

Education and Lifelong Learning

DFID's Enabling Effective Support Initiative

Education for Global Citizenship in Wales

Background and Summary

In 1999 the Department for International Development (DFID) published its strategy paper *Building Support for Development* which prioritises support for development education within the formal education system. As a first step an audit of development education resources available to the formal education sector was commissioned. This showed a wide and rich range of regional and national organisations providing development education resource support to the formal education sector across the UK. However the need for a more systematic approach to providing resources and organisational support on a national/regional basis was also recognised.

The next step for DFID was the Enabling Effective Support (EES) Initiative, designed to engage interested parties in supporting development education in schools. This process was piloted in Wales, and in a region of England, over a six month period from September 2000 and involved a range of participants from the statutory and voluntary sectors. There was general agreement on a number of key issues, including:

- to build on what has already been achieved and the good practice which many development education initiatives demonstrate
- to embrace other educational agendas and curriculum matters to fully integrate thinking about development education
- for a coalition strategy involving a range of partners including NGOs (including Development Education Centres) and structures within the education system
- to make effective use of other complementary initiatives and support structures which are available both locally, regionally and nationally
- for national policies and appropriate curriculum frameworks to support local development education work.
- for more effective dissemination of good practice and for new creative projects to make the most of the opportunities that are available for development education in schools

A direct outcome of EES consultations in Wales was the formation of the **Working Group on Global Citizenship**, convened jointly by the National Assembly for Wales and DFID. The overall objective of the Working Group is to provide specialist advice on policy and operational

issues necessary for promoting and supporting development education in Welsh schools, making recommendations to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning in the Assembly. The group is chaired by a representative from the National Assembly Training and Education Department. It also has representation from other organisations including Estyn, Teacher Education and Training providers, the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (ACCAC), Cyfanfyd, Central Bureau, and DFID.

Taking the Initiative Forward

Working on behalf of DFID and the National Assembly for Wales, Cyfanfyd has taken a strategic lead in providing a framework for moving this initiative forward in Wales. The first step was to engage with a broad cross-section of stakeholders at a Consultation meeting on December 10th. This well-attended event, and the concurrent research, will provide the basis for a Phase 2 proposal, currently under development. Initial signs indicate broad and strong support from both the statutory and voluntary sectors, and agreement on the need to establish national and regional co-ordinating fora.

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