

Digital resources supporting Curriculum & Instruction Design

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What is Curriculum Design?????

- Curriculum design is the intentional planning, organization, and design of learning strategies, processes, materials, and experiences towards defined learning and/or performance outcomes. Curriculum design can be said to be creating a holistic plan for the environments where learning happens.
- This entails considering the physical, digital, social, and psychological factors that define the spaces and places where people learn

Curriculum Design Cont'

- Curriculum design involves a form into which curriculum is cast or organized.
- Curriculum is generally organized through designs such as:
- Disciplines (e.g., mathematics, engineering, technology humanities, sciences);
- Fields (e.g., art, civics, design, home economics, industrial arts, social studies);

Curriculum Design Cont'

- Units (e.g., cycling; child labor; feminism, rythm & blues; mass media);
- Organizing Centers (e.g., activities, modules, minicourses, problems, processes, projects, tasks and competencies); or
- Personal Pursuits (e.g., aerobics, autobiography, cooking, bird hunting, playing football)

Steps in Curriculum Design

- 1. **Principles and purpose** (Intent of your Curriculum)
- Begin by establishing your curriculum principles.
- Your curriculum principles need to reflect your school's values, context, pedagogical approaches and needs.
- In essence, your principles should clarify the vision for your curriculum.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- 2. Entitlement and enrichment
- After clarifying your principles and purpose, you should set out your pupil entitlement (sometimes known as pupil offer).
- Your pupil entitlement should explain how you intend to broaden your curriculum with educational visits, extracurricular activities and other curriculum enrichment experiences.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- 3. **Breadth and balance** (Curated content:- choose, arrange, and present different items in order to get a particular effect)
- You now need to arrange your curriculum content into subject schemes. Begin by looking at the programmes of study and make careful choices about what you will teach, when and why.
- Decide which concepts and subject aspects your curriculum will cover and how they interconnect with other subjects.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- You'll then need to break these down into smaller component parts, which are the knowledge and skills objectives that provide building blocks for learning.
- These should be carefully sequenced, revisited and built upon through your curriculum.
- These decisions will eventually form your school's long-term curriculum plan.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- 4. **Teaching narrative** (Plan the delivery of your curriculum)
- After creating your long-term curriculum plan, you will need to provide contexts for delivering it.
- At Cornerstones, we do this using projects. For subjects like computer studies, the national curriculum sets out various contexts that must be covered, such as the role the silicon valley has played in the development of technology.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- However, for subjects like art and design, you can create your own engaging contexts.
- The teaching narrative within each project or unit should set out how learning will be delivered.
- It should be sequenced and cohesive, clearly showing the starting point and how the project develops.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- Crucially, your planning needs to show how the subject knowledge and skills outlined in your long-term plan will be taught, revisited and built upon.
- This process is very complex and takes time to perfect. However, when completed, it will set out your medium-term plan, which you can elaborate on in short-term plans if required.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- 5. Resources (Source high-quality resources to deliver your curriculum)
- Your curriculum should not be let down by poor quality or ad-hoc resources.
- Inadequate resources will not only dilute the power of your curriculum but can also cause confusion and even misinform.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- Sourcing the best quality resources is vital if you want children's learning to be factually correct and ambitious.
- To make your curriculum the best it can be, insist on high-quality resources and practical equipment.
- Don't reduce the impact of your curriculum by accepting anything less.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- 6. **Review and evaluate** (Decide what works well and where there is room for improvement)
- You now have an established curriculum.
- The next step is to regularly review its impact on teaching and learning, making any adaptations or changes you need to improve it further.

Steps in Curriculum Design Cont'

- At this stage, you may also identify Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs for your staff.
- For example, the knowledge of subject leaders might need to improve to make sure that each area of the curriculum is well taught and supported.

ATTRIBUTES OF CURRICULUM DESIGN

- Curriculum design is purposeful:
- It is not just to “have” a course of study.
- Its grand purpose is to improve student learning, but it may have other purposes as well.
- Whether the purposes are in harmony or in conflict, explicit or implied, immediate or long-range, political or technical, curriculum designers do well to be as clear as possible about what the real purposes are, so that they can respond accordingly

ATTRIBUTES OF CURRICULUM DESIGN CONT'

- **Curriculum design is deliberate:** To be effective, curriculum design must be a conscious planning effort.
- It is not casual, nor is it the sum total of lots of different changes being made in the curriculum over weeks, months, and years.
- It involves using an explicit process that identifies clearly what will be done, by whom, and when.

ATTRIBUTES OF CURRICULUM DESIGN CONT'

- Curriculum design is creative:
- Curriculum design is not a neatly defined procedure that can be pursued in a rigorous series of steps.
- At every stage of curriculum design there are opportunities for innovative thinking, novel concepts, and invention to be introduced.
- Good curriculum design is at once systematic and creative—feet-on-the-ground and head-in-the-clouds.

ATTRIBUTES OF CURRICULUM DESIGN CONT'

- Curriculum design operates on many levels:
- Design decisions at one level must be compatible with those at the other levels.
- A middle-school curriculum design that is incompatible with the elementary- and high-school designs will almost certainly result in a defective curriculum, no matter how good each part is on its own.
- By the same token, the middle-school curriculum itself cannot be effective as a whole unless the designs of its grades are in harmony