

## BSL Curriculum Meeting Record

### 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

Topic: EYFS-KS4 Curriculum Review

#### Updates from the BSL Community

##### ★ BSL GCSE DfE Consultation

In our last meeting, we shared our views to each question. Following our discussion notes, we submitted a group response from the BSL Curriculum Working Group to these:

- ★ BSL GCSE Assessment (Ofqual) – Deadline 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- ★ BSL GCSE Contents (DfE) – Deadline 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

##### ★ BSL Alliance

A summary provided by Lesley Reeves-Costi, Co-Headteacher via the SBC on the working of the BSL Alliance:

The aim of the Alliance is to collect evidence which can be used to demonstrate need/areas of action, ideally for the BSL Advisory Board which will report back to the Government. Exactly how the evidence will be collected and stored is yet to be decided. They have agreed on the priorities which are:

- ★ What are Deaf community experiences of interpreter shortages?
- ★ Who is providing early years interventions with (hearing) families of Deaf children? What interventions? Is it working? Where and why are there gaps?
- ★ What is the shape of the BSL teaching workforce across the country? Who is providing teaching? What teaching? Where? Where are there gaps? Why are there gaps?
- ★ Community support.

The next meeting is taking place in December and we should hear more thereafter.

##### ★ BSL Report 2022

“The British Sign Language (BSL) Act (2022) requires the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to publish a report on what ministerial departments have done to promote or facilitate the use of BSL in their communications with the general public.”

This is a report which tells us what the government is doing to promote the use of BSL in public. Accordingly, because of the Act, they need to provide a report every 3 years. (They have said in the report that they plan to provide a report every year for the next 5 years.)

The government released its first report on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 which gives an account of what the government has done between June 2022 to April 2023.

The report included: Reporting requirements for government departments; good practice and case studies by departments; and next steps.

In summary, as stated in the report: “this first report shows that although there are pockets of good practice, there is also scope to go further. This report therefore

represents a snapshot of activity to date, which will serve as a baseline from which the government should aim to improve.”

The report goes on to state that they now commit to the following:

- ★ Increase publication of data.
- ★ Take ministerial responsibility to improve BSL use.
- ★ Produce improvement plans in each department.
- ★ Issue internal guidance to civil servants.

The report is on the Gov.UK website and has a BSL version:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-british-sign-language-bsl-report-2022/the-british-sign-language-bsl-report-2022>

### **BSL Curriculum Contents**

We discussed the contents of the full BSL Curriculum, following national curriculum documents, we agreed to continue in this strand. We discussed whether to include further explanations e.g. timetabling; age groups; vocabulary and annexes.

All feedback has been noted, Catherine Drew will start working on the full curriculum and ensure these additions are included.

### **EYFS to KS4 Learning Outcomes**

We worked through each year group starting from Nursery up to Year 11. We looked through sections year-by-year to ensure there were lines of progression throughout and made final revisions to each document. These will now be typed and completed.

### **BSL Curriculum Launch**

We are launching on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023! We have started planning the launch and after drafting a programme, we anticipate the event to start at 1pm with registrations, networking, speeches and finishing with a BSL Cake by 7pm.

We talked through what would be taking place at the launch which follows a ‘conference’ approach of having speakers throughout the afternoon/evening with breaks. Breaks will include canapes and sweets ideally prepared by Deaf cooks/chefs.

Invitations including written letters will be going out by the end of September 2023, rsvp will be via Eventbrite and shared out to the public.

We will reach out to schools/organisations who may like to have a stall/exhibit at this event.

We will provide a goody bag with the BSL Curriculum logo and a copy of the BSL Curriculum in print – after this event, the curriculum will be on the Frank Barnes website for anyone to download in colour or black and white version.

We would like to include in the goody bag any items the working group schools/services would like to contribute for their marketing purposes e.g. business cards; brochures; pens etc. Lisa Smith will be in touch with the BSL Curriculum Working Group to discuss this further along with a deadline date for this.

We will be sending letters directly to various people inviting them to speak at the launch including the DfE and aiming for ministerial level speakers.

We would like to include in the programme of speakers, members of our working group. We would like a teacher from a primary school, a teacher from a secondary school to each talk about the impact of teaching from the BSL curriculum and how pupils have learnt so far – also we would like to show video clips of pupils signing as different examples from the curriculum. If you have video clips that you would like to share, please contact Catherine Drew and Lisa Smith.

With regards to the BSL Curriculum itself, the plan in the lead up to the launch is as follows:

- ★ September 2023 – Review Primary & Secondary Curriculum
- ★ October 2023 – Foreword/Illustrations/Full Curriculum
- ★ November 2023 – Proofread
- ★ December 2023 – LAUNCH – Roll Out

Links:

Our 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting update is on:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CxliMxgtWL4/>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/XtNnmGoVz-A>