Global Futures
a plan to improve and promote modern foreign languages in Wales 2015 - 2020
Introduction

David Heath – Curriculum Division, Welsh Government

John Pugsley – Curriculum Division, Welsh Government

Responsible for policy in relation to:

• All ‘non-core’ subjects
• The Basic Curriculum
• 14 – 19 Learning Pathways
• Welsh Baccalaureate
Background

Current MFL curriculum arrangements in Wales:

- Non-statutory in Key Stage 2
- **Statutory** in Key Stage 3
- Non-statutory in Key Stage 4
Background

The story up to March 2015:

• Take up of MFL at GCSE has been in decline in Wales for 10 years, similar to the rest of the UK.
• The Welsh Government funded CILT Cymru from 2002 – 2015 to deliver events, activities, web resources and training to improve the take up of MFL. This included a pilot project with Primary schools.
• In 2008, the Welsh Government published a non-statutory guidance framework for modern foreign languages at KS2.
• In 2011, the Welsh Government published ‘Supporting Triple Literacy’ guidance to support schools teach languages at KS2 and KS3.
Background

What are the reasons for low take up at KS4:

• “The low levels of appreciation of the value of languages by parents and pupils in particular is having an adverse effect on pupils seeing MFL as a serious subject for study” – Language Trends survey Wales 2015

• “The considerable benefits of bilingualism which Wales has at its disposal are not being fully exploited in schools to facilitate the learning of a third or fourth language” – Language Trends survey Wales 2015
Background

April 2015 onwards:

• The existing approach clearly was not working.

• The Minister for Education and Skills wanted a new vision to arrest and reverse the decline in the take-up of MFL.

• On 1 June 2015, the Minister for Education and Skills announced a new approach to supporting MFL in Wales:

  *Global Futures – a plan to improve and promote modern foreign languages in Wales*
Global Futures

Global Futures has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders, who are part of the Global Futures steering group:

- Teachers
- Regional Education Consortia in Wales
- Universities Wales
- Goethe-Institut
- Institut Francais
- Alliance Francaise
- Spanish Embassy Education Office
- Education Department of the Italian Consulate
- Confucius Institutes in Wales
- British Council
- Estyn
- Routes into Languages Cymru
- The Open University in Wales
- BBC Wales
Global Futures

Our vision

That all learners in Wales become global citizens, able to communicate effectively in other languages and to appreciate other cultures.

Our strategy

Is to encourage learners to extend their knowledge of other cultures by becoming ‘Bilingual plus 1’, that is studying English, Welsh and at least one modern foreign language from primary to examination level.

This is a five year plan which underpins Qualified for life, the education improvement plan for 3-19 year olds in Wales.
Global Futures

Our aims are:

• To increase the number of young people choosing to study modern foreign language subjects at Level 2 (GCSE level or equivalent), at Level 3 (A level or equivalent) and at higher education level,

• To improve the teaching and learning experience of modern foreign languages for learners from 7-19, with the intention of building towards a ‘bilingual plus 1’ system where the formal teaching of an MFL will begin at year 5,

• To maintain and improve on the attainment levels presently being achieved in modern foreign languages subjects.
Global Futures

Our strategic actions are:

1. Promote and raise the profile of modern foreign languages as an important subject not only at Level 2 but also as a longer term choice which can lead to exciting and valued career opportunities,

2. Build capacity and support for the professional development of the existing education workforce to deliver modern foreign languages effectively from year 5 onwards, enabling all learners to benefit from the ‘bilingual plus 1’ strategy,

3. Provide enhanced learning opportunities to engage and excite learners.
Global Futures

How will we achieve this:

• The plan is overseen by a Steering Group, chaired by Mr Glynn Downs, Head of MFL, Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales school.

• The Steering Group is overseeing delivery of the plan.

• Within each of the Strategic Actions is a sub-set of actions to be delivered in partnership with our key stakeholders.
Global Futures

What have we achieved so far:

• We have established school ‘centres of excellence’ in each of the 4 Regional Education Consortia.

• These schools will be responsible for delivering school-to-school support and coordinating training, resources and activities that will deliver against the Strategic Actions of Global Futures.

• Establishment of a mentoring scheme with Universities in Wales whereby undergraduates will work with schools to support learners and raise the profile and importance of MFL.
Global Futures

• Strong partnership working with the language institutes to draw on their knowledge, experience and expertise to enhance training opportunities for teachers and enhanced learning opportunities for learners.

Short-term actions:

• Develop a marketing and communication strategy – to be developed by learners, for learners.

• Enhanced use of digital technologies, supported by strong links with the Open University and BBC

• Review potential barriers to the take-up of MFL:
  
  - Option blocks
  - MFL Qualifications available
Global Futures

• MFL conference planned for Summer 2016, where teachers from across Wales will attend.
Global Futures

Looking further ahead

• ‘Bilingual plus one’ – our ambition for learners to study English, Welsh and at least one modern foreign language from Year 5 onwards.
Global Futures

Summary

• Clear Vision for MFL in Wales

• Strong partnership working with key stakeholders and joint ownership of the strategy

• MFL is important in Wales.
Global Futures

Contacts

David Heath – david.heath@wales.gsi.gov.uk

John Pugsley – john.pugsley@wales.gsi.gov.uk