

## Innovate with Curriculum

Your pack:

- **Disciplined curriculum innovation: Making a difference to learners**
- **A curriculum for the future: Young people consider the challenge**
- **Your school, your say: Influencing the future of your school (Primary and Secondary leaflets)**
- **Research Matters, Towards Learning-Focused School Improvement**
- **Sustainable development in action: A curriculum planning guide for schools**

### A Starting Point

1) *'The curriculum should be treasured. There should be real pride in our curriculum: the learning that the nation has decided to set before it's young. Teachers, parents, employers, the media and the public should all see the curriculum as something to embrace, support and celebrate. Most of all, young people should relish the opportunity for discovery and achievement that the curriculum offers.'*

Source: <http://curriculum.gcda.gov.uk/>

2) Where to begin:

Ask the following questions:

- What are our learners like now?
- Where could they be?
- Is our curriculum helping them to get there?

Think about:

- the components of your curriculum, such as lessons, learning outside the classroom and routines
- approaches to learning and assessment to ensure they are varied and are matched to learners' needs
- the type of experiences learners will need.

A well designed curriculum:

- is personalised for learners, focusing on their greatest needs, aspirations and interests
- uses time, staffing, space, resources and approaches to teaching, learning and assessment in ways most likely to meet the priorities
- is reviewed regularly to ensure it is having the desired impact on learners and their learning
- evolves in response to changes in learners.

Source: [Disciplined curriculum innovation: making a difference to learners](#)

3) In order to consider how curriculum innovation can lead to a modern and inspiring learning experience for young people, pupil participation is key:

*'Only by listening to their views will we succeed in building a curriculum that captures their imagination and their needs.'*

(Mick Waters, Director of Curriculum, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority)

Share the leaflet [Your school, your say: Influencing the future of your school \(Primary\)](#) or [Your school, your say: Influencing the future of your school \(Secondary\)](#) with your pupils. This includes:

- quotes from young people you can share with your pupils
- focused questions you can ask them
- key views that you can find out if they agree with
- suggestions of ways to find out what pupils think
- ideas for sharing pupil ideas within your school.

**Source:** [A curriculum for the future: Young people consider the challenge](#)

4) The move toward learning or curriculum focused school improvement is discussed by the International Network for School Improvement and concludes that:

*'Much school improvement to date has been working on the topsy turvy model that starts with the organisation and leadership of the school and then asks 'how do we drill down to the pupil level?' It is as though so much has been put in place on top of the pupils that we cannot reach them. They can remain as disaffected and disengaged as they ever were and their learning underdeveloped.'*

**Source:** Research Matters, Towards Learning-Focused School Improvement

5) In terms of developing a curriculum that equips pupils with relevant knowledge, skills and values a suggested focus is sustainable development and cross-curricular opportunities that this can offer. As well as schools having to embed this into their curriculum by 2020, this area is of particular interest to learners:

*'It's important to learn about helping the planet when you're young because we have big imaginations!'*

*'I'm much more confident now. I can see things changing and that I'm part of something big.'*

**Source:** [Sustainable development in action: A curriculum planning guide for schools](#)

See also:

[Education for sustainable development: improving schools – improving lives \(Ofsted, December, 2009\)](#)