

The Great Debate – Response from the Real World Learning Cymru Partnership

Launched in 2008, the Real World Learning Cymru Partnership (RWLCP) brings together organisations that support the delivery of out of classroom learning, in the natural and built environment.

The partnership shares good practice amongst its members and with the education sector through training events and resources.

RWLCP acts as a voice for the sector helping to raise the profile of Out of Classroom Learning and highlight its many benefits. It aims to foster greater understanding and appreciation of its value and its vital contribution to education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

1. The Report suggests radical changes to the curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales because they are out of date and no longer meet the needs of children and young people in Wales. **Do you agree the existing national curriculum is no longer suitable for the needs of children and young people in Wales?**

RWLCP agrees that elements of the existing national curriculum are no longer suitable for the needs of children and young people in Wales. Primarily we feel the existing curriculum is:

Too prescriptive and limiting

- Driven by assessment
- Does not provide enough freedom for learning outside the curriculum and real life experience

However RWLCP believes that some areas of the existing curriculum need to be celebrated, and enhanced using good practice to inform any future curriculum development

- Foundation Phase – equal access to indoors and outdoors
- Welsh Baccalaureate Challenges involving hands on experience and community involvement
- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) curriculum – cross curricular

2. The Report suggests that the new curriculum should have four purposes for all children and young people in Wales. They will be:

- ambitious, capable learners
- enterprising, creative contributors
- ethical, informed citizens
- healthy, confident individuals.

a. What do you think of them?

RWLCP is happy to support the four purposes but would like to see more detail under point three to ensure we have ethical and informed citizens who can contribute to a more sustainable local and global society and environment – an understanding of the need to manage our natural resources sustainably now and in the future and the essential contribution this will make to a more resilient Wales

b. Do you think these are right for the future curriculum? Why?

RWLCP believes they are right because if the Welsh Government can deliver such a curriculum, young people will have the skills to be able to engage in a society which delivers the outcomes of the Future Generations Bill.

3. The Report suggests that schools and teachers should play a bigger part in shaping the curriculum.

Do you think this is a good idea? Why?

RWLCP believes this is a good idea to allow teachers to use their experience to help shape the future curriculum whilst also encouraging schools to work in partnership with their community and professional outside organisations. The latter can offer expertise to help enhance the curriculum delivered at a local level e.g. offering real world learning experiences, the skills from which can help create more resilient communities and opportunities for young people.

4. Professor Donaldson involved many different people and groups during this Review. How do you think we can continue this and how would you/your school/organisation like to be involved?

- ✓ Surveys.
- ✓ Conferences.
- ✓ Workshops.
- ✓ Locally organised debates.
- ✓ Social media.
- ✓ Other (please specify) – see below.

RWLCP as a whole and its individual members are happy to continue to be involved in any of the above ways and would also be happy to help organise subject specific events as appropriate.

As practitioners, RWLCP members believe that learning outside the classroom can actively contribute to all four purposes and all six areas of learning can be delivered together through an out of classroom experience.

RWLCP members have the expertise to feed in to the development of the future curriculum and would welcome the opportunity to engage in a partnership process with WG, building on previous productive engagement.

We are broadly supportive of the recommendations in the report and when adopted, RWLCP members would like to be consulted and involved in the finer detail of the curriculum development, particularly in the areas of out of classroom learning and ESDGC, highlighting how the six areas of the curriculum can be delivered cohesively through an out of classroom experience.

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