

Explanatory Memorandum to the Education (National Curriculum) (Foundation Stage) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2008

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Curriculum and Assessment Division of the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Standing Order 24.1.

Description

The National Curriculum for Wales was revised from 1 August 2008 and for the first time includes provisions for the Foundation Phase for 3-7 year olds. The Order gives legal effect to the *Framework for Children's Learning for 3-7 year olds in Wales* which sets out the areas of learning, desirable outcomes and educational programmes that children in the Foundation Phase should be taught.

Matters of special interest to the Subordinate Legislation Committee

This Order corrects an error in the Welsh version of the Education (National Curriculum) (Foundation stage) (Wales) Order 2008 reported on by the SLS Committee meeting of 15 July 2008 (SLC 177).

Legislative Background

The relevant legal powers are 102, 108(2) and 210 of the Education Act 2002. Those functions were conferred on the National Assembly for Wales and transferred to the Welsh Ministers under paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

These regulations are subject to the negative resolution procedure

Purpose and intended effect of the legislation.

The legislation specifies the coming into force dates for the Foundation Phase areas of learning, desirable outcomes and educational programmes

Implementation

The Order will ensure the smooth implementation of the Foundation Phase from September 2008 as announced in Plenary on 9 October 2007.

Consultation

No specific consultation was undertaken on the legislation but a large consultation was undertaken on the revised curriculum from 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007; the results of this formed the basis for the statement of 9 October 2007 to Plenary.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

The proposed Order imposes no additional costs or additional duties on schools or Local Authorities and no formal RIA has been undertaken.