

COUNCIL: 24 JUNE 2021

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:

Schools Update

Since the return to full-time, face-to-face education following Easter, schools have continued to put appropriate mitigations in place to ensure Covid safe environments for pupils and staff. They have continued to be supported by Health and Safety teams and officers from the Education directorate. To build greater confidence in the system, all schools have had Lateral Flow Device tests available to staff and pupils in Year 7 and above to use regularly. Cardiff schools have had some of the highest usage of testing across Wales, with very low levels of positive results leading to a PCR test. From positive cases pre-lockdown being over 50 cases per day, Cardiff schools have had around 73 cases in total since Easter.

Through a weekly head teacher newsletter, updated guidance and advice is shared with schools so that they can develop daily operations appropriately. The Council is continuing to work with Welsh Government and are looking at what guidance will be in place for school operations for the new term in September 2021.

Qualifications Assessment Arrangements 2021

Last month, Qualification Wales published information for centres on the Centre Review & Appeals process in summer 2021 for the majority of Level 2 and 3 qualifications. The document provides further information about how appeals will work this year. WJEC has also sent its appeals guidance to schools via their secure website.

This year, learners can request that their school or college review their provisional centre determined grade if they believe an error has been made in the determination of their grade (Stage 1). Learners must briefly explain why they believe there has been an error when asking for a centre review.

Stage 2 of the process will be undertaken by WJEC after results day in August 2021. They will check whether the judgement that the centre has made is unreasonable and/or if a procedural error has been made.

Stage 3 is an Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS) from Qualifications Wales. The EPRS checks whether WJEC has followed the required procedures in how it considered the appeal.

The approach to appeals has also been considered carefully by the Design, Delivery and Advisory Group, who, as school heads and college leaders, are aware of the implications for workload and have balanced this against the need for an effective process for learners.

The following key information is included within the Centre Reviews & Appeals guidance document:

- The centre review is an opportunity for learners to request a review where they consider an error has been made in the determination of their grade – the focus is on the overall grade, not on the marking of individual assessments. There is no expectation that centres re-mark assessments.
- The centre review is an opportunity for the school or college to check they have not made an error in the determination of the grade.
- Learners should briefly explain the nature of the error when requesting a centre review. WJEC will provide templates for centres and learners to use.
- The centre review is not an opportunity for learners to try and improve grades that have been determined fairly in accordance with the centre's assessment and quality assurance processes and are supported by the evidence and the decision-making record.
- A stage 2 appeal to WJEC can be made after completion of the centre review if the learner still believes there has been a procedural error or that the grade is unreasonable.
- WJEC will only uphold an appeal on the grounds of unreasonable academic judgement at Stage 2 if it is well outside the bounds of reasonable academic judgement and that the evidence cannot reasonably support the grade.

Grades can go up, down or stay the same following the centre review and appeal.

The WJEC has also published a guide for students regarding the assessment process for 2021, including information to support learners' understanding of the appeals process that complements the [Information for learners](#) provided on the Qualification Wales website.

Last month, the Central South Consortium and the Secondary Head Teachers Group facilitated centre-to-centre discussions with a member of the Design Delivery and Advisory Group to highlight the implications of the appeals guidance.

Summer of Smiles

As part of the recovery plans for the city, children and young people from across Cardiff will be able to take part in a summer festival called 'Summer of Smiles'. This city-wide programme is being developed by the Child Friendly City team and starts with the takeover of Churchill Way, which will be turned into a Playscape from June until August 2021.

The main focus of the Summer of Smiles will be to help children and young people emerge from Covid-19 lockdown and socialise and reconnect with the wider world. We want to say thank you for all their sacrifices made over the last 15 months.

Over 40 delivery partners will provide a wide range of activities and experiences across the school holiday period. This includes a three-week festival on City Hall Lawn and community programme across the city focusing on arts, culture, sports, tech and family fun. A full programme of activities will be published on 5 July 2021.

Cardiff Youth Service Provision – Summer 2021

As part of the Summer Programme, each neighbourhood team will be providing exciting and engaging programmes of activities for young people across the city aged 11-25. These will consist of:

- Centre-based youth clubs for juniors and seniors;
- Activities including arts, cooking, pool, music, performance, garden projects, sports, challenges and digital;
- Outdoor activities/trips such as mountain biking, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme walks/expeditions and visits to Cardiff International White Water and Storey Arms;
- Summer Transition programme – ongoing youth mentoring support for Year 11 leavers, as well as weekly drop-in sessions; and
- Courses/skills building (e.g. construction, bike maintenance, independent living skills).

A Summer Roadshow will also be taking place, consisting of a number of events in communities across the city that aim to increase the reach of youth support services. Each event will bring partners together, including Youth Innovation Grant providers and Youth Action Group partners, within a locality to engage young people in exciting and fun activities. Activities and partners will be identified by the needs of young people within the local communities, but will include arts, sports, bike maintenance, health & well-being, issue-based creative and digital sessions. Each event will celebrate and promote the impact and benefits of youth work in a community.

In addition, 'pop-up' youth provision will increase the youth support work on offer within identified areas across the city, including:

- Weekly 'girls only' youth provision in Grangetown, aiming to build self-esteem, confidence, improve opportunities and experiences;
- Weekly Gaming Club in Riverside, starting in summer 2021;
- Weekly twilight provision from 3pm-6pm in identified areas of Ely & Caerau;
- Junior provision for young people aged 11-13 years in Llanrumney; and
- Additional offer to Youth Action Groups throughout the year for engagement events – expressions of interest are welcomed.

Open Your Eyes Week 2021

Year 5 and 6 pupils in schools across the city have had their eyes opened to exciting opportunities in the world of work this week as Open Your Eyes is delivered to 175 classes (approximately 4,800 pupils) across the city. Transport for Wales, Microsoft, South Wales Fire & Rescue, Screen Alliance Wales and Virgin Money are taking part in the initiative, which is co-ordinated by Cardiff Commitment and seeks to inspire children and ignite their interest in career opportunities for the future in various different industries.

Open Your Eyes Week has been held in schools for a number of years, but this is the second time the initiative has moved into the virtual arena, following a successful pilot with St Teilo's High School in February 2021. The virtual shift has enabled even more children than before to be involved. Sessions are taking place every morning and afternoon throughout the week and are being delivered through the medium of English and Welsh.

School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP)

The multi-award winning school holiday enrichment programme (SHEP), known as 'Food and Fun', continues to expand with 29 schools in Cardiff (see details below) delivering the programme this summer. This year, SHEP has been extended to include communities beyond the traditionally Welsh Government funded targeted areas.

This will be the sixth year of the SHEP Food and Fun programme in Cardiff. Since it was developed by the Cardiff SHEP team in 2015, adopted by Welsh Government in 2016 and rolled out across Wales in 2017, it has been used as an example of best practice across the UK. Wales is now recognised as having the most advanced holiday provision in the UK.

I was pleased to open a recent virtual Food and Fun stakeholder meeting to plan this year's programme, which was attended by over 100 school staff and partner organisations. Partner organisations will be providing a range of enrichment activities, as well as each child enjoying at least one hour of physical activity, a healthy breakfast & lunch, and nutrition and food sessions each day, all delivered in a fun, safe and friendly environment.

SHEP schools include:

Primary Schools	
1	Baden Powell Primary School
2	Birchgrove Primary School (SHEP+)
3	Bryn Celyn Primary School
4	Coed Glas Primary School
5	Fairwater Primary School
6	Herbert Thompson Primary School
7	Meadowlane Primary School
8	Millbank Primary School
9	Ninian Park Primary School
10	Pencaerau Primary School
11	Pentrebanne Primary School
12	Pen-Y-Bryn Primary School
13	Severn Primary School
14	Springwood Primary School
15	St Alban's R.C Primary School
16	St John Lloyd R.C Primary School
17	St Mary The Virgin C.W Primary School
18	St Paul's C.W Primary School
19	Tongwynlais Primary School
20	Trelai Primary School

21	Windsor Clive Primary School
22	Ysgol Glan Morfa
23	Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau
Secondary Schools	
1	Cardiff West Community High School
2	Eastern High School
3	St Teilo's C.W High School
4	Ysgol Glantaf (SHEP+)
Special Schools	
1	Bryn y Deryn PRU
2	Greenhill School

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Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
17 June 2021