



# esdgc schools net

*Update ~ March 2011*

**PLEASE  
CIRCULATE  
&  
SIGN UP**

***Sign up for April 11th ... a network to support the development of ESDGC professional learning communities***

The Network Conference ~ Monday 11th April will launch a new network structure, new school led projects and consult about our proposals to DFID.

This 'Update' features those plans and asks questions such as:

- what role should we be aiming for?
  - what long-term goals?
- how do we make the needs of learners the central ESDGC challenge?
- how do we contribute to raising standards?

**New shoots ~ fresh thinking ~ grow your own**



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Newsletter ~  
*rhwydwaith ysgolion ADCDF*  
*ESDGC schools network*



## An overview ~

This 'Update' takes the theme: "*new shoots ~ fresh thinking ~ grow your own*" to sum up the realities as we see them. Our plans have had to take a good pruning but our consultations have demonstrated that there is much fresh thinking in schools that offers the hope of new shoots.

Consultation has confirmed a priority focusing firstly on learners and the quality of the esdgc they experience ... and secondly on leadership from schools.

It has also strengthened the idea that the network is about enabling you "to grow your own esdgc", facilitating the creativity needed and building an esdgc community that adds value to initiative in schools, LAs and nationally.

Funding is still a key issue but as our report '**The first two terms**' suggested "it is subsidiary to clarifying our role and building a plan that attracts practitioner support". Any funding we attract will enable specific projects.


Finally there is concern that ESDGC may slide as a political priority in Wales, a concern strengthened by what seems to be happening in England. It is therefore proposed that we seek ways to strengthen debate about its importance and the distinct opportunities it could offer to Wales.

### Proposed themes ~ Working Groups

- Starting global ~ Primary
- Connected learning ~ Secondary
- Inspiring Governors
- ESDGC & the Welsh dimension.
- Making it real ~ ESDGC & Out of classroom learning
- Learning about aid .... focus on development
- Wales learning for global future ... cross sector
- Global citizenship in the City [Cardiff]

**These themes offer a focus for new 'working groups' or sub-networks. We need to build the network based on solid work not "just networking". They also provide a focus for seeking funding.**

*Interested? ..... Please sign up*



A National Network Seminar will take place at  
The Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff  
**10.30 to 15.00 ~ Monday 11th April 2011**

## **Network Seminar ~**

**... developing ESDGC professional learning communities**

### **Building on aspirations ....**

**as Heads** ... *what I want esdgc to do for my school ... and what we offer to learners?*

**as learners** .... *what entitlement should we be seeking?*

**as Wales** .... *what should esdgc ideas contribute to a positive future? ... Building links between esdgc in school and that in the wider community, business and industry.*

### **Creative work >>> creative projects ...**

Priority areas for ESDGC teaching & learning strategies.

Facilitating ESDGC professional learning communities.

Supporting preparation for Estyn & the 'Estyn challenges'.

ESDGC, standards & the Pisa debate.

Supporting Governor ESDGC role.

Out of classroom learning.

The event will bring together teachers, ESDGC coordinators, heads and others from school senior management teams [both Primary & Secondary] as well as those from Estyn, LAs, NGOs and other organisations supporting ESDGC in schools.

***A programme to share ideas and inspiration, and to generate thinking about future plans.***

Places by invitation .... Please nominate people or yourself. Programme due soon ~ please ask

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**The seminar will launch  
~ network structure  
~ new projects**

**&**

**develop plans for  
school led projects**

**consult about proposals  
including those to DFID**

## **Ways of working ...**



- ❑ The PMG [management committee] appointed by Cyfanfyd will work with a new **Strategic Liaison Group** reflecting the experience and scope of the network. Nominations will be proposed at the seminar.
- ❑ Projects will be designed through partnerships. We will seek schools to take a lead role and co-ordinate with other participating schools.
- ❑ We propose that school based facilitators should be the keystone ... we will offer professional development opportunities to build up the enabling skills needed.

Wales did not do well against international standards highlighted by the PISA Report [Programme for International Student Assessment] . This is run by OECD [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development].

There has been much debate and new procedures in response. The question for us is ~ **what are the implications for ESDGC?**

## *PISA ~ a leaning challenge!*

A recent esdgc-schools net meeting considered the PISA findings and the implications for ESDGC. We developed a proposition that we share here .. to test it out, to see if this reflects the experiences of others in the network. If it does it might be valuable to schools if we built up a document profiling those experiences.

The nature of PISA is that it focuses on skills relating to higher order reading, moving beyond decoding and comprehending to inferring, cross referencing and synthesis, analysis, interpretation and application.

### **The proposition is that ESDGC:**

- ✓ offers motivation to learners and the opportunity to apply learning to real situations;
- ✓ provides a stimulus to connected learning ... enabling students to link work in a variety of curriculum areas;
- ✓ accesses complexity in a way that develops higher level skills;
- ✓ extends learner awareness and knowledge of themselves as global citizens and the value of learning

*Is this your experience?*

*Are these ideas we should develop further?*

*How do people in school view the PISA?*

## *In the pipeline ...*

Please let us know if you would like to be involved ...

- Plans for an ESDGC practitioner conference in July are being developed. We are seeking proposals on input from schools.
- Making it real ~ a new project supporting ESDGC out of classroom learning providers. We are seeking partners to share the lead.
- Working with Wales Eco Centre towards European Seminar in Cardiff on Learning & Renewable Energy. Some places available.
- Making the most of UN Year of Forests ... seeking a core group.

Also see Cyfanfyd website: [www.cyfanfyd.or.uk](http://www.cyfanfyd.or.uk)





We are in the process of negotiating work in partnership with DFID [Department for International Development] to develop a 3 year project focusing on the global learning aspects of ESDGC in Wales.

The timetable has changed to allow for a major Review of all DFID's UK work. The implications of this are not clear but it is proposed that we continue consultation to develop a plan in preparation for a bid later this year.

## ***ESDGC global learning project***

Thank you to all those that have helped shape plans to date ... it is far from assumed that they will lead to a successful bid but it is:

### **An opportunity for fresh thinking ...**

Now ESDGC policy in place backed by the inspection regime, it is on the school agenda and there is potential to support fresh thinking that:

- ❑ builds on what has been achieved ... is practitioner led;
- ❑ maximises number of young people able to access such experiences including those seen to have disadvantage;
- ❑ engages with the learning implications of globalisation, interdependence and core international issues such as aid;
- ❑ directly engages debates about development linked to the Millennium Development Goals and aspirations for international initiative post 2015;
- ❑ contributes to other strategies for change in schools to improve learning experiences.

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*to improve global learning quality and understanding of development within the context of ESDGC in Wales*

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### **Our last conference discussed key 'Estyn challenges'. This project would in particular seek to address:**

- ✓ **ESDGC integrated across the whole school curriculum** [and the need for in-depth knowledge about the issues];
  - ✓ **Clearly defined 'Global Citizenship';**
  - ✓ **Community and international partnerships are well developed** [and more effective use of them as a stimulus to teaching and learning strategies];
  - ✓ **Learners understand and apply knowledge of ESDGC to analyse a range of interpretations;**
  - ✓ **Challenge simplified or stereo-typical views of other societies.**
- ◇ Focus on learners and learning needs.
  - ◇ Objectives ... and clear goals within a three year timescale
  - ◇ Working partnership with education practitioners at all levels and those involved in development NGOs, other third sector activity and researching development for example in HE.
  - ◇ Building support from school leaders. Broker creativity ... and leadership opportunities.



The aims and structures of a renewed network will evolve as it becomes viable.  
At this stage we confirm ideas shared in the last edition of 'Update'.

## Back page ~ on aims

*esdgc schools net* is building a dynamic network ...  
of education practitioners from schools,  
those supporting schools and ITE as well as those involved with  
sustainable development and global citizenship issues through  
voluntary sector organisations, research or other ESDGC work.

### We aim ...

To broker mutual support in the school sector to enable  
approaches that engage learners in the challenges of ESDGC.

To engage with knowledge, up to date information and  
inspirational thinking about ESDGC issues and  
apply that to designing learning opportunities.

... and to share such work.

### We propose to give priority to strategies ...

- that offer added value to thinking about the professional learning communities approach featured in the SEF by making use of those principles in the design of all projects;
- that support schools in their development of ESDGC learning and curriculum planning in the context of Estyn Guidance on ESDGC and the CIF;
- that develop, in partnership with practitioners, ideas and practice that strengthens the contribution of global learning to all aspects of ESDGC ... and as part of that to develop a stronger Welsh dimension.



**SEF** ~ Schools Effectiveness Framework.

**CIF** ~ Common Inspection Framework.

**The role of the Network is to offer added value to what schools are doing, broker partnership across schools and to enable schools to take the lead. Plans have to change in the context of a funding climate but that makes us more aware of assets.**

**"Ideas, partnerships, clarity of role, energy of esdgc practitioners, the dynamic of schools ... they are our key assets"**