

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF
THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF
THE RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY M. FALLAIZE**

Question 1

Does your Committee agree that it would be of benefit to the public and members of the States for it to publish the widest possible range of information about performance and standards in schools?

Answer 1

The Education Department publishes in its Annual Report a wide range of information about performance and standards in schools. It also publishes VSSE inspection reports. In its examination of future curriculum, qualifications and assessment policies and frameworks the Education Board will consider if the information released is the most beneficial and sufficient for the public.

Question 2

Does your Committee agree that the concept of value added should be measured and as far as possible value added scores should be published in a way which provides for a better understanding of the extent to which each school has fulfilled pupils' academic potential?

Answer 2

The Board agree that value added measures can be useful in analysing the achievement of individual students, groups of students or as a whole school indicator. Progress measures are published for our primary schools in our Annual Report. The Board will consider if and what progress measures should be published for secondary schools and our Post 16 providers as part of their development of policy on curriculum, qualifications and assessment.

Question 3

Does your Committee agree that MidYIS and/or YELLIS are appropriate tests to measure value added performance in secondary schools?

Answer 3

The Board agrees that MidYIS and YELLIS tests can be used as a value added measure in secondary schools but is not the only way of so doing. Other factors such as prior attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 are also relevant when considering targets for students and when measuring pupil progress.

Question 4

If not, what are the compelling arguments against MidYIS and/or YELLIS which have persuaded your Committee that it is unnecessary or undesirable to require schools in Guernsey to use them annually?

Answer 4

As stated in question 2 the Education Board will consider if and what progress measures should be published for secondary schools and our Post 16 providers as part of their development of policy on curriculum, qualifications and assessment. This will include consideration of the use of MidYIS and YELLIS.

Question 5

Which secondary schools in Guernsey currently use – and which currently do not use – MidYIS and/or YELLIS as value added measurements annually?

Answer 5

MidYIS, YELLIS, KS2 performance and other measures are used in a range of ways across our secondary schools. They are utilised to develop target grades for each student, to track progress and to plan intervention when necessary to enable the best chance of successful outcomes in examinations.

Question 6

Is your Committee prepared henceforth to incorporate MidYIS and/or YELLIS value added scores in the information which it publishes annually regarding standards and performance in each secondary school?

Answer 6

The Board has yet to discuss the use of progress data and value added measures at secondary level. It will therefore not be deciding policy in response to these rule 6 questions but in its forthcoming consideration of the curriculum, qualifications and assessment framework for Guernsey will include discussion on how school's track pupil progress and options for publishing further secondary school information.

Question 7

If not, what are the compelling arguments against publishing MidYIS and/or YELLIS value added scores – or at least an aggregate of such scores on a school-by-school basis – which have persuaded your Committee that it is unnecessary or undesirable to incorporate them in the measurements against which schools are judged publicly?

Answer 7

See Answer 6 above.

Date of receipt of the Question: 17th September 2013

Date of Reply: 30th September 2013