

Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008

07 July 2008

John Griffiths, Deputy Minister for Skills

Members will wish to note that the proposed Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008 will be laid today, 7 July 2008. I will be making a Legislative Statement in Plenary tomorrow, 8 July 2008, to introduce the Measure.

The proposed Measure will provide a legislative underpinning for the Welsh Assembly Government's flagship programme, 14-19 Learning Pathways and it seeks to support the development of our young people by creating an entitlement for learners aged between 14 and 19 years old to access a wider and more innovative range of curriculum choice. By offering a wider range of opportunities, which will engage and stimulate learners, we aim to encourage greater participation, achievement and attainment, helping our young people to realise their potential.

The Measure:

- places a duty on Local Education Authorities in Wales to form local curricula for learners aged 14-16, and on the Welsh Ministers for learners aged 16-19 that contains a range of option choices across the specified learning domains;
- enables Welsh Ministers to specify the minimum number of courses of study to be selected for inclusion within a local curriculum, specify the particular learning domain into which a course of study falls and specify the minimum number of vocational courses of study to be included in a local curriculum;
- creates a right for pupils of Maintained Schools to elect to follow courses of study from a local area curriculum. It will also enable regulations to specify the maximum amount of courses of study a pupil has the right to choose to elect to follow;
- specifies the grounds by which a Head Teacher/Principal may decide that a pupil is not entitled to follow a course they had elected to do and enable regulations to be made in relation to the making of those decisions;
- places a duty on Governing Bodies and Head Teachers of Maintained Schools and Governing Bodies and Principals of the Further Education sector to assist a Local Education Authority in planning local area curricula, having regard to any guidance issued and in compliance with any directions given by Welsh Ministers;
- provides for maximising co-operation between Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools and Further Education Institutions, and Local Education Authorities to deliver a wide range of options of study in their local area curricula;
- enables Welsh Ministers to issue guidance and directions in relation to joint working, co-operation and collaboration;

- gives Welsh Ministers the power to amend learning domains;
- enables Welsh Ministers to make regulations as to the making of requests and decisions in the determination of a pupil's lead learning setting.