**National Network for**

**Curriculum Implementation**

**Facilitators’ briefing pack**

**Preparing for roll-out (Autumn 2021)**

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# **About this document**

* This document is a conversation facilitation pack for the Autumn 2021 National Network conversation on preparing for roll-out
* The facilitation pack sets out:
  + The aims and purpose of this conversation
  + The intended outputs of the conversation at a national level
  + Materials to support practitioners facilitating these conversations, including questions, prompts, and supporting materials to prompt discussion
* A template for note-taking in conversations is included at the end of this document
* While this conversation facilitation pack has been developed for the National Network – it is designed to be easily accessible and able to be used to have discussions on these issues in a range of contexts – including within and across schools and settings, clusters, or local and regional networks

# **Purpose of *Preparing for roll-out* conversations**

**The purpose of these sessions is to:**

* Bring practitioners together to share their experiences around preparing for roll-out – this conversation is intended to build on existing support and professional learning delivered by regional consortia – it does not replace professional learning and training opportunities
* Begin the national conversation on curriculum – kicking off a wider programme of work to support schools in planning, designing, implementing and evaluating their curriculum
* Identify examples which might help other schools move forward and the most effective way to share them
* Identify common misconceptions and how to address them
* Identify specific support which can be provided for example by the Regions, Estyn or Welsh Government and the best way for schools to access the support.

# **Shared ways of working**

Throughout, we want these conversations to embody and promote the shared ways of working developed as part of the curriculum reform process – that is:

* **Development through co-construction:** sharing problems and jointly developing solutions. Working across traditional boundaries; testing approaches from different perspectives.
* **Equity in co-construction:** equity between different voices rather than one voice giving direction; separate from management and responsibility hierarchies, allowing everyone to challenge and be challenged
* **Space and time to think and engage:** building understanding, professional dialogue, trust and respect over time; not rushing to deliver a product. Testing, experimenting and review, allowing mistakes in a safe environment.
* **Clear understanding of ‘why’ things are learned and done:** Consistently asking ‘why’ we are teaching something; The system should challenge why certain activities are carried out or required: if they do not contribute to learners realising our vision and aspirations, then are they necessary?
* **Critical engagement with expertise:** engagement with a range of quality research, expert input and international expertise.
* **Leadership at all levels:** All parts of the system must provide leadership; a culture of trust and empowerment

# **Conversation overview**

**The key questions for the discussion will be:**

1. What have been the successes so far in your school/setting’s preparation for the Curriculum for Wales? Why do you think this has been effective?
2. How have you approached the challenges you’ve faced in planning, designing and developing your curriculum?
3. Moving forward: How can Welsh Government, Regions, local authorities and Estyn support you and your school in this journey over the longer term?

In **National Network** conversations**,** two facilitators (practitioner and/or regional colleagues) will jointly run a discussion group of up to 12 fellow practitioners.

Discussions will be supported by video resources and relevant pre-reading. These resources will be openly available on the [National Network page on Hwb](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/national-network-for-curriculum-implementation/). We will email you links to the resources when they are available on Hwb for you to access for the conversations you will be facilitating.

## **Supporting resources for this conversation**

Listed below are the resources that will support this conversation. These resources will be accessible to all attendees through the [National Network page on Hwb](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/national-network-for-curriculum-implementation/), within the *Preparing for roll-out* section.

* **Videos to play as part of this conversation:**
  + **Video 1 –** National Network Introduction
  + **Video 2 –** Preparing for roll-out
  + **Video 3** – Overcoming challenges - Estyn
  + **Video 4 –** Support for schools - Regions

These will be available on the[National Network page on Hwb](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/national-network-for-curriculum-implementation/)

* **Additional background resources:** 
  + **Optional reading:**
    - [Preparing for the Curriculum for Wales – case studies and cameos from secondary, all-age and special schools](https://www.estyn.gov.wales/thematic-report/preparing-curriculum-wales-case-studies-and-cameos-secondary-all-age-and-special)
    - [Practitioners’ preparations for the roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales: interim report | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/practitioners-preparations-roll-out-curriculum-wales-interim-report)
    - [Innovation schools end of phase report](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-11/innovation-schools-end-of-phase-reporting-synthesis.pdf)
    - [Practitioners’ preparations for the roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales: interim report](Practitioners’%20preparations%20for%20the%20roll-out%20of%20the%20Curriculum%20for%20Wales:%20interim%20report%20|%20GOV.WALES)
    - [So Far So Good: Building the Evidence Base to Promote a Successful Future for the Curriculum for Wales](https://eprints.gla.ac.uk/223822/3/223822.pdf)
    - [*Beyond COVID: learning in the next phase* conversations analysis report](https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/ca47759a-2273-42fa-bc7e-50cc93c350d2/beyond-covid-learning-in-the-next-phase-analysis-of-conversations.pdf)

# **Your role as facilitators**

* In each group, there will be a chair and supporting facilitator
* We would like to focus on “appreciative” discussion where possible – thinking about the things that went well, why they went well, and what we can learn from them
* Use a “worry wall” – taking note of key worries in notes –but avoid focusing solely on worries and ensure discussion can look at what went well, and potential approaches.
* As a facilitator, you are **not**expected to be an expert or source of specific knowledge on the subject of the conversation.
* These conversations are about sharing experiences and approaches – as a facilitator you are not expected to have the “right answer”, but to ask searching questions (e.g. those included in the prompts) to encourage this thinking and conversation

Facilitating groups will involve:

* Managing discussion in the group and keeping to time
* Sharing in the chat bar pre-prepared video resources from Hwb to the group to spur discussions
* Ensuring a nominated note taker notes down key points and conclusions
* Keeping discussions on track, using discussion prompts as appropriate
* Asking questions, rather than offering answers
* *Not* seeking to steer the conversation towards particular subjects you may feel are important, but being aware of the sorts of challenges that different cohorts might face

# **Timetable for National Network conversations on preparing**

## **Conversation dates**

Facilitators will only attend the conversations they have indicated that they would like to facilitate. The Welsh Government will confirm dates with individual facilitators.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Preparing** | **Session dates** | **Time** |
| Tuesday 19 October 2021 | 13:00 – 15:30 |
| Wednesday 20 October 2021 | 10:00 – 12:30 |
| Tuesday 2 November 2021 | 10:00 – 12:30 |
| Wednesday 3 November 2021 | 13:00 – 15:30 |
| Tuesday 9 November 2021 | 10:00 – 13:30 |
| Wednesday 10 November 2021 | 10:00 – 12:30 |
| Tuesday 16 November 2021 | 13:00 – 15:30 |
| Wednesday 17 November 2021 | 13:00 – 15:30 |

## **Other key dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **5 October** | Facilitators to receive briefings |
| **22 September – 2 days before event** | Sign-up period for sessions |
| **21 October** | Optional drop in session for facilitators to reflect |
| **4 November** | Optional drop in session for facilitators to reflect |
| **18 November** | Optional drop in session for facilitators to reflect |
| **2 December** | Optional drop in session for facilitators to reflect |

## **Conversation running order**

This is a suggested running order for the conversations – feel free to tweak this (for example, the length and number of breaks) as you feel appropriate for your group – but try to ensure you keep to 2.5 hours overall.

* **Introduction** – brief introduction of yourselves and others (5 minutes)
* **Video 1** - Brief introduction to the National Network (5 minutes)
* **Video 2** (*schools describing what they have done in preparation for the Curriculum for Wales*) (5 minutes)
* **Question 1 –**  What have been the successes so far in your school/setting’s preparation for the Curriculum for Wales? Why do you think this has been effective? (40 minutes)
* **Short break** (10 minutes)
* **Video 3** (*schools overcoming challenges - Estyn*) (5 minutes)
* **Question 2 –** How have you approached the challenges you’ve faced in planning, designing and developing your curriculum?(40 minutes)
* **Video 4** (support for schools – regions) (5 minutes)
* **Question 3 –** How can Welsh Government, Regions, local authorities and Estyn support you and your school in this journey over the longer term? (40 minutes)

# **Detailed discussion points**

## **National Network conversations: an introduction**

At the outset, it may be helpful to set out the purpose of the National Network conversation, and what we hope for it to achieve – this would include noting that:

* This conversation is intended to build on the professional learning and experiences you’ve had at school – it does not replace other training opportunities
* It is an opportunity to discuss what’s working, what the barriers are to developing p your curriculum and importantly, why this is the case.
* The outcomes and conclusions of this conversation will be fed directly back to Welsh Government and to regional consortia and we will work with them to develop approaches and solutions

There will be an English medium video resource to play from Lloyd Hopkin, Head of Curriculum Reform at the Welsh Government, to provide an overview on the purpose and function of the National Network.

## **Question 1**: *What have been the successes so far in your school/setting’s preparation for the Curriculum for Wales? Why do you think this has been effective?*

Before this conversation – there will be a video resource to play of practitioners in different schools talking about what they’ve done [bilingual].

**Sub-questions (provided for your benefit, but no need to go through each) could include:**

* Can you describe your school/setting’s strategic approach to planning?
* What does your school/setting’s timeline look like?
* How is your school approaching specific aspects of planning and curriculum development?
* How are you engaging with different parts of the Curriculum Framework ([legislative requirements](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-proposed-legislation/), [Curriculum for Wales: The journey to roll out](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/curriculum-for-wales-the-journey-to-curriculum-roll-out/), guidance including [vision](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/designing-your-curriculum/developing-a-vision-for-curriculum-design/), [principles of curriculum design](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/designing-your-curriculum/principles-for-designing-your-curriculum/), [purpose](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/designing-your-curriculum/developing-a-vision-for-curriculum-design/#curriculum-design-and-the-four-purposes) and [progression](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/supporting-learner-progression-assessment-guidance/))
* What does this look like in your classroom?
* How have learners benefited from those successes?
* How have they impacted staff wellbeing?
* How is your school using the National evaluation and improvement resource?

## **Question 2**: How have you approached the challenges you’ve faced in planning, designing and developing your curriculum?

Before this conversation – there will be a video resource from Estyn giving examples they’ve seen of schools overcoming obstacles and moving forward in their planning and curriculum design [bilingual]

**Sub-questions could include:**

* What was the specific challenge?
* How did you overcome it?
* Do you think this approach would work in other schools and settings? Why?

## **Question 3:** *Moving forward: How can Welsh Government, Regions, local authorities and Estyn support you and your school/setting in this journey over the longer term?*

**Sub-questions could include:**

* Which particular aspects do you think need specific support, and what should that support look like?
* How are you organising cluster working?
* What [Professional Learning](https://hwb.gov.wales/professional-development/national-approach-to-professional-learning) have you/your school engaged in? Has this been effective? Why?

# **Practical walkthrough**

## **Before the conversation**

* You will receive links to the resources on Hwb that will support this conversation – these will also be sent to attendees and will be available on Hwb National Network page in advance of the sessions
* You will receive an email and a calendar invitation from our Bookings platform with the details of your session and the Microsoft Teams joining link
* You may wish to check in with your co-facilitator beforehand to discuss how you want to approach the conversation
* Most people should be able to join automatically, using a Hwb log in. Anyone not using a Hwb log-in may need to be admitted to the Teams meeting by someone in the meeting

## **During the conversation**

* You may wish to enter the meeting a few minutes early to check everything is working correctly
* Make a note of those in attendance at the start, in the notes template (annexed to this briefing)
* A Welsh Government official may sit in on your discussion as a silent observer
* If anything goes wrong that you can’t fix in the meeting, a Welsh Government official will be on hand – you will be given a point of contact before your session
* During the discussion, please make a note of key points, reflections, approaches, and conclusions
* As a facilitator, your role is to keep the discussion constructive and focused – from the outset, explain the use of the “worry wall” (included in the notes template annexed to this document) – that issues can be raised and included on there, but that they should not dominate the discussion

### ***Sharing videos***

* The video resources will form a key part of helping spark discussion within your groups. We would encourage you to watch the videos beforehand to get a feel for some of the key issues.
* Before starting each conversation question – find the link to the relevant video resource
* Share the link with participants using the meeting chat bar
* Ask attendees to open the links and watch the video on their device (ensuring they are muted)

## **After the conversation**

* Please send a copy of your notes to [CurriculumforWales@gov.wales](mailto:CurriculumforWales@gov.wales) - please do this within 7 days of the conversation taking place.
* A copy of the note template is annexed to this document
* Encourage your attendees, if they would find it helpful, to hold a conversation on these issues back at their school – the conversation facilitation pack and supporting resources will be available on the National Network page on Hwb. If they wish, attendees can feed back on these discussions to [CurriculumforWales@gov.wales](mailto:CurriculumforWales@gov.wales) to help shape the outputs of the national conversation
* We will host regular, optional, 30-minute drop-in sessions for National Network conversation facilitators to reflect – if you would like to feed back to us on anything that went particularly well or something to improve for the next session.

# **Remuneration for facilitation of National Network conversations**

* Practitioner facilitators’ schools will be compensated by their regional consortium or partnership for the time commitment, at a rate of £70 per 2.5 hour session.
* For schools sending a practitioner as an attendee, funding support will be made available for attendees through their regional consortium or partnership to consider and discuss these questions back at school, share and embed the learning from these events, and continue to contribute to this national conversation by sharing their findings back with us to feed into next steps.
* This process will be managed by regional consortia.

# 

# **Annex – National Network Conversation (Preparing for roll-out): facilitator notes template**

**Using this template:**

* Nominate a facilitator or a practitioner to be responsible for recording notes from the session
* If you are facilitating a conversation in the National Network, please make a note of who is attending your session – as we need this for our records
* Record some of what you feel are the key points, conclusions and approaches from the discussion
* There is space for recording ideas and responses related specifically to the prompts and sub-questions – you **do not** need to ask all of these questions or fill all of these sections in – we have split these into specific sections in order to improve the quality of the analysis after the conversations
* Don’t worry about noting down everything that’s said – we are most interested in the key points
* Please send a copy of your notes to [CurriculumforWales@gov.wales](mailto:CurriculumforWales@gov.wales)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **These are notes from (delete as appropriate):**   1. **National Network Conversation** 2. **Regional network conversation** 3. **School or cluster conversation** | | |
| **If (a)** | **Names of National Network facilitators:** |  |
| **Attendees present:** |  |
| **If (b)** | **Name of regional network conversation:** |  |
| **If (c)** | **Name of school/setting or cluster:** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Worry wall**:  *For each of the questions below, this is to record specific worries or obstacles that practitioners feel are completely out of their control. It is important not to spend a long time discussing these: these should be raised, recorded and then the discussion should move on.* | |
| ***What is the worry?*** | ***(if not clear) Why does this sit out of your control?*** |
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| --- |
| **Question 1**:   * **What have been the successes so far in your school/setting’s preparation for the Curriculum for Wales? Why do you think this has been effective?#** |
| *General points, themes, and conclusions* |
| **Sub-questions / prompts** |
| **Can you describe your school/setting’s strategic approach to planning?** |
|  |
| **What does your school/setting’s timeline look like?** |
|  |
| **How is your school approaching specific aspects of planning and curriculum development?** |
|  |
| **How are you engaging with different parts of the Curriculum Framework?** |
|  |
| **What does this look like in your classroom?** |
|  |
| **How have learners benefited from those successes?** |
|  |
| **How have they impacted staff wellbeing?** |
|  |
| **How is your school using the national evaluation and improvement resource?** |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question 2**:  **How have you approached the challenges you’ve faced in planning, designing and developing your curriculum?** | |
| *General points, themes, and conclusions* | |
| **Sub-questions / prompts** | |
| **What was the specific challenge?** | **How did you overcome the challenge?** |
|  |  |
| **Do you think this approach would work in other schools and settings? Why?** | |
|  | |

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| --- |
| **Question 3:**  **Moving forward: How can Welsh Government, regions, local authorities and Estyn support you and your school in this journey over the longer term?** |
| *General points, themes, and conclusions* |
| **Which particular aspects do you think need specific support, and what should that support look like?** |
|  |
| **How are you organising cluster working?** |
|  |
| **What** [**Professional Learning**](https://hwb.gov.wales/professional-development/national-approach-to-professional-learning) **have you/your school engaged in? Has this been effective? Why?** |
|  |