

## GQM and the new Welsh Curriculum

### A brief synopsis of the new curriculum and the place of geography

The new curriculum is being rolled out within primary settings in Wales from 2022 and some secondary providers. All secondary schools are required to implement it by 2023.

The four purposes of the curriculum are to create:-

- **ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world**
- **enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work**
- **ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives**
- **healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.**

Within the new curriculum there are six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE).

The Humanities Area of Learning Experience (AoLE) = geography; history; religion, values and ethics; business studies and social studies.

Each AoLE has a number of What Matters statements to incorporate within their area of the curriculum.

What Matters statements are the big ideas or key principles of the humanities area of the curriculum.

- WM1 - Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.
- WM2 - Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways.
- WM3 - Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.
- WM4 - Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.
- WM5 - Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action.

## Geography

The new curriculum design should:

- Develop an understanding of the discipline and its value.
- Provide rich content for exploring physical and human landscapes, and a context for the causes and consequences of physical and human inter-relationships and interdependence which characterise our modern world.

- Provide a rich context for exploring the issues of sustainability, climate change, energy choices, nature, natural hazards and disasters and hazard risks, pollution, scarcity of natural resources, food security, population, identity, ethnicity, migration, settlements, globalisation, consumerism and trade, initiatives to tackle poverty, inequality and injustice, contrasts between countries at different levels of development.
- Equip learners with the skills to question, use and analyse maps, images, and Geographical Information Systems.
- Equip learners with the skills to formulate research questions, and to collect, manipulate and present data so they can evaluate and think critically about problems and issues.