



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Yr Athrofa
Centre *for* Education
Addysg i Gymru | Education for Wales

Student Pre-programme Pack

PGCE

2024

www.athrofa.cymru



Partneriaeth Dysgu Proffesiynol Yr Athrofa
Yr Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership

Trawsnewid Addysg Gyda'n Gilydd Transforming Teaching Together

Student Pre-programme Pack

Congratulations on starting your exciting journey to becoming a teacher and making a difference to the lives of young people in Wales. The staff of Yr Athrofa at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David are very much looking forward to working with you and wish you the warmest of welcomes. The university programme is designed to fully support you in becoming a confident, professional, highly effective and reflective teacher.

Students often ask how they can prepare for their PGCE and BAEd studies and this resource is designed to help you. The pre-programme pack consists of tasks, tips and reflective activities to start you thinking, both personally and critically, about what it means to be a teacher in Wales. The responses that you develop here will form a part of early discussions with your personal tutor group when you start with us in September, so it is important that you engage as fully as possible. We hope that you enjoy!

The way in which you engage with each task is not prescriptive; it's up to you how you wish to present your ideas. For example, you may want to create a spider diagram, draw a doodle, use bullet points or write in prose or even poetry, and your responses can be recorded digitally or as a hard copy.

Add text where you see the option and upload images where you see the spider diagram icon.



You can complete your pack in either Welsh or English. The Welsh version can be found in the same email where you found this document.



Pecyn Cyn-raglen Myfyriwr

Llongyfarchiadau ar ddechrau ar eich taith gyffrous i ddod yn athro/athrawes a gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau pobl ifanc yng Nghymru. Mae staff yr Athrofa ym Mhrifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant yn edrych ymlaen yn fawr iawn at weithio gyda chi ac yn dymuno rhoi croeso twymgalon i chi. Lluniwyd y rhaglen brifysgol i roi cefnogaeth lawn i chi ar y daith i ddod yn athro/athrawes hyderus, proffesiynol, effeithiol ac adfyfyriol iawn.

Bydd myfyrwyr yn aml yn gofyn sut gallan nhw baratoi ar gyfer eu hastudiaethau gyda ni a lluniwyd yr adnodd cyn raglen hwn i'ch helpu. Mae'n cynnwys amrywiaeth o dasgau syml, cyngor defnyddiol a gweithgareddau adfyfyriol i chi ddechrau meddwl, yn bersonol ac yn feirniadol, am beth mae'n ei olygu i fod yn athro/athrawes yng Nghymru. Bydd yr atebion a ddatblygwch yma'n ffurfio rhan o drafodaethau cynnar gyda'ch grŵp tiwtor personol pan ddechreuwch gyda ni ym mis Medi.

Nid yw'r ffordd byddwch yn ymgymryd â phob tasg yn rhagnodol; chi sydd i benderfynu sut yr hoffech gyflwyno'ch syniadau. Er enghraifft, efallai yr hoffech greu diagram gwe corryn, gwneud dwl, defnyddio pwyntiau bwled neu ysgrifennu mewn rhyddiaith neu farddoniaeth hyd yn oed, a gellir recordio'ch ymatebion yn ddigidol neu fel copi caled. Gobeithio y byddwch yn mwynhau!

Ychwanegwch destun lle ceir opsiwn ac uwchlwythwch ddelweddau lle gwelir eicon diagram gwe corryn.



Cewch gwblhau'ch pecyn naill ai yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg. Gellir dod o hyd i'r fersiwn Gymraeg yn yr un e-bost lle'r oedd y ddogfen hon.



To get you going... (Approx. 5 mins)

In your opinion, what is the purpose of education in the 21st century? Try to sum up your ideas in no more than 20 words, or in a single sentence.

Enter your reflections here.

Developing a Personal Philosophy of Education (45 mins – 1 hour)

These tasks require you to embark on a critical exploration of your experiences of education and start to identify a personal theory of learning and teaching, an important process in preparing for a career in teaching.

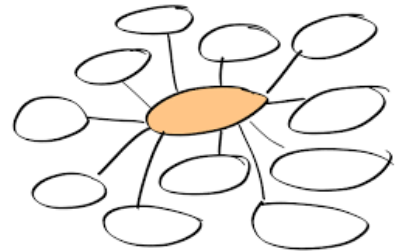


1. Your own educational background

Consider the impact of your own educational background on your thinking about teaching and learning.

Questions you might consider: What sort of primary school did you go to? What sort of secondary school did you go to? How did the groups you were in at school influence your learning? What can you remember of significant highs or lows in your learning?

Enter your reflections here.

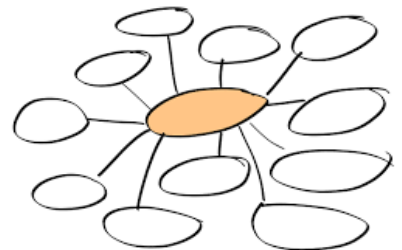


2. Your own learning

Key question: What was your own experience of learning different subjects at school and in higher education?

Were there particular topics or teaching methods that stood out? Do you remember any experience which was particularly influential in helping you to understand a particular subject? Did learning outside the classroom play a part?

Enter your reflections here.

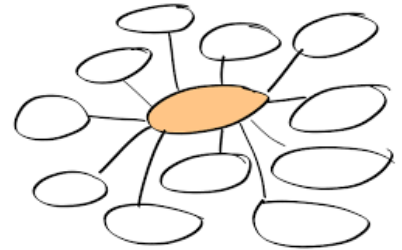


3. Your views on the curriculum

Key question: What is your personal view of the curriculum?

Further question: What is its purpose for society?

Enter your reflections here.

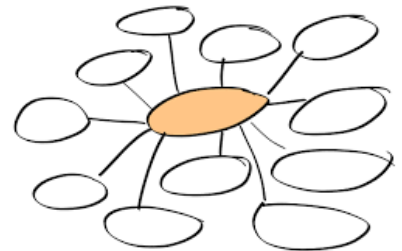


4. Teaching and learning

Key question: What do you consider to be the features of good teaching?

Further questions: How do you think children learn best? Are there differences in teaching different subjects? Are there differences in teaching different for different phases?

Enter your reflections here.



Curriculum for Wales (Approx. 30 mins)

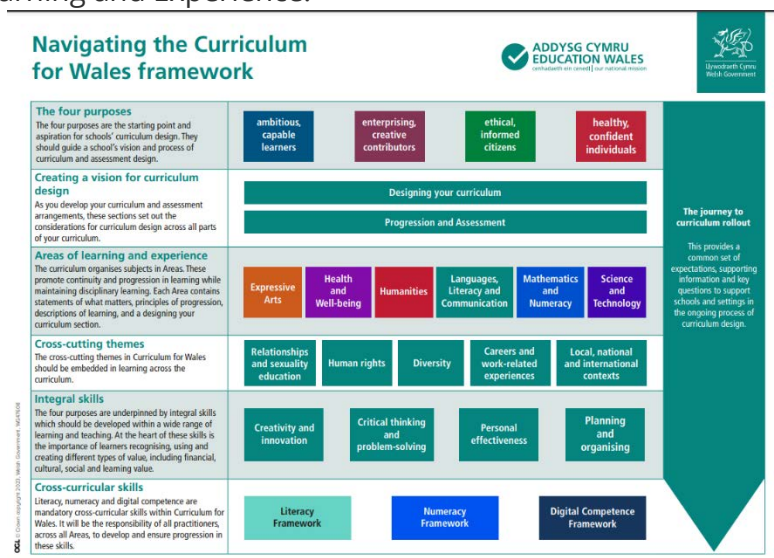
The Welsh curriculum is currently undergoing a significant restructure and Curriculum for Wales was launched in September 2022. It is not biased towards either knowledge or skills but will allow schools to provide a balance of knowledge, skills and experiences.

The new Curriculum for Wales has been developed to fulfil four key purposes. It aims to produce pupils who are, or will become:

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

The Curriculum for Wales has six Areas of Learning and Experience:

1. Expressive arts
2. Humanities
3. Health and wellbeing
4. Science and technology
5. Mathematics and numeracy:
6. Languages, literacy and communication



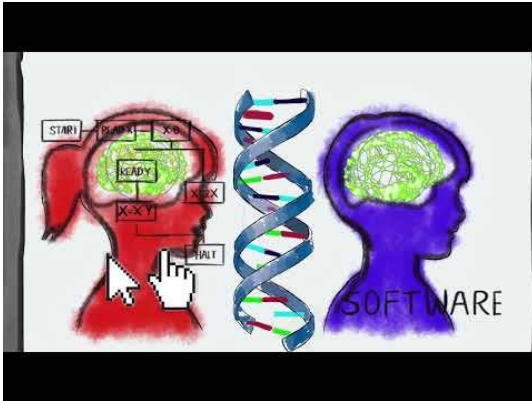
You can find more information about Curriculum for Wales at <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales>

This page provides a good starting point for those of you who would like to find out more about the changes - <https://www.gov.wales/education-changing>

Task:

Watch the following two short clips

A new curriculum for Wales



Professor Graham Donaldson talks about 'A new curriculum – what makes it so different?'



In the thought bubbles below, note key words or interesting facts from these videos and consider what implications they might have for the way you teach.

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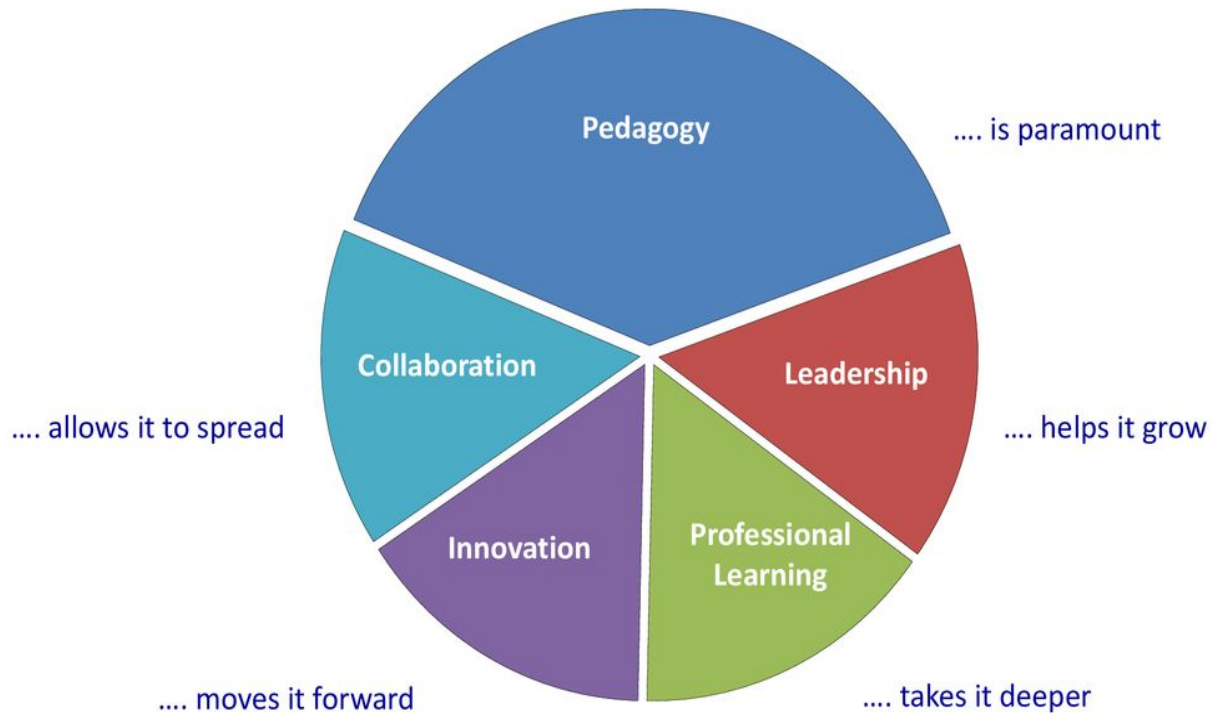
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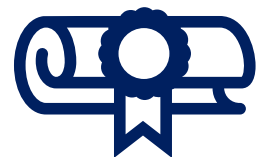
The Professional Standards in Wales (30-40 mins)

Professional standards describe the skills, knowledge and behaviours that characterise excellent practice and support professional growth. The five professional standards for teaching and leadership concentrate on the five essential elements of every teacher's work (Education Wales 2018, *An introduction to the professional standards for teaching and leadership* p.2)

5 Dimensions of the Professional Teaching and Leadership Standards



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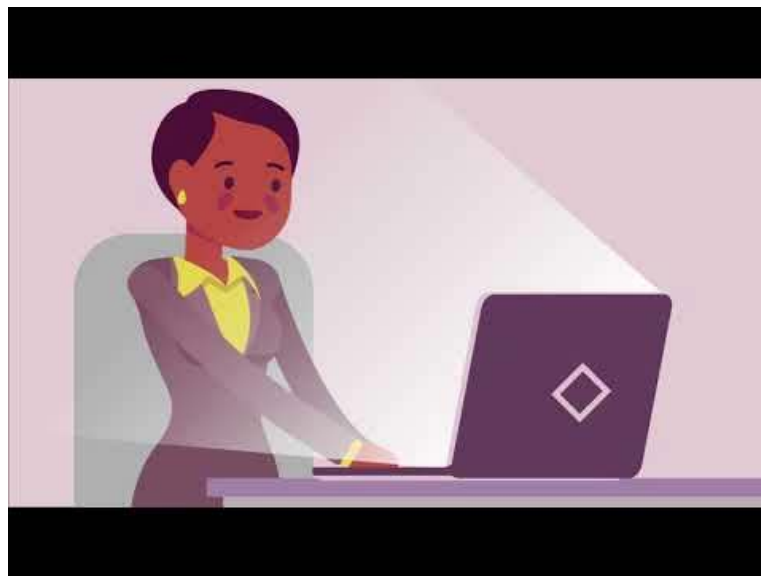


Task:

There are five professional standards, including descriptors, that teachers are encouraged to work towards as part of their continuous professional learning and development. In preparation for your programme, it would be useful to spend some time familiarising yourself with the standards and considering what these might look like in the classroom.



The following clip is a brief overview of the New Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership:



When you have watched the video, answer the questions below to help you deepen your understanding of the Professional Teaching Standards.

Pedagogy

Watch the following video as a brief introduction to the term pedagogy and some key ideas that you will learn more about on the programme:

Task: What does the term pedagogy mean to you? What do you feel is effective pedagogy?

Click or tap here to enter text.



Leadership

Task: What prior experience have you got of leadership? This may be leading an initiative/group/in a job etc. What would you say are the key elements of good leadership?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Professional Learning:

Task: By taking part in the programme, you will be undertaking professional learning. What aspects of professional learning are particularly important to you?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Innovation:

Task: Why do you feel innovation might be considered important for a teacher? What are your prior experiences of innovation?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Collaboration:

Task: In what ways do you enjoy collaborating and when has this worked best? What, would you say, are your strengths in terms of collaboration?

Click or tap here to enter text.

If you'd like to take a deeper look at the standards, Welsh Government have a wonderful interactive resource -

<https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/19bc948b-8a3f-41e0-944a-7bf2cadf7d18/professional-standards-for-teaching-and-leadership-interactive-pdf-for-pc.pdf>

Reading recommendations

The following recommendations have been made by previous students who have studied with Yr Athrofa and are intended as 'taster' of some aspects of teaching that you might find interesting and relevant to you.

Please note that this is a small sample of informal suggestions and there is no expectation for you to purchase copies. You will be directed to further recommendations and required reading when you start with us in September.



Networking:

There is an abundance of amazing educators on social media platforms like Twitter. You can start by following us on Twitter - #APLPteach @APLPteach @uwtsd

This will be a useful launchpad to establish networking opportunities and discover potential people to follow.

