



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ROUTES FOR LEARNING

Bringing benefits for learners, parents, carers and practitioners

CERI MOORCRAFT

Ceri Moorcraft has been responsible for teaching children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) at Crownbridge School since January 2020 and prior to this he worked at Ty Gwyn Special School in Cardiff.

His knowledge and expertise in the field of additional learning needs (ALN) means he was a perfect fit to help the Welsh Government in updating its **Routes for Learning** materials as part of the development of Curriculum for Wales. Here he talks about the benefits of the newly updated materials.



SHARING EXPERIENCE TO UPDATE THE MATERIALS

Having been involved in this field for so many years it was great to be asked to contribute to reviewing, updating and developing the Routes for Learning materials.

For me personally, it was an opportunity to highlight the impact and benefits of inclusion through playful approaches with mainstream children, working with Woodlands Community Primary School to organise weekly sessions within the special school classroom, working towards addressing barriers to inclusion. I was also involved with reviewing Welsh language materials ensuring equality of access and that the language used was appropriate and fit for purpose.

The updated materials are great because they emphasise the person-centred approach – the learner is at the heart of everything. There is also a strong sense of inclusivity which dovetails perfectly with the aspirations for Curriculum for Wales.

BUILDING ON THE PAST

The content of the updated materials are similar to the originals but have taken into account current research and thinking in neuroscience and pedagogical principles. The Guidance booklet has been updated to align early stages of development with regard to the four purposes of the curriculum and the cross-curricular themes, the Digital Competence Framework and the Literacy and Numeracy Framework as set out in Curriculum for Wales.

Having identified three strands of development – cognitive development, communication and social interaction, and environmental interaction – work has been undertaken to ensure there is greater understanding of these areas with more clarity offered and user-friendly language, helping practitioners, parents and carers alike.



CAREER SUPPORT

While the focus is very much on the learner, ongoing support for practitioners is also at the forefront. Professional learning materials and modules, accessible via Hwb, help plan, assess and track progress while online professional learning videos offer support and guidance whether you are a newly qualified teacher (NQT) or have recently moved into this area from another teaching post.

The clear language ensures there is less misunderstanding when communicating with colleagues or parents and carers, resulting in less anxiety and greater engagement; a crucial element in this field of work.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The focus within Wales' education sector is quite naturally on the rollout of the innovative Curriculum for Wales and what excites me is that these Routes for Learning materials are being developed in parallel and not as a separate entity. This allows the teaching of those with ALN and PMLD to be seen as inherently a part of mainstream education – a very positive signal for practitioners, parents, carers and, most importantly, learners.