

Teaching and Learning Programme

Cross-curricular themes

CPD builder

Embedding the cross-curricular themes in your teaching

Introduction

The cross-curricular themes of Customer care, Enterprise, and Health, safety and well-being are important aspects of the modern workplace. Learners' understanding of these themes can enhance their employability prospects. Learners will see the importance and relevance of the themes if these are taught as an integral part of their subject or vocational learning rather than as an add-on topic. Embedding the themes allows you to draw them from your existing teaching and to develop them further. Embedding enables you to build on what you already do, developing learners' understanding by exploring the theme in depth using a range of active teaching and learning approaches. Making specific reference to the themes in your teaching will raise learners' awareness and highlight their relevance.

This CPD builder includes suggestions and ideas on how you can embed the cross-curricular themes in your teaching. It includes links to video clips, CPD sessions and other resources to support you on your CPD journey.

Learning objectives/outcomes

After using this CPD builder you should:

- understand the importance of the cross-curricular themes to your subject or vocational area
- identify strategies for embedding the cross-curricular themes in your teaching
- plan your own CPD journey.

You can download an RTF version of this CPD builder and adapt it.

Embedding the cross-curricular themes in your teaching

Reflection: where am I now?

Record your initial reflections in your CPD portfolio.

Skills I will need to embed the cross-curricular themes into my teaching	Confident	Some experience	Need support
How to reflect on current practice in relation to the cross-curricular themes?			
How to work collaboratively with colleagues to embed the cross-curricular themes?			
Planning skills to incorporate the cross-curricular themes in my teaching.			
Knowledge I will need			
Understanding of the cross-curricular themes and their importance to my subject area.			
Understanding of where the themes can be embedded within the curriculum.			
Understanding of how the active learning approaches support learning.			

Suggested activities and resources

- CPD activities
- Cross-curricular support resources
- Pedagogy support resources
- Planning learning
- Topic support resources
- Teachers' reflections
- Ideas for further development
- Support for your CPD

CPD activities

Embedding the cross-curricular themes requires an understanding of why these themes are important in your subject or vocational area and a willingness to try out something new.

For CPD activities to help you explore new challenges, try out:

Planning for challenges: trying something new or **Anticipating and planning for challenges** in **Using the Customer care resources**, **Using the Enterprise resources**, or **Using the Health, safety and well-being resources**.

Sharing CPD activities and working collaboratively with your colleagues will help you embed the cross-curricular themes successfully.

Cross-curricular resources

To understand the importance of the cross-curricular themes to the further education (FE) sector, look at the documents:

- **Why is Customer care important?** in **Using the Customer care resources**
- **Why is Enterprise important?** in **Using the Enterprise resources** or
- **Why are Health, safety and well-being important?** in **Using the Health, safety and well-being resources**.

To explore the significance of each of the themes in your subject or vocational area, go to **Linking...** document in the **Contextualising** activities for your subject or vocational area

Find out more about each of the cross-curricular themes by visiting:

- the **Customer care** booklet in **Getting familiar with Customer care**
- the **Enterprise** booklet in the **Getting familiar with Enterprise** or
- the **Health, safety and well-being** booklet in **Getting familiar with Health, safety and well-being**.

Explore the learning points in more detail by looking at:

- the **Customer care learning points** in **Getting familiar with Customer care**
- the **Enterprise learning points** in **Getting familiar with Enterprise** or
- the **Health, safety and well-being learning points** in **Getting familiar with Health, safety and well-being**.

Pedagogy support resources

Successful learning in the cross-curricular themes depends heavily on developing positive attitudes and behaviours. The cross-curricular resources use active learning approaches to engage and motivate learners and to help them appreciate their own roles and responsibilities. The learner activities headline four active teaching and learning pedagogies:

- **Assessment for learning:** checking learning and generating feedback that informs subsequent learning.
- **Co-operative learning:** a structured form of group learning that ensures individual learners understand their contribution is vital to the team.
- **Experiential learning:** engaging learners in an authentic, first-hand experience, allowing them to make discoveries and experiment, construct meaning and develop understanding.
- **Embedding literacy, language and numeracy (LLN):** combining the development of literacy, language and numeracy with vocational and other skills.

To find out more about how and why these active learning approaches work look at the pedagogy **Quick start guides**.

Planning learning

Embedding the cross-curricular themes in your teaching will involve you and your colleagues in drawing out what already exists in your curriculum and developing and refining this to ensure the themes are fully embedded.

It is also important to ensure that whilst themes are embedded in the subject or vocational teaching, the cross-curricular message theme must be strong and learning should be explicit. This helps learners to appreciate the relevance of the themes to their subject or vocational area.

The resource **Embedding the cross-curricular themes: Curriculum planning flowchart** in **Using the Customer care resources, Using the Enterprise resources, or Using the Health, safety and well-being resources** uses a flowchart to give an overview of the process you might work through with colleagues to integrate the themes into your curriculum.

Successful embedding therefore benefits from careful planning. You will find more opportunities to embed the themes if you and colleagues collaborate to consider the whole range of learning opportunities across the programme, over time and extending to other relevant learning contexts such as the workplace or leisure. This ensures that you provide multiple opportunities for skills, attitudes and behaviours to mature and to be adopted by learners.

The interactive **SuccessPlanner** tool provides a useful resource to help you and your colleagues develop learning programmes that embed a wide range of learning opportunities as you introduce and embed the cross-curricular themes.

As part of your planning you will want to ensure that your teaching resources and approaches promotes equality and diversity. For more information to help you review your resources and approaches look at **Equality and diversity review proforma for teaching, training and learning**.

Topic support resources

For lots of ideas on how you can embed each of the cross-curricular themes visit pages 4-7 of

- the **Customer care booklet** in **Getting familiar with Customer care**
- the **Enterprise booklet** in the **Getting familiar with Enterprise** or
- the **Health, safety and well-being booklet** in **Getting familiar with Health, safety and well-being**.

In order to assess how well you currently embed cross-curricular themes in your teaching, you will need to reflect on current practice. For information on reflection look at the guidance: **Taking action and reflecting on your experience – using the GROW model of coaching**.

Embedding the cross-curricular themes also includes effective curriculum planning to develop learners' skills, attitudes and behaviours. For ideas on how to do this, go to: **Embedding the cross-curricular themes: Curriculum planning flowchart** in **Using the Customer care resources**, **Using the Enterprise resources**, or **Using the Health, safety and well-being resources** .

Teachers' reflections

Watch the video of one teacher sharing his reflections on why cross-curricular themes are important in the **Embedding the cross-curricular themes video** in **Using the Customer care resources**, **Using the Enterprise resources**, or **Using the Health, safety and well-being resources**.

- As you watch, think about how this might work for you and your learners.

Read the **Embedding the cross-curricular themes case study** in **Using the Customer care resources**, **Using the Enterprise resources**, or **Using the Health, safety and well-being resources** about a teacher who already embeds aspect of the cross-curricular themes into his teaching and how he plans to develop this further.

Ideas for further development

To help you to embed the cross-curricular themes of Customer care, Enterprise and Health, safety and well-being in your teaching try out some of the learner activities with colleagues. This allows you to model and experience the approaches that you might use with learners and to understand more about why and how they work.

Working collaboratively you could reflect on:

- the importance and relevance of the theme to your subject
- to what degree is the theme currently taught
- how this could be developed to make the theme learning more explicit.

Host 'effective practice meetings' and practical workshops. Colleagues can share their experience of embedding the cross-curricular themes and you can develop an ideas bank of how the themes could be incorporated in teaching.

You could also plan a supported experiment and involve colleagues and learners. 'Start small, think big' is often a good idea. For example, you might try embedding one theme in one module of a programme, or co-planning learning around one theme with one group of learners in particular, getting them involved in planning and delivering some of the learning themselves.

To find out more see the guidance notes on **Supported experiments** in the CPD library.

Support for your CPD

You can work through the ideas in the CPD builder on your own but you are likely to find it more enjoyable and challenging if you seek the support and involvement of colleagues. Explore some of the following options.

Subject Learning Coaches (SLCs), advanced practitioners and mentors can support your professional development but you can also work informally with colleagues in your team. Look out for face to face or virtual networks of colleagues with similar interests to your own.

Learners can contribute to your professional development. Involve them as you plan, try out and evaluate new approaches. They are the experts on their learning and insight into what works well can help them as well as you.

Guidance notes in the **CPD library** can help you as you try out and evaluate new ideas and record the outcomes for your CPD portfolio.

For more information about your CPD entitlement and the professional registration requirements for teachers in the FE system, visit the **Institute for Learning** website at <http://www.ifl.ac.uk>

As you reflect on your professional development needs and experiences, refer to the reflective tool **Putting CPD into action**. This can help you put together your CPD plan and consider the evidence you might look for.

Support from QIA's Teaching and Learning Programme

SLCs play a central role in the Teaching and Learning Programme. They support individuals, teams and organisations to release their potential. Find out who the SLCs are in your organisation and ask how they can help.

Coaching has been shown to have the most positive and lasting impact on practice. Find out more about the **Professional Training Programme (PTP)** for SLCs at www.subjectlearningcoach.net

Coaches participate in regional **Subject Coaching Networks** and other peer and community activity such as virtual networks and action research projects to collaborate, bring and exchange ideas and resources developed within their organisations.

Management Support Programme (MSP)

The support of senior managers is vital to the successful deployment of SLCs in your organisation. Find out more about the Managers' Support Programme at www.subjectlearningcoach.net/managers

Embedding the cross-curricular themes in your teaching

Reflection: where am I now?

Now record your experiences and reflections in your CPD portfolio.

Skills I have been developing	Confident	Some experience	Need support
How to reflect on current practice in relation to the cross-curricular themes?			
How to work collaboratively with colleagues to embed the cross-curricular themes?			
Planning skills to incorporate the cross-curricular themes in my teaching.			
Knowledge I have been developing			
Understanding of the cross-curricular themes and their importance to my subject area.			
Understanding of where the themes can be embedded within the curriculum.			
Understanding of how the active learning approaches support learning.			