

SL(6)059 – The Curriculum for Wales – Statement of What Matters Code

Background and Purpose

The [Curriculum for Wales – Statement of What Matters Code](#) (“the Code”) places a statutory duty on schools and settings to ensure their design and planning of a curriculum under the new Curriculum for Wales Framework includes and draws from the statements of what matters set out in the Code.

The Code sets out 27 statements of what matters across the six areas of learning and experience on which all maintained schools and funded non-maintained schools must base their curriculum.

The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) sets out the six areas of learning, namely expressive arts; health and well-being; humanities; languages, literacy and communication; mathematics and numeracy; and science and technology. Section 6 of the Act states that neither a curriculum nor teaching and learning will encompass an area of learning and experience unless they encompass the concepts set out in the Code.

Procedure

Draft negative. Unless the Senedd resolves not to approve the draft within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of its being laid, the Code of Practice will come into force in September 2022.

Scrutiny under Standing Order 21.7

The following points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.7(iv) in respect of this code.

1. The Code is not intended to come into force until September 2022. The Committee notes from the Explanatory Memorandum that this is to allow guidance to be updated in line with the Code “to enable schools and settings greater time to draw on that advice to inform their curriculum design and planning through the 2021/2022 academic year”. The Committee further notes that updates to guidance will be subject to the negative procedure.

Government response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the Code at its meeting on 11 October 2021 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.

