**National Network for**

**Curriculum Implementation**

**Facilitators’ briefing pack**

**Resources and Supporting Materials (Autumn 2021)**

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# **About this document**

* This document is a conversation facilitation pack for the Autumn 2021 National Network conversation on Resources and Supporting Materials
* 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 *Resources and Supporting Materials* conversations**

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

* Bring practitioners together to share their views on issues around Resources and Supporting Materials – 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 Resources and Supporting Materials – kicking off a wider programme of work to support schools with Resources and Supporting Materials.
* Identify examples which might help other schools move forward and the most effective way to share them
* Identify common misconceptions around Resources and Supporting Materials 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:**

## **Question 1**: How do you think your needs for resources and supporting materials will change as a result of Curriculum for Wales?

## **Question 2**: What resources have you used that have been helpful? Why?

## **Question 3:** Looking forward, how could resources support you to design your own curriculum?

In **National Network** conversations**,** two practitioner facilitators will jointly run a discussion group of up to 25 fellow practitioners.

Discussions will be supported by video resources from experts 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/).

## **Supporting resources for this conversation**

Linked 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 *Resources and Supporting Materials* section.

* **Videos to play as part of this conversation:**
  + **Video 1 –** *National Network: Introduction* by Lloyd Hopkin, Head of Curriculum Reform [**https://youtu.be/6u7km4h5HWs**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F6u7km4h5HWs&data=04%7C01%7CJane.Ellis%40gov.wales%7Cb1e8593d4d8d40fc1a6808d98fe744fa%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637699046013349893%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2B0%2BUobW2wLUr9davvlZP3qVhMCYp48nwSR0PNx0jNNA%3D&reserved=0)

**Video 2 –** *Overview of resources and supporting materials and the Curriculum for Wales*, Dr Sonny Singh, University of Wales Trinity St David, Victoria Jobson, St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Beth Jones, Brynllywarch Hall School [https://youtu.be/VS0PAPOmLOs](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FVS0PAPOmLOs&data=04%7C01%7CJane.Ellis%40gov.wales%7C0cfb20f97d2f424b8c1b08d9aa9919d3%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637728396798167797%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=NZJtbD2i6oB1zSwrzC0%2BNfJ6lD%2Fa%2BN%2FgVlF6JtqFOcM%3D&reserved=0)

**Optional reading:**

1. Slide pack:

These slides are designed to support the National Network to help think about what resources could look like for the new Curriculum for Wales. They are meant to prompt discussion.  They explore how resources and supporting materials might need to be evolve to support the Curriculum for Wales and they summarise feedback from different experts and stakeholders. They are an indication of possible thinking, not set in stone. <https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/ef2f35dd-0c2a-45c1-82c8-1f8801e7ce72/211110-resources-supporting-materials-and-the-curriculum-for-wales.pptx>

# Taking Curriculum for Wales Forward: Engaging, Planning, Enacting, Learning,  by George MacBride, G [244335.pdf (gla.ac.uk)](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Feprints.gla.ac.uk%2F244335%2F1%2F244335.pdf&data=04%7C01%7CJane.Ellis%40gov.wales%7Cc2f9310a7ed342e43a2208d9a9dd27a7%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637727589573505787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=vzTUYE2vT4K7XofeNwsmoitFIX9x9RXKLuGCPtAnc%2Bo%3D&reserved=0). This is a long document and there is no expectation for people to have read it. If you do wish to consider it, you may find it helpful to consider the executive summary and recommendations in particular.

# **Your role as facilitators**

* In each group, there will be two facilitators
* 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
* Playing pre-prepared video resources 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 Resources and Supporting Materials**

## **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.

**Conversation dates:**  
   
23 November 2021, 10am – 12:30pm  
   
24 November 2021, 1pm – 3:30pm

## **Other key dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **18 November** | Facilitators to receive briefings |
| **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.

## **Conversation running order**

* **Introduction** – brief introduction of the group (5 minutes)
* **Video 1** – Brief introduction to the National Network (5 minutes)
* **Video 2** (*Over view of resources and materials and the Curriculum for Wales*) (12 minutes)
* **Question 1 –** How do you think your needs for resources and supporting materials will change as a result of Curriculum for Wales?(40 minutes)
* **Short break** (10 minutes)
* **Question 2 –** What resources have you used that have been helpful? Why? (40 minutes)
* **Question 3 –** Looking forward, how could resources support you to design your own curriculum? (30 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 Resources and Supporting Materials in 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.

## **Before the detailed discussion begins there will be a short introductory video providing an overview of Resources and Supporting Materials and the new Curriculum for Wales.**

## **Question #1**: How do you think your needs for resources and supporting materials will change as a result of Curriculum for Wales?

**Possible sub-questions:**

* What do you use resources and supporting materials for currently? How might this change as a result of the curriculum?
* What opportunities do you think there are with Curriculum for Wales to use resources and supporting materials differently?
* What are your fears for resources? What do you think the risks are?

## **Question #2**: What resources have you used that have been helpful? Why?

**Possible sub-questions:**

* What did they do? How did you use them?
* Why were they so successful? What were the underpinning principles?
* What do unhelpful resources look like?

## **Question 3:** Looking forward, how could resources support you to design your own curriculum?

**Sub-questions could include:**

* What kind of things should resources do to help you design your curriculum? What impact would you want them to have? Why?
* As a system, how do we avoid resources/ supporting materials prescribing too much detail/ content?
* What are the priorities for you for resources/ supporting materials? What would you like to see?

# **Practical walkthrough**

## **Before the conversation**

* We will send you confirmation of your group, co-facilitator for sessions, and conversation facilitation pack this week – which will also include a template for note-taking.
* You will receive links to the resources 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 Teams joining link.
* You may wish to check in with your co-facilitator beforehand to discuss how you want to approach the conversation

## **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 question 1 – 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 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 these discussions to [CurriculumforWales@gov.wales](mailto:CurriculumforWales@gov.wales) to help shape the outputs of the national conversation
* On 5 December there will be an, optional, 30-minute drop-in session 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 (Resources and Supporting Materials): 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)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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:** |  |

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| **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**:  **How do you think your needs for resources and supporting materials will change as a result of Curriculum for Wales?** |
| *General points, themes, and conclusions* |
| **Sub-questions / prompts** |
| * **What do you use resources and supporting materials for currently? How might this change as a result of the curriculum?** |
|  |
| * **What opportunities do you think there are with Curriculum for Wales to use resources and supporting materials differently?** |
|  |
| * **What are your fears for resources? What do you think the risks are?** |
|  |

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| **Question 2**:  **What resources have you used that have been helpful? Why?** |
| *General points, themes, and conclusions* |
| **Sub-questions / prompts** |
| * **What did they do? How did you use them?** |
|  |
| * **Why were they so successful? What were the underpinning principles?** |
|  |
| * **What do unhelpful resources look like?** |
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| **Question 3:**  **Looking forward, how could resources support you to design your own curriculum?** |
| ***General points, themes, and conclusions*** |
| * **What kind of things should resources do to help you design your curriculum? What impact would you want them to have? Why?** |
|  |
| * **As a system, how do we avoid resources/ supporting materials prescribing too much detail/ content?** |
|  |
| * **What are the priorities for you for resources/ supporting materials? What would you like to see?** |
|  |