



Ein cyf/Our ref: OAQ050619

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17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Sian,

Thank you for your question on the inclusion of well-being and mental health in the draft curriculum and the implications for teacher training on 5<sup>th</sup> June. I committed to write to you regarding this and a Master's qualification.

We recognise that students in initial teacher education (ITE) need both an understanding of child development and knowledge to learn and engage with emerging issues and areas of concern around emotional and mental wellbeing for learners. This needs to form part of a wider understanding of interdependencies including ALN and the range of approaches to behaviour and pedagogy.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that child development has traditionally not formed part of ITE. However, Welsh Universities providing initial teacher education have confirmed that, in line with delivery of the new curriculum, wellbeing will form part of the new syllabus from September 2019. However, this will not be a stand-alone module; rather it will permeate all aspects of the syllabus.

The curriculum for ITE under the terms of the new accreditation criteria is being developed by Universities in readiness for delivery from September 2019. Therefore, at this time it is too late to develop meaningful new course content and have it available for delivery to students from September 2019. Any amendments to the criteria for accreditation that inform ITE curriculum development will not be able to be introduced for the existing accredited programmes. Potential amendments would need to be included in the criteria for programmes submitted following completion of the current round which would be 2021 at the earliest.

We are therefore working with the Universities to support their efforts to make learning resources and opportunities available that enhance the main programmes and which can be accessed by students in many education and related programmes across our Universities. Working through the Universities and Schools Council for

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

the Education of Teachers (USCET) Cymru we will develop materials which are voluntary and/or support enrichment.

This could take the form of self-assessment training, such as the current PREVENT teacher training, and we will look to promote the use of online project and learning materials delivered through the innovative use of digital technology. There will also be a need to ensure any material is aligned with the existing ITE syllabus.

This proposal is still at its early stages and initial discussions with ITE providers have been positive. It was proposed that USCET Cymru would consider taking the lead role in the development and initial planning envisages that materials will be ready for use from September 2020. While it will only be available as non-accredited training initially, we will ensure that it is 'future proofed' and able to form part of accredited training as and when the existing syllabus is reviewed.

This year, Welsh Government has been working with HEI partners across Wales to develop a national framework to accredit professional learning, including provision made available by regional consortia and schools. Phase one of this project has been successfully completed, including a lessons learned exercise focused on the original Masters in Educational Practice (MEP) Programme for newly qualified teachers. Initial scoping identifying the core components of a new national M.Ed. which will be further explored during Phase 2 of this project.

Linked to wider work led by higher education to develop a national enquiry programme to support all practitioners to successfully realise the new curriculum, it is proposed that bespoke professional enquiry modules are made available, as part of the accreditation project. Initially, these modules will be piloted by pioneer schools identified as 'lead enquiry schools.'

Yours sincerely



**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education