

1A Duffield Road
Little Eaton
Derby
DE21 5DR

Minister for Education
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
March 22nd, 2019

Dear Minister,

The Association of Language Learning (ALL) and the National Association of Language Advisers (NALA) are extremely concerned by the proposal in the consultation document “Our National mission. A transformational Curriculum” (see the paragraph below) to give discretion to Schools on the provision of an international language in their school.

“3.101 Within the new curriculum, it is intended that the Modern Foreign Languages component of the curriculum will be re-named International Languages. It is intended that International Languages will not be provided for in primary legislation specifically. Instead we propose it will be included in the What Matters Statement in the AoLE statutory guidance for the LLC AoLE. **It will be a matter for schools to determine whether, and to what extent, to teach International Languages and to what age range of pupils. In doing so, schools would need to have due regard to the guidance in determining their approach to the teaching of International Languages.** It is proposed that the statutory guidance on content and the Achievement Outcomes would recommend learners begin learning International Languages during primary school and set Achievement Outcomes which recognise the pace of learning an International Language(s) will differ to that of English and Welsh.”

If implemented, this proposal has the potential to completely undermine the progress made in Wales since 2015 through the Welsh Government’s own Global Futures programme. This was implemented to halt the decline in the number of those learning an international language in addition to Welsh and English and has as its objective

“To increase the number of young people who study foreign language subjects at Level 2 (GCSE level or equivalent), at Level 3 (A level or equivalent) and at higher education level, **We need to ensure that all young people from all backgrounds understand the benefits of, and have the opportunity to receive,** a formal qualification in a modern foreign language subject”.

The mid term review of “Global Futures” shows the progress made. The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Student Mentoring Scheme, managed by Cardiff University is significantly increasing the numbers of pupils studying languages at GCSE. The increase during phase 1 was 57%. In phase 2, this was 50%, and included a far larger cohort of mentees and is now being piloted in England. The Goethe-Institut and Spanish Embassy Education Office now have a presence at Cardiff University’s School of Modern Foreign Languages.

The number of pupils the learning Mandarin in Wales has increased from 5,261 in 2015/16 to 6,941 school pupils in 2016/17. The number of Confucius Classrooms in Wales has also increased from 13 to 19.

Two of the three winners of the German Teacher Awards 2017 were teachers from South Wales' EAS Consortium, recognised as having made an outstanding and dedicated contribution to German teaching;

“Our National mission. A transformational Curriculum” states as two of its four purposes for the transformational curriculum that it should produce

- ☑ Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ☑ Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world;

The learning of an international language is essential to fulfilling these objectives.

We urge you to continue to build on the success of the Global Futures programme and remove section 3.101 from the curriculum proposals, ensuring that all students across Wales have the opportunity to learn an international language.

Yours faithfully,



Jane Harvey,
President, Association for Language Learning



Alice Harrison,
President, National Association of Language Advisers