

New Mission 2022. Professor Graham Donaldson constructed a review in March 2014 on the National Curriculum, assessments and learning structures. He believed learning should be a continuous experience, building progressively as children and young people grow and mature. Donaldson wanted a greater focus on life skills, integrating key skills such as literacy, numeracy and digital competency to enhance opportunities of success. The reformed curriculum for Wales follows a vision shaped by the four purposes and looks to be in operation in all schools in Wales by 2022. (Donaldson, 2015).



History of Education

1870 - All children up to the age of 13 were provided with education. Before this only children living in middle class, prosperous families were benefitting from education.

1944 - Introduction of the first Education Act also known as the Butler Act. This Act made radical changes to both England and Wales.

1988 - The Reformed Education Act of 1988 was seen as the most important education legislation since 1944. The Act introduced the National Curriculum, a curriculum which was created to boost the social and economic demands of society.

1992 - The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world. All UN members except for the United States have ratified the convention. The convention came into force in the UK in 1992. This treaty has significantly influenced our education system, removing barriers and creating opportunities for all children to excel. (Unison).



The Hidden Curriculum refers to the unwritten, unarticulated, unofficial rules which are unintentionally taught through school. Phillip W Jackson (1968) was one of the original theorists who explored the Hidden Curriculum. Jackson was an influential leader in the field of education. He became profoundly concerned about the responsibility school's hold on securing child development and success. 'He believed in creating school experiences that provide children access to wonderful lives' (Abowd, 2015). Jackson's work greatly deepened our understanding on how norms and values play a vital aspect of teaching and learning.

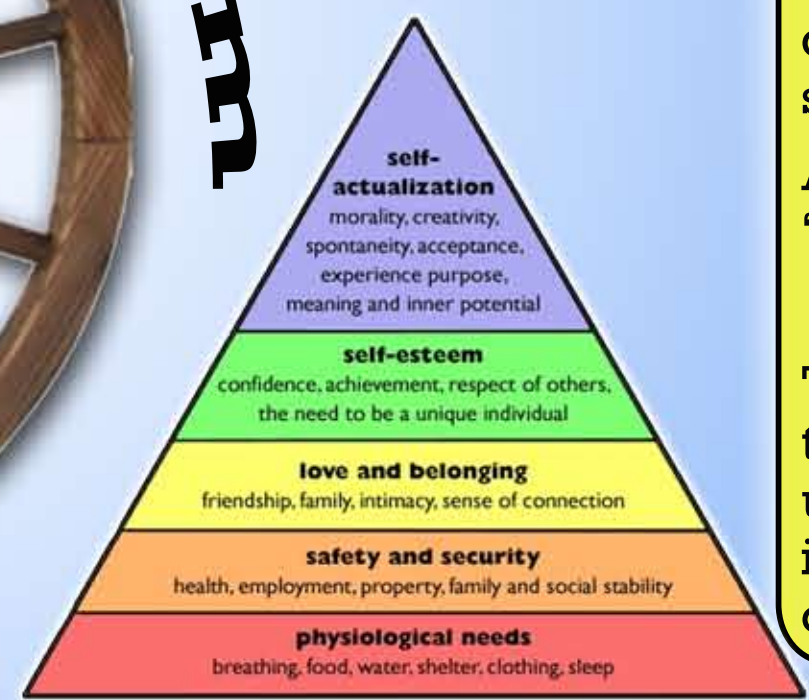


Functionalists 'The functionalist perspective view society as a system where interconnected parts function in relation to an intergrated whole. Functionalism depends on the idea that social systems are significantly determined by fundamental human need' (Bartlett & Burton, 2012, p.15). Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) a Functionalist Sociologist suggested the Hidden Curriculum instills a sense of social solidarity between groups of individuals and therefore 'school is the only institution capable of preparing children for membership in wider society' (Thompson. 2017).



VS

Marxists Marxists believed that the Hidden Curriculum is engrained in our educational system to serve our political system and enhance law and order and subsequently creates inequalities within our educational system and wider society. According to Bowles and Gintis (1976) 'It helps to produce a subservient workforce of critical, passive and docile workers' (Thompson, 2017). Their Correspondence Principle suggests the norms and values which are taught unexplicitly through education will make it simple for future employers to exploit our students. It enhances capitalism.



Advantages	Disadvantages
- Provides the core values and skills for life-long learning - Helps maintain law and order, enhances the political system and supports the education system - The Hidden Curriculum positively impacts pupil behaviour by teaching them how to respect and obey hierachy	- Segregates students in categories - Lack of consistency in the educaion system. Teachers are not directly taught how to imbed these lessons into the curriculum. This often leads to confusion and poor behaviour - Demonstrates a passive approach to learning which hinders individuality and prevents divergent thinking

Examples of the Hidden Curriculum which encompass our education system:

- School bell-** Schools impose a series of bells to announce important times of the day for example the start and end of lessons, breaktimes to develop key skills such as punctuality and organisation, It provides structure to maximise pupil engagement.
- Raising a hand-** This simple gesture can signal to a teacher that a child has something to add or a question to ask. It encourages turn taking, limits unnecessary volumes of noise and prevents escalation of behavioural issues.
- School uniform-** Removes inequalities within educational systems. When children wear a uniform it encourages them to obey the rules and procedures. Uniform removes judgemental perspectives within an environment.
- Standing to attention** - This tool is used to encourage students to acknowledge authority in the workplace. Students are reinforced from a very young age to respect peers, their elders and obey a series of commands from their teachers.
- Environment-** A school environment plays a significant role in the Hidden Curriculum. Here are some examples of measures which can enhance learning outcomes:
 - Organised classrooms
 - Seating plans
 - Vibrant display boards.