Six steps of curriculum design™

Designing a curriculum is not easy. It is a complicated process that needs to be carefully thought through and involves much strategic decision making. With over 2000 schools now using the Cornerstones Curriculum, we have identified six crucial steps of effective curriculum design. These steps can be used by any school including those wanting to design their curriculum from scratch and others wishing to review their existing curriculum.

Starting with 'Principles and purpose' and adding a bit of your own creative sparkle, follow our six steps to design or to refresh your curriculum.

After establishing its curriculum, a school will need to regularly review its **impact** on teaching and learning and make any adaptations or changes. It will help to consider the original curriculum principles and purposes when reviewing, and focus on a particular area for **development** in school.

For example

'How well is the curriculum helping children to progress in writing?

Schools need to identify the resources required to bring their curriculum to life and ensure its **coherence**. A good curriculum needs good quality resources. Resources include human resources, practical equipment, environments and teaching resources.

Principles and purpose Setting out the intent of

INTENT

your curriculum Review and

evaluate

Curriculum

Resources

Teaching narrative

design

Planning the delivery of your curriculum.

balance

Breadth and

Entitlement

and enrichment

Developing your pupil offer.

Developing the content of your curriculum.

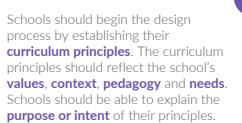
IMPLEMENTATION

After organising their long-term plans, teachers need to plot the **narrative of their projects**. A teaching narrative should be vibrant and cohesive. It should detail the **starting point** for each project, and explain how it will **develop**. This process creates a medium-term plan that can be used as a starting point for short-term plans if these are required.









'We believe in a broad and balanced curriculum where all subjects are valued. A broad and balanced curriculum will equip our children with a breadth of knowledge and skills in all areas of the curriculum.



After clarifying its principles and purpose, a school should set out its **pupil offer**. The pupil offer should explain how the school intends to enrich its curriculum with educational visits, extra-curricular activities and specific entitlements.

For example

'All children in our school are entitled to two educational visits a year.

Schools will need to arrange their curriculum content into a range of exciting themes and projects. A school will need to make strategic decisions about what it covers, how it covers it and in how much depth to achieve both breadth and balance. These choices and decisions create a school's curriculum structure or long-term plan.

How **Cornerstones** can help



The Four Cornerstones of Learning provide schools with a clear whole school pedagogy that they can embed and adapt to reflect their principles and purpose.



The Cornerstones Memorable **Experience Map** helps schools identify a range of relevant educational visits. Each Cornerstones project begins with a suggested **memorable experience** which adds to a school's pupil offer.



The Cornerstones Curriculum provides over 80 themed projects. All projects identify the **national** curriculum programmes of study and age-related skills.



The Cornerstones Coverage Checker and Gap Analysis helps schools check their curriculum coverage by showing schools which programmes of study are and are not covered by their curriculum design.



Schools can develop their medium-term plans by picking and choosing the most relevant activities from the **series of lessons** planned in the curriculum projects. They can map out their plans using the **medium-term** planning templates provided.



The **Cornerstones Hub** houses thousands of bespoke **teaching resources** to help schools deliver the content of the curriculum.

If you want help designing your curriculum then contact us to book a free online meeting with one of our experienced Curriculum Consultants.

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