

## New IPC Cross-Reference Document for Welsh National Curriculum

A comprehensive IPC Cross-Reference document for Key Stage 2 of the Welsh National Curriculum is now available to all IPC member schools in Wales.

The new Cross-Reference document identifies the range and skills in individual Welsh National Curriculum subjects that are covered by the IPC, giving teachers reassurance of rigour and coverage and providing evidence for inspections and self-reviews.

The IPC Cross-Reference document took four months to produce and involved the assistance of several deputy Headteachers from Newport who worked with the IPC team and acted as quality assurance throughout the project. Those involved were Emma Nolan from Maindee Primary, Catherine

Place and Claire Williams from Glan Usk Primary, and Leslie James from St. Andrews Junior School. Sincere thanks go to these teachers and their schools for the commitment they gave in the production of the Cross-Reference document which will benefit all IPC schools in Wales.

"In the early stages of the IPC, staff need to see where the IPC fits with the Welsh Curriculum and where it doesn't so that they know the gaps they need to fill," says Emma Nolan, deputy head of Maindee Primary School. "This document will act as a security blanket, giving schools and teachers the confidence that they need in the IPC."

The Cross-Reference document for Wales is now available on the IPC Members' Lounge of the IPC website.

## Twenty-Eight Schools throughout Wales now Learning with the IPC

Three years ago, Albert Primary School in Penarth, South Wales became the first school in Wales to deliver the Welsh National Curriculum through the internationally-minded approach of the IPC.

"We knew we were taking a gamble because it was a move away from what everyone else was doing," says Headteacher Huw Jones. "But all the right elements were there; the right foundations for preparing our children for the next stage in their learning, a skills-based approach, and a far better global perspective. Confidence in your curriculum is critical for the success of your children, of your staff and of your whole school and I know we made the right move. It's spot on and our children are proof of that."

Since 2006, 27 other schools around Wales have joined Albert Primary with their selection of the IPC including Gors Community school in Swansea. "Our discovery of the IPC came at just the right time for us," says Headteacher Keith Atkins. "We were trying to find a skills-based curriculum that met the new Welsh Assembly Government's revised dimension. Lots and lots of schools in Wales were struggling to achieve this at the time and

for us the IPC was the answer." In addition, explains Keith: "Gors is located in a socially deprived area and we knew that we had to do something to address our children's ability to think creatively. Many of our children simply don't have a wide range of experiences at home, some have very limited dialogue within their families, some are even encouraged not to think. We recognised that we needed to compensate through their education."

This September, Tenby Junior School which has a Welsh unit attached to the school, introduced the IPC. "We're really enjoying the IPC," says Headteacher Jan Llewellyn. "The teachers love the fact that it's ready-made by experts and that the teaching frameworks are so supportive for them. They love the new ideas and the fact that it links so well with the Welsh Curriculum. However, there are so many other things that we have to fit into the curriculum, such as language, numeracy and RE, that the units are taking longer than suggested." The advice from the IPC regarding this is not to worry. "The unit lengths indicated in the teaching frameworks are just a guide," says IPC Membership Director Janice Ireland. "The important thing is to ensure that you are **(continued overleaf)**

## May Conference for Welsh Schools

The first Welsh IPC Conference will take place on May 21st 2010 at the brand new Glan Usk primary school building in Newport. All Welsh IPC schools are welcome and encouraged to attend. Schools from the following Local Authorities can book directly through the Newport CPD website: Newport, Torfaen, Monmouth, Cardiff and Blaenau Gwent. Schools from other Local Authorities should contact Kate Olufsen at [kate.olufsen@newport.gov.uk](mailto:kate.olufsen@newport.gov.uk)

Organised by Gareth Coombes, Leading School Improvement Advisor for Newport Local Authority, the conference will include a range of learning workshops including:

- New to the IPC
- Leading the IPC in your school
- International-Mindedness plus a range of courses specific to the Welsh orders including:
- Implementing IPC to deliver Curriculum Cymreig,
- Implementing IPC and developing links with Literacy and Numeracy in Wales
- Implementing IPC and the pupil's voice.

The conference will also be an ideal venue to share questions and best practise with other teachers, leaders, Welsh advisors and members of the IPC support team.

"It will be the chance to see outcomes of the IPC 18 months on since its initial introduction at Glan Usk," says Gareth Coombes.

"Children from the school will be talking about and showing off their IPC learning and you can't get more honest than that!" he says. Headteacher at Glan Usk, Jeff Beecher says "We are absolutely delighted to be hosting the first ever Wales IPC conference. It could not have come at a better time for us. We will be eager to show off our new school and to demonstrate the benefits of the IPC to all our visitors."

The conference costs £30 per delegate including lunch and coffee. Further details about the conference will be available on the IPC website.

IPC would like to thank Newport Local Authority, especially Gareth Coombes, and Glan Usk primary school for the support, planning and energy that have gone into planning what is hoped to be a very stimulating first conference for Wales.

**(Twenty-Eight Schools continued)** achieving the necessary coverage which the new Cross-Reference document for Wales will help you to identify. Then, if you want to make a unit last half as long or, indeed twice as long, that is absolutely fine. The IPC is designed to give you the flexibility and the ownership to make it fit your school and your children."

At Albert Primary in Penarth, IPC Coordinator and Year 4 teacher Ceri Hawkins says "It's not a straight-jacket and that's why

we love it! We look at the tasks, look at our children and our local community, look at our own personal experiences that we can draw upon and then interpret the individual learning tasks accordingly. Within a short amount of time you start tuning into your own ideas and how to develop your IPC tasks to make them your own but the framework is always there to guide you. It just gets better and better with time as you build up your experiences and come up with more ideas, resources and links."

## Welsh Teachers Create Ryder Cup Unit

A group of Newport schools are, right now, in the process of developing learning tasks which will form the content for a new IPC unit on the theme of the Ryder Cup.

The Golf tournament—the fourth largest watched sporting event in the world—will be hosted by Newport, Wales in October 2010.

Gareth Coombes, Leading School Improvement Advisor for Newport Local Authority is heading up the Ryder Cup unit development. "This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to utilise the benefits of a major worldwide sporting event happening right within our community," he says. "...this special event lends itself to cross-curricular themes which help to bring learning to life and create real relevance for developing key skills."

Learning tasks will relate to travelling to the

Ryder Cup, the debate of equality within the sport of golf, the environmental impact of golf as a global connector, event coordination and mascots. "We're capturing the moment," continues Gareth, "using the event as a conduit for real life learning that children throughout Wales will take real ownership in. This is a great opportunity to make the most of our community in an innovative way. This will be a legacy from Newport, Wales and will be the first time in the history of the event that learning has been linked in such a way."

The IPC Ryder Cup unit will follow the same learning process as all IPC units of work with an Entry Point, Knowledge Harvest, range of Learning Tasks, Exit Point and cross-curricular approach. The new unit is due for release in February 2010. Non-IPC schools will be able to receive a special copy of the Ryder Cup unit by contacting the IPC at 020 7531 9696.

## The IPC on Teachers TV

A new programme about the IPC has been filmed by Teachers TV and will be on our television screens in the New Year. In the meantime, IPC member schools can watch a special preview showing of the programme, which features an IPC school in Kingstanding, Birmingham, on the Teachers TV website. The link to view the programme is [www.teachers.tv/video/37451](http://www.teachers.tv/video/37451)

The programme focuses closely on how the IPC is helping Warren Farm primary school build aspiration amongst second generation unemployed families and how it's playing a big part in promoting community cohesion.

## IPC at Children's Hospital Wales

IPC recently donated a range of units to the hospital school at the Children's Hospital for Wales in Cardiff. The Welsh school is one of a number of hospital schools throughout the UK that the IPC is working with to provide cross-curricular, skills-based learning to children during their stays.

A network is now being forged between the hospitals so that they can share IPC experiences and learning situations unique to the short-term, individual learning provision required. "It's wonderful to receive this support," says Kris Ramsden, a teacher at Children's Hospital Wales.

## The IPC Surgery: Your Questions

Janice Ireland is the IPC Membership Director. She was a teacher and Head of Primary at the International School of the Hague where she taught and led the IPC for several years before joining the IPC support team. Janice has all the answers to everything you need to know about the IPC. Here she answers some of the questions frequently asked by Welsh schools:

### Q. How is the History content of the curriculum for Wales covered?

A. Because the IPC is a skills based curriculum, it is very easy to adapt and bring in the specific content that each year group has to cover in Wales. For example, the Archaeology unit in MP2 suggests that children are introduced to the Egyptians. Many schools in Wales use this theme to introduce the Romans; a period KS2 children have to study in Wales. The children become historians and research the Romans by using this unit and recording their findings in a variety of ways. Our new KS2 Cross-Reference document lists a range of IPC units that can be used to cover specific periods and topics in History.

### Q. How do schools in Wales approach the Home and Host country aspect of the IPC?

A. Schools in Wales are linking Curriculum Cymreig with the IPC and using Home and 'Comparison Country' instead of Home and Host Country. We've also made reference to this in the Cross-Reference document for Wales. Some schools look at Welsh Culture and Heritage and contrast it with a country which links well with their IPC theme. For example, many schools use the Food and Farming unit in MP2 to look at changes in homes, food, clothing and jobs in Wales since the 1950's and draw comparisons with another country. We recently saw a wonderful example of this in the learning journals of Maindee primary school where the children had compared Wales and China.

### Q. Can you use the IPC to teach Welsh?

A. More and more schools that teach Mother Tongue or a Modern Foreign Language are using the IPC to teach vocabulary. It is a good idea to introduce key Welsh vocabulary related to a theme when the children are introduced to the Big Picture and encourage them to use these words and phrases incidentally during IPC lessons. Some schools are creating IPC learning displays in dual languages that the children refer to in both Welsh and IPC lessons.

The IPC Blog on the Members Lounge is the place to ask any questions about the IPC or call us at 020 7531 9696.

*"We are making our curriculum journey with the IPC a very thoughtful one. We see it as an ongoing development which will take three or four years to master. The IPC Self-Review is acting as our action plan; giving us clear aims on which to build and develop. It's a very exciting journey."*

Jeff Beecher, Headteacher, Glan Usk primary school, Newport, Wales