

FGCW calls for a Welsh Education Tax

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales has called on Welsh Government to bring all sectors together as part of a co-ordinated national mission to deliver education fit for the future. This should be funded through the creation of a Welsh Education Tax, directed towards the transition to the new Curriculum for Wales and provision for lifelong learning.

The specific recommendations are that Welsh Government should

-  Radically rethink qualifications at age 16, towards assessments that focus on diversity and are centred around pupils, not testing, reflecting the aspirations of the new Curriculum for Wales 2022.
-  Prioritise mental health and well-being education in the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales to help nurture a generation of emotionally resilient children.
-  Use taxation powers and the economic contract to incentivise entrepreneurs, large businesses, microbusinesses and Small and Medium Enterprises to work directly with schools as part of a Wales-wide programme.
-  Direct the new Commission for Tertiary Education and Research to produce a national vision for lifelong learning that helps Wales meet the national well-being goals. This should include development of a new Skills Framework for Wales to better match jobs to people and people to jobs.
-  Establish an intergenerational skills switch programme.
-  In collaboration with local education authorities, shift the focus towards prevention across schools in Wales to reduce the number of children excluded from school.
-  Increase teaching practitioners and support teachers to access continuous professional learning, including access to properly developed content and best practice approaches across and outside Wales, to maximise the potential of the new Curriculum for Wales.
-  Create a vision and plan to ensure Wales becomes the most eco-literate country in the world.
-  Create an action plan to develop the future skills needed to deliver public services in 2050.
-  Implement the recommendations of the Gender Equality Review with a particular focus on the implications of future trends as well as current challenges.