

First World War Commemoration - Education Steering Group

**Meeting Note
Monday, 11 November 2013**

**Welsh Government Buildings
Aberystwyth**

Attendees

[NLW Official 1], Senior Education Officer, National Library of Wales (NLW)
[St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School Official 1], St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School
[Cornist Park CP School Official 1], Cornist Park CP School
[Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan Official 1], Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan
[Ysgol Tryfan Official 1], Ysgol Tryfan
[Ysgo Bro Myrddin Official 1], Ysgo Bro Myrddin
[History Subject Expert Official 1] – History Subject Expert

Welsh Government

[WG Official 1], School Curriculum Branch
[WG Official 2], School Curriculum Branch

Apologies

[St Cyres School Official 1], St Cyres School
[Swansea University Official 1], History and Classics, Swansea University

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 [WG Official 1] welcomed members and the role of the group in supporting the First World War Education Programme in Wales.

2. Education Announcement

2.1 [WG Official 1] updated the group on the progress since the last meeting in June in which the group had provided a clear steer that resources should be developed based on the National Library Wales' proposal and that they should be bilingual and tailor made for schools in Wales. An 'app' - 'A Welsh guide to the battlefields' should also be included in the education programme.

2.2 [WG Official 1] confirmed that this had been taken on board following a submission to the Minister for Education and Skills (MfES) in October. The proposal submitted by the NLW, to develop bilingual resources and a 'Welsh Guide to the Battlefield' app and an award of funding for each secondary school in Wales had been approved.

2.3 [WG Official 1] confirmed that a total of £850,000 has been agreed and that there is no further funding available for the education programme from DfES.

3. The National Library of Wales (NLW)

3.1 [NLW Official 1] made the group aware of the JISC funded wider digitalisation project that had been undertaken by the NLW, which is being launched in Merthyr College on 28th November 2013. [NLW Official 1] outlined the NLW education proposal and circulated the key principles for the development of resources and a 'Welsh Guide to the Battlefield' app, which are attached for reference.

3.2 [NLW Official 1] informed that group that he wanted to get a steer from the group on the proposed publication schedule of the proposed resources and the formats for schools in terms of formats

3.3 The following points were raised, by the group;

- As there are such a wide range of resources available there was a need to provide access to an overview of the war through selected illustrative materials; and also to create a bank of evidence which will allow pupils to investigate life in Wales in 1914, and throughout the war;
- More urgent priority should be given to aspects connected to the end of the war due to the significance of these events. [NLW Official 1] will consider how best to manage this, either in the overview or by moving the production forward;
- The materials needed key questions to guide the use of the materials, and all materials should be as clearly labelled and signposted as clear as possible to maximise usage by all departments not just history. There was a strong desire to incorporate the LNF throughout learning activities, to make explicit to teachers opportunities to further pupils learning in this way. There was a request for lesson starters and recaps and a discussion about creating a bank of these using the sources;
- The impact of Irish Nationalism on Wales and events in Ireland 1916-1919 were also discussed as an opportunity for pupils to gain an historic understanding of this issue and the position of Northern Ireland in the UK and a consideration about how it impacts on Wales.

3.4 It was agreed that the NLW should use as many formats as possible e.g. pdf ppt iBook's etc. Hardcopies will have to be downloaded from the website. Accessing the resources was also discussed. It was hoped that school will put links on their own websites/moodles as well as the resources being available on HWB and the cofio website.

3.5 HWB content manager is aware of the programme and materials will be available to teachers through HWB.

3.6 It was felt that standalone and connected activities should be "suggested" for the resources.

Battlefields App

3.7 [NLW Official 1] confirmed that the app will be ready before Easter 2015. Some suggestions included:

- Different suggested itineraries for 1/2/3/ day visits.
- A tour-guide 'escort' style audio clip should be included
- Highlighting to users the benefits of downloading application before their visit to save on international roaming charges.
- Highlighting the role of Welsh coal miners in creating tunnels and the part played by the South Wales Borders at the Battle of the Somme.

3.8 [WG Official 1] raised the issue of a proposed 'app' that is being considered by the National Library and the Navy. It was confirmed that this is a separate proposal, and teachers agreed there should be no change of scope to include any other functionality to the 'Welsh Guide to the Battlefields' app.

4. Grant of £1000 to Schools

4.1 It was suggested the grant would be promoted through DYSG/LAs and consortia from January.

4.2 The group looked at the proposed format for the application form of the grant and felt it was not too onerous on teachers, one primary colleague commented she had to provide far more detail in order to secure much smaller amounts.

4.3 It was felt that there was a wide enough range of activities suggested to schools.

4.4 There was some discussion about how strongly it should be suggested that secondary schools share with primary feeder schools. It was felt that for some secondary schools this would be straightforward and very desirable whereas for others (e.g. those with 20+ feeders) it could be rather complicated and may put them off applying for the grant. It was agreed that the wording in the forms should be amended to reflect this.

4.5 It was also felt unnecessary to ask for digitalised outcomes, just outcomes that could be shared.

5. AOB

5.1 [NLW Official 1] asked for a volunteer to work with the NLW on the project board. [Ysgol Bro Myrddin Official 1] volunteered.

5.2 [WG Official 1] thanked everyone for attending and discussed the location and time of the next meeting. It was agreed that it would be in Aberystwyth once [NLW Official 1] had materials to discuss with the steering group.