

Subject updates

Curriculum for Wales: the place for geography

Gill Miller, GA President 2019–20, talks about Curriculum for Wales and a series of PowerPoints the GA's Welsh Special Interest Group have produced to support teachers in developing the geography in the new curriculum.

Curriculum for Wales is the pioneering curriculum which aims to raise standards and enable teachers to use their professional skills to meet local needs. The official start in both primary and secondary schools will be in September 2022.

There are six Areas of Learning Experience (AoLE). Geography is situated with history, social studies, business studies and RE in the Humanities AoLE. The details of each AoLE have been developed by groups of teachers from pioneer schools across Wales. The curriculum guidance sets out what schools should take into account in designing their curriculum, how it might be structured, and the broad expectations for learners at each progression step.

Each AoLE consists of statements of 'what matters' outlining essential content, concepts and transferable skills to help school students learn in a more coordinated way. In Humanities the emphasis is on an interdisciplinary approach and a holistic view of teaching and learning.

Progression steps outline the increase in depth of knowledge and learners' conceptual understanding at each stage. Progression in

Humanities is underpinned by the idea that, while subject content does not get intrinsically more difficult, the same topic can be studied at different levels of depth, from different perspectives, and with increased sophistication and complexity. Teachers will develop their own curriculum based on the *What matters* statements.

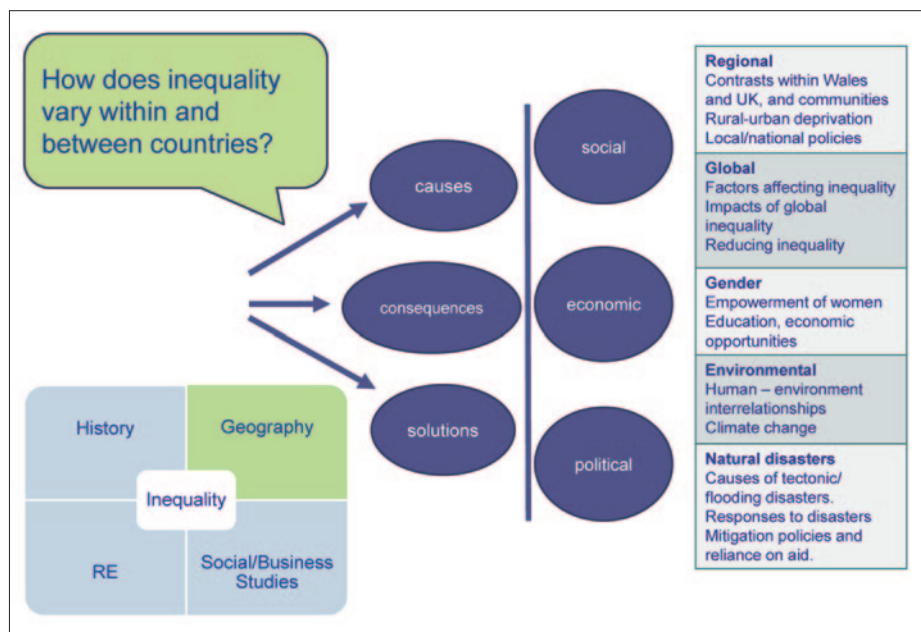
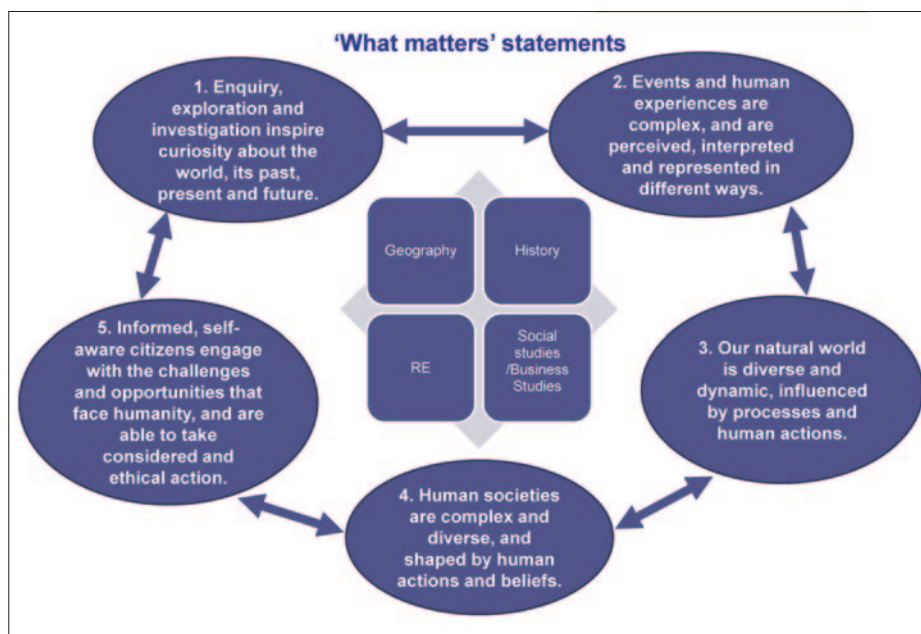
The GA's Welsh Special Interest Group (WSIG) is supporting teachers in their curriculum development process by producing a series of PowerPoint scaffolds on a variety of Humanities themes for years 7–9 (equivalent to KS3 in England). Each scaffold suggests learning opportunities for history, social studies, business studies and RE, but the real substance is to identify the geography which can be explored within the theme. Each theme highlights several geographical strands, with key questions, examples and links to the 'What matters' statements.

To date the Welsh SIG have explored eight themes which will shortly be available on the GA website. The themes are:

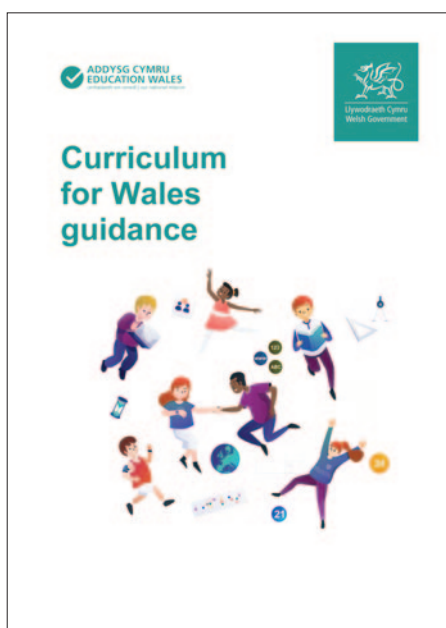
- All conflicts great and small
- Cynefin
- Globalisation
- Inequality
- Journeys
- Living in a material world
- Stewardship and water.

WSIG plans to develop more for years 7–9 as well as for Early Years and primary.

Although the scaffolds are designed for Wales, teachers in England may find the ideas and examples really useful in their key stage 3 curriculum.



Source: Welsh Government



Curriculum for Wales Guidance document