Independent review of assessment and the National Curriculum – Wales

BMA Cymru Wales is grateful for the opportunity to respond to Professor Graham Donaldson’s call for evidence as part of his review of the National Curriculum and assessment arrangements for Wales.

The BMA represents doctors from all branches of medicine all over the UK; and has a total membership of over 150,000 including more than 3,000 members overseas and over 19,000 medical student members. It is the largest voluntary professional association of doctors in the UK, which speaks for doctors at home and abroad, and is also an independent trade union. BMA Cymru Wales represents some 7,000 members in Wales from every branch of the medical profession.

Whilst we do not feel able to respond to the specific questions posed in the consultation document, we would like to put forward the view that the following should be incorporated within the curriculum:

- The teaching of training in emergency life support skills as part of a community resuscitation programme.
- The teaching of first aid.
- Sex and relationship education (SRE) which:
  - is delivered to a national standard;
  - incorporates contraception and how it may be accessed;
  - incorporates sexually transmitted infections, their transmission and prevention, and how to access treatment services;
  - is delivered by specialist SRE teachers; and
  - begins at primary school entry.
- An appropriate physical education curriculum that ensures children achieve basic movement skills on which to build regular exercise.
- The promotion of children’s health by prioritising the importance of health, diet and nutrition.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney Berman
Senior Policy Executive