

Report content for Scrutiny: Blaenau Gwent

Report Title: Outcomes 2019-2020: Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Introduction and Context

In response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the Welsh Government cancelled all statutory data collections that would have been due to take place in Summer 2020. This was initially announced in the Minister for Education's written statements of 18 March 2020 and 3 July 2020 and enacted in the Relaxation of School Reporting Requirements (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. The latest update is shown below. Welsh Government: School Performance Reporting Arrangements Important Update (10 August 2020).

Appendix 1: Welsh Government: School Performance Reporting Arrangements Important Update (10 August 2020)

<https://gov.wales/school-performance-reporting-arrangements-important-update-0>

As set out in Written Statements dated [18 March 2020](#) and [3 July 2020](#), the Minister for Education has announced changes to the publication of qualification awards data and performance measures due to coronavirus.

In addition, [The Relaxation of School Reporting Requirements \(Wales\) \(Coronavirus\) Regulations 2020](#) have been made to reduce burden on schools and local authorities for 2019/20.

What are the key points?

- We have suspended the calculation and publication of Key Stage 4 and legacy sixth form performance measures for the 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021 academic years.
- Qualification awards data will not be used to report on attainment outcomes at a school, local authority or regional consortium level and must not be used to hold schools to account for their learners' outcomes.
- Post-16 performance measures have also been suspended for 2019/20. We will consider the best approach for 2020 to 2021, in view of the range of providers and different types of programmes that are affected in different ways. The sector will be consulted, before any firm decision is taken, in order to consider what would be useful to help their own monitoring and quality assurance processes.
- There will be a direct impact on the usual data releases provided by the Welsh Government, with some releases suspended for one or both years and/or still to be determined for 2020 to 2021. You can find a table below showing what information, with provisional timings, will be released by the Welsh Government. Where activities are marked to continue for 2020/21 reporting, this is the planning assumption at the time of publication, which could be subject to change if these are affected by further disruption to school operations.

- All schools and post-16 providers will continue to be required to undertake effective self-evaluation to support continuous improvement. Our evaluation, improvement and accountability arrangements require consideration of a broad range of information relevant to a school’s own context when undertaking self-evaluation and identifying improvement priorities. This will involve schools, with support from local authorities and regional consortia, using the learner level information they have on attainment and other outcomes to reflect on and improve their existing arrangements.
- The Relaxation of School Reporting Requirements (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 came into force on 7 August 2020. These Regulations revoke one set of Regulations and amend a number of others, which place duties on headteachers, governing bodies and local authorities to produce pupil and school reports:

Regulations	Description of Regulations	Impact of Amending Regulations	Further details
The School Performance and Absence Targets (Wales) Regulations 2011	Require schools to set and publish targets which are agreed by local authorities.	Revoked	No longer required.
The Head Teachers’ Reports to Parents and Adult Pupils (Wales) Regulations 2011	Require headteachers to make a report available to all parents or adult pupils about the educational achievements of pupils, each school year.	Amended (to a “reasonable endeavours” basis)	Duties imposed on headteachers for reports relating to the 2019/20 school year are to be treated as discharged, if the headteacher has used reasonable endeavours to discharge the duty. The exception to “reasonable endeavours” is regulation 5(1) of the Reporting Regulations; the requirement to provide a school leaver’s report, which needs to remain an absolute duty, so that this cohort of learners are not disadvantaged this year.
The School Information (Wales) Regulations 2011	Require local authorities to publish a composite school prospectus and schools to publish their own individual prospectus, and	Amended	Provision made to exclude data on authorised and unauthorised absences in respect of pupils registered at the school in the 2019/20 school year from being published in any school prospectus.

	prescribes the school information that must be included		
The School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011	Require school governing bodies to produce an annual report, including information about school performance against published targets.	Amended	Modified the content of reports produced in relation to the 2019/20 academic year so that information may not be included in any school governors' report. The statutory duty for governing bodies to produce a report will remain. Information to be disapplied/excluded in relation to pupils registered at the school in the 2019/20 school year: *the most recent Summary of Secondary School Performance (SSSP); *the number of authorised and unauthorised absences in the school year; and *any information in relation to performance and absence targets, including improvements set by the governing body in respect of performance of learners, or for reducing the level of absence.
The School Performance Information (Wales) Regulations 2011	Provide for the reporting of teacher assessment and examination outcomes (from schools and governing bodies to local authorities and Welsh Ministers).	Amended	Removes the duties on governing bodies and local authorities to provide data to local authorities and Welsh Ministers, respectively, on teacher assessment outcomes and authorised or unauthorised absence for the pupils registered at schools in the 2019/20 school year.

Appendix 2: Definitions of the 5 Welsh Government Measures

The Capped 9 measure:

- Average of the scores for the best awards for all individual pupils in the cohort, capped at a specified volume of GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. In 2019, the interim measures version will remain capped at 9 GCSEs or equivalent.
- Three of the nine slots are for specific subjects and qualifications - one GCSE in size:
 - The best grade from any of the literature or first language Welsh or English GCSEs.
 - The best grade from either of the mathematics or mathematics – numeracy GCSEs.
 - The best grade from a science GCSE (currently this is limited to awards in the WJEC suite of science GCSE qualifications: biology, chemistry, physics, science (double award) applied science (double award) and applied science (single award))
- For each learner, the remaining six slots will reflect the points attached to their best six qualifications other than those awards that are contributing towards the subject-specific slots. There is no limit to the range of vocational qualifications that can contribute, to these none-subject specific slots.
- The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualification will count towards a non-subject-specific slot of the Capped 9 measure where it features in a pupil's best results.

The literacy measure:

- Average of the scores for all pupils in the cohort, taking the best grade from any of the literature or first language Welsh or English GCSEs awarded to a pupil.

The numeracy measure:

- Average of the scores for all pupils in the cohort, taking the best grade from either of the mathematics or mathematics – numeracy GCSEs awarded to a pupil.

The science measure:

- Average of the scores for all pupils in the cohort, taking the best grade from a science GCSE awarded to a learner (currently this is limited to awards in the WJEC suite of science GCSE qualifications available to learners: biology, chemistry, physics, science (double award) applied science (double award) and applied science (single award)).

The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate measure:

- Performance measure calculating the average of the scores for the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate awards for all pupils in the cohort, whether it is the Foundation (Level 1) or the National (Level 2) award.

Appendix 3: Results for A Level, AS, GCSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales – Summer 2020.

Provided as a separate .pdf document.

<https://qualificationswales.org/media/6483/gq-summer-overview-revised-4-september-eng.pdf>