



Ein cyf/Our ref OAQ(4)0452(ESK)

Aled Roberts AM  
National Assembly for Wales

25 September 2014

*Dear Aled*

I am writing to you in response to your question in Plenary on 17 September concerning the on-entry assessment to the Foundation Phase.

As part of "*Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan*", Welsh Government is developing a single overarching 0-7 assessment Framework which can be used to support children's progress, longitudinally, across the early years. As part of the Framework, Welsh Government is developing an on-entry assessment tool to the Foundation Phase which will provide practitioners with a consistent tool for assessing, tracking and monitoring child development through to the end of the Foundation Phase.

It was intended that the new on-entry assessment tool for the Foundation Phase would be introduced from September 2014. However, on 27 March I announced that it will be introduced from September 2015 to align with the statutory introduction of the revised Foundation Phase Areas of Learning for Language, Literacy and Communication Skills (LLCS) and for Mathematical Development (MD). The on-entry assessment will be dependent on the content of these two Areas of Learning, and therefore, it is essential that they align to ensure that the on-entry assessment, annual tracking and end of Phase reporting result in an accurate profile of learner progress. I attach a link to the Written Statement for your convenience:

[Welsh Government | Written Statement - Early Years Development and Assessment Framework](#)

The on-entry assessment tool is being developed with engagement from a range of key stakeholders from maintained and non-maintained settings to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose. In addition to supporting the monitoring and tracking of child development, the tool will also support the assessment of children with special educational needs. When the on-entry assessment to the Foundation Phase is introduced from September 2015, it will be accompanied by training and support in the summer term 2015.

For the start of this academic year, schools are expected to continue to use their existing arrangements for assessing children when they first enter the Foundation Phase to identify any potential developmental delays and provide a baseline from which their progressions across the phase can be charted.

Regards,

Huw

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills

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