

CONNECTING CLASSROOMS

Teaching the core skills

Professional development for teachers





CORE SKILLS AND THE RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

‘We need to educate our children for their future, not our past.’

Sir Arthur C Clarke

Today’s young people are growing up in a fast-paced world. As new technologies, labour markets and digital channels open up new opportunities, they also pose new challenges for the world’s future citizens and workforce.

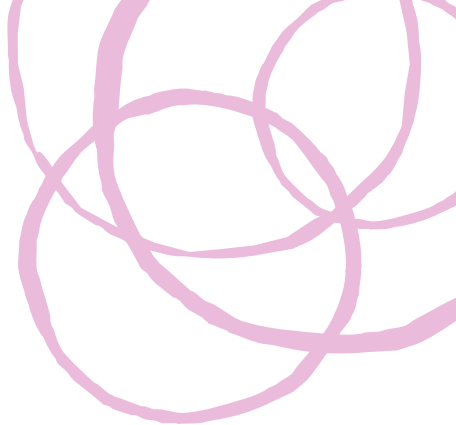
To be fully prepared for life and work in a global economy, it is essential that young people have the opportunity to develop the right skills.

Core skills, sometimes referred to as deep learning skills or 21st century learning skills, introduce young people to new ways of working, new ways of thinking, and new ways of living in a global world.

Developing these skills will help young people grow into creative and critical citizens, ready to shape the future for themselves and future generations.

CORE SKILLS IN THE CLASSROOM

There is growing consensus that education systems worldwide need to be better equipped to support the development of core skills within young people. In schools, this can happen most effectively when the core skills are embedded across the curriculum and are used to enrich existing teaching and learning.





THE SIX CORE SKILLS

Building on internationally recognised frameworks for deep learning skills and competencies, the British Council is championing the development of the following six core skills.

Critical thinking and problem solving: promoting self-directed thinking that produces new and innovative ideas and solves problems; reflecting critically on learning experiences and processes and making effective decisions.

Communication and collaboration: fostering effective communication (orally, and in writing); actively listening to and engaging with others in diverse and multilingual environments, and understanding verbal and non-verbal communication; developing the ability to work in diverse international teams, including learning from and contributing to the learning of others, assuming shared responsibility, co-operating, leading, delegating and compromising to produce new and innovative ideas and solutions.

Creativity and imagination: promoting economic and social entrepreneurialism; imagining and pursuing novel ideas; judging value; developing innovation and curiosity.



Citizenship: developing active, globally aware citizens who have the skills, knowledge and motivation to address issues of human and environmental sustainability and work towards a fairer world in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue; developing an understanding of what it means to be a citizen of their own country and their own country's values.

Digital literacy: developing the skills to discover, acquire and communicate knowledge and information in a globalised economy; using technology to reinforce, extend and deepen learning through international collaboration.

Student leadership and personal development: recognising the importance of honesty and empathy; recognising others' needs and safety; fostering perseverance, resilience and self-confidence; exploring leadership, self-regulation and responsibility, personal health and wellbeing, career and life skills; learning to learn and life-long learning.

TEACHING THE CORE SKILLS

Connecting Classrooms is offering a new range of professional development training packages to support teachers to effectively integrate the teaching of core skills in the classroom.

Developed by the British Council and leading education experts, 'Teaching the core skills' comprises seven training packages, each designed to develop teachers' expertise in teaching the core skills and support them with integrating these skills into the curriculum.

Tailored to suit your curriculum and education priorities, the training packages include both workshop style learning and school-based activities, so you can put what you learn into practice.

CHOOSE THE WAY YOU LEARN

Face-to-face

Attend workshops in your area, delivered by experienced local trainers. Learn directly with other teachers in a classroom setting.

Online

Learn at your convenience using a tailored online training hub. Work at your own pace and when it suits you.

To register, visit <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/teaching-core-skills>



WHY TAKE PART?

Get new skills

Learn new interactive teaching approaches and techniques to introduce core skills in the classroom. Master these approaches and become part of a global best practice network of core skills educators.

Take away practical activity plans

Develop activity plans for embedding core skills within the curriculum and put what you learn into practice.

Gain a worldwide support network

Get access to an online network of global teaching professionals to share and compare your experiences. Connect and collaborate to enrich your learning.

Become an international educator

Use your learning to strengthen international links at your school. Enrich teaching and learning through partnerships and joint projects and discover international professional development opportunities.

Prepare your students for future life

Be confident you can properly prepare your students for life and work in a global economy by helping them to develop the essential skills.



CHOOSE A TRAINING PACKAGE

AN INTRODUCTION TO CORE SKILLS FOR TEACHERS

Learn about the six core skills, how they apply to real life and why they are essential for students. Gain practical teaching approaches to introduce the core skills into the classroom and to begin to embed them within the curriculum.

TEACHING CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Help your students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills such as how to consider different perspectives, how to evaluate evidence, and how to solve non-routine problems. Learn how these skills can be taught and assessed and see practical examples for developing them in the classroom.

TEACHING CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION

Learn about the importance of creativity as an underpinning approach to teaching and learning. Discover innovative ways to help your students develop their creativity and imagination in the classroom and learn how they can apply creativity to real-life challenges.

TEACHING DIGITAL LITERACY

Get to grips with the core concepts and practices of digital literacy and how to incorporate these into the curriculum. Help your students understand how digital tools can be used meaningfully for effective learning, communicating and collaborating, and for locating, evaluating and analysing information.



TEACHING STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Understand the foundations of leadership in different learning contexts and the importance of young people building their own leadership skills in relation to real-world challenges. Consider how to support the development of key personal qualities such as perseverance, resilience and self-confidence, and foster a commitment to life-long learning.

TEACHING CITIZENSHIP

Learn what citizenship means at the local, national and international levels, and how to develop citizenship skills and values in your students. Discover practical ways to teach citizenship in the classroom and develop leadership techniques to help to embed citizenship within the curriculum.

TEACHING COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Learn the theories and practices of effective communication and how to develop intercultural collaborative and communicative skills in your students. Develop activities and initiatives to enable your students to better communicate and collaborate beyond their classrooms with people from other cultures and countries.



LEARNING SUPPORT

Get the most from your professional development by following our top learning tips and accessing additional support.



TOP TIPS

Find a learning partner

Before starting a core skills training package, we recommend you find a learning partner to offer you support and advice throughout the course. This could be an existing colleague who you can meet with regularly to discuss your progress.

Talk to your head teacher

Discuss your professional development plans with your head teacher to ensure they understand the benefits and can support you through your learning journey. Show them how introducing the core skills in the classroom will boost the curriculum and benefit the whole school.

Fit your learning around existing international work

You will get the most from your learning by applying it to existing projects and activities. See what international work is happening in your school and make the most of any existing links with teachers overseas by including them in your learning.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING

Connecting Classrooms offers additional online learning courses to support your progress through the core skills training packages. Discover how international collaboration can enrich learning and support the curriculum, explore ways of integrating citizenship into learning, and develop your ICT skills. There's also a course to help non-native English speakers improve their language skills to support their international work. Visit <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/connectingclassrooms-learning>

SCHOOLS ONLINE

Find a wealth of international learning resources on British Council Schools Online. Download starter activities, project templates and classroom resources, and discuss your international experiences with teachers worldwide using the Schools Online forums. You can also find information about a range of other international learning and funding opportunities managed by the British Council. Visit <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org>

CORE SKILLS TRAINING FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Connecting Classrooms is also offering two core skills training packages for school leaders.

An introduction to core skills for leaders explores the importance of the six core skills and how they can be integrated across the curriculum.

Leading core skills looks at effective leadership practices to successfully embed the teaching of core skills throughout the school.

Visit <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/leading-core-skills>



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