwriaeth o'r hyn sy'n digwydd y tu allan i Gymru
- sicrhad y bydd yr Ysgolion Arloesi, wrth ddatblygu'r cwricwlwm newydd, yn gwneud hynny ar sail yr egwyddor sylfaenol hon ac yn unol ag ymrwymiad *Dyfodol Llwyddiannus* i bwysigrwydd y dimensiwn Cymreig
- sefydlu gweithgorau o ymarferwyr ac arbenigwyr i adolygu'r angen am adnoddau digonol i gyflwyno'r cwricwlwm hanes diwygiedig yn llwyddiannus
- gyllid digonol i ddarparu'r adnoddau hynny fel bod deunyddiau addysgu ar gael i ysgolion Cymru, yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg, a fydd yn cymharu'n ffafriol â'r hyn sydd ar gael ar gyfer ysgolion Lloegr gyda'u pwyslais naturiol ar hanes Lloegr

Gofynnwn i chi roi sylw i'r materion pwysig hyn, i'w codi mewn cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifainc ac Addysg ac i bwysu ar y Gweinidog i sicrhau bod y dimensiwn Cymreig a hanes Cymru yn rhan greiddiol o gwricwlwm y dyfodol.

Edrychwn ymlaen at dderbyn eich ymateb a byddem yn croesawu unrhyw gyfle i egluro ein safbwynt yn llawnach.

Yn gywir



Eryl Owain
Cyd-lynnydd Ymgyrch Hanes Cymru