

Y Grŵp Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Education and Public Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To all Primary School Headteachers,
To all Secondary School Headteacher,
PRU and Special Schools,
Directors of Education,
School Governing Bodies,
Regional Consortia

Eich Cyf/Your Ref: INSET
Ein Cyf/Our Ref: INFO

Date: February 2020

Dear All,

Further to the Minister's end of term letter in July, and now that the change to regulations has come into force, I am writing to provide you with more details around the additional Professional Learning INSET days to support the delivery of the new curriculum; one additional day for the next three years from 2019/2020 .

These additional days will be for the specific purpose of Professional Learning to prepare for the realisation of the new curriculum and will take place **annually each summer term**, with the first to take place during the summer term 2020. By amending the (School Day and School Year) (Wales) Regulations for 2019-2022, the Welsh Government has enabled schools to close to pupils for the additional day.

We recommend that this additional INSET Day is taken as whole school day as opposed to 2 half days or twilight sessions to ensure that the whole school can benefit and make the most of the learning experience. We are currently working with the regional consortia and a group of schools to provide digital, bilingual resources to provide examples of how different schools have undertaken preparation for the new curriculum, from development of whole school vision, modelling learning leadership and different approaches to improving staff Professional Learning, to name but a few. These resources will be available for you to use on these days, no matter where your school is on the curriculum reform journey. We are also working closely with the National Academy for Educational Leadership to develop good practice advice and guidance for schools on the effective use of INSET. This project will

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.



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produce new guidance “Leading Professional Learning” which alongside the digital resources will provide support for schools when planning their school sessions.

It will be your decision, which date within the summer term to choose, but the day must be focussed around developing the skills needed to deliver the new curriculum. I do however strongly suggest that the day is scheduled with adequate time before the end of the school year to enable your staff time to reflect on the day within the remaining school year.

We must not forget that while this additional time is valuable, it often comes at a cost to parents. It is therefore essential that this additional day, and the pre-existing INSET days, are used effectively. The Welsh Government requests that you give parents as much notice as possible, (as the majority of schools already do), and to consider the timing of the day with a view to make it easier for parents to cover childcare.

We also acknowledge the feedback from the consultation, that one additional day for three years may not be sufficient to address the Professional Learning needs inherent in the realisation of the new curriculum. We recognise that one day a year would be insufficient, we therefore strongly recommend that all schools also use, as a **minimum**, one of their existing five INSET days each year for the purpose of Professional Learning to support the delivery of the new curriculum. We are aware that many schools are already doing this, but it will be necessary for all schools to use the time carefully and effectively as a whole school to prepare for the new curriculum. We therefore also recommend that all practitioners, from Teaching Assistants to Headteachers, are actively engaged in the INSET day, learning together to enable the whole school to be prepared for the introduction of the new curriculum.

This additional National Professional Learning INSET day is an integral part of the wider National Approach to Professional Learning (NAPL). The additional day should therefore not be seen as a standalone proposal. Neither should this additional day be considered sufficient to address all the Professional Learning needs inherent in the realisation of the new curriculum. Rather, the proposal should be seen within the wider context of the NAPL as a whole, and should be seen in conjunction with the £24 million additional funding we have made available to create further time in schools for engagement with Professional Learning, enabling professionals to develop and up-skill themselves and work collaboratively within and across schools. This should all also be viewed alongside the Professional Learning offer that is being developed by the Regional Consortia to support the introduction of the new curriculum.

Yours sincerely



Steve Davies
Director of Education / Cyfarwyddwr Addysg