

## **Curriculum for Wales: guidance for education other than at school NEU Cymru response**

NEU Cymru welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. We have chosen to respond in this format as the questions didn't address our points.

Over-all, there is much to welcome in this consultation. We agree that a nurture focus in EOTAS provision is essential. We would have some concerns about the lack of flexibility built into the curriculum guidance, as drafted – if the curriculum is really to be built around the individual needs of the learner then there needs to be more flexibility.

### **Wellbeing**

A focus on wellbeing and a nurture-based approach is essential. If this approach is to truly be realised, then further **flexibility** will be needed to meet the needs of the learner. This should include appropriate **disapplication** of the curriculum. Learners end up in EOTAS provision for a range of reasons, from challenging behaviour to bereavement. But whatever the reason, they have failed to engage fully in mainstream schooling. For that reason, keeping young people engaged in learning is critical. Therefore, there should be maximum flexibility, allowing the curriculum to be truly tailored to suit young people's needs, and ensuring they are able to undertake assessment which does not focus on a narrow, high-stakes accountability mechanism.

### **FE / employers / apprenticeships**

We would be concerned to ensure that there was also maximum flexibility in the system to ensure young people are able to undertake vocational 14-19 pathways. Currently, these are usually led by Further Education Institutions, in partnership with employers. Engaging young people in education, be it academic or vocational, should be a priority. To give true parity of esteem, this may require disapplication of some elements of the curriculum.

### **Investment**

In order to ensure wider access to the curriculum in EOTAS provision, investment is needed in the EOTAS estate. Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are not as well equipped to deliver the full curriculum as mainstream schools.

The Additional Learning Needs and Tribunals (Wales) Act will mean significant investment will be needed to ensure young people can access the curriculum, regardless of their needs. As this duty falls primarily onto individual schools, investment will be needed to ensure

staff have the training and access to specialists to provide this. This will be especially important for EOTAS.

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