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# Theme 4: Optional and Compulsory Curriculum: content planning

**Webinar 2: The optional curriculum**

5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

14.00 to 18.00

Jane English & Jane Doughty

# Your responses

Thank you for your suggestions during webinar one regarding topics you would like us to include not covered in our plan.

We hope to take your ideas into account in our planning – your ideas are shown on the next slide

# Working Together

We would like all participants to have a good experience during the webinars, please can you:

- Contribute to discussions – either unmute or chat box
- Share your experiences – to support learning
- In breakout groups, turn cameras/mics on to introduce yourselves and participate
- Return from the breaks promptly

Thank you

# Webinar 2: Learning Outcomes

At the end of this webinar we will have considered:

- advantages and disadvantages of curriculum flexibility
- ways of using the 30% curriculum
- experiences of a Welsh school implementing curriculum change
- approaches to 30% curriculum

# Lithuanian Curriculum Reform

- 70% curriculum determined centrally
- 30% curriculum – can be used flexibly by schools

National assessments will focus on 70% only

# 30% Discretionary Curriculum

At school level, the primary responsibility for the discretionary curriculum lies with the teacher.

Directors (Principals) recognise there is no local or regional responsibility for educational content solutions.

This approach by school directors (principals) reinforces the principle that Lithuanian schools can have a high degree of autonomy in relation to educational content.

Creation of educational content at school level  
*Analysis of discussions on the creation and/or updating of educational content, National Agency for Education, 2020*

# 30% Discretionary Curriculum

What are your views and responses to the quote on slide 6?

With the teacher having responsibility – what do you see as the advantages to this? Are there any pitfalls?

# The Role of the Principal

*“It doesn’t matter how great an educational idea or intervention is in principle; what really matters is how it manifests itself in the day-to-day work of people in schools.”*

*“Investing time and effort to carefully reflect on, plan, and prepare for implementation will reap rewards later.”*

*Education Endowment Foundation*

*PUTTING EVIDENCE TO WORK:  
A SCHOOL’S GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTATION 2019*

*Guidance Report*



# Meeting the needs of students

In webinar 1 we looked briefly at the importance of taking students' needs into account when undertaking curriculum planning.

30% optional curriculum offers great opportunities to ensure needs of all students are taken into account.

What further ideas do you have for identifying students' needs and taking them into account?

**Please unmute to share your reflections**

# Optional Thirty Per Cent Curriculum

## Opportunities offered:

- add value - potential to enrich and extend student learning
- flexibility - try out new approaches, work with new groups
- creativity - time to be creative and “think outside box”
- play to strengths - staffs’ expertise, interests and hobbies
- autonomy - reinforces teacher professionalism
- community - opportunity for students to engage with community groups
- time - time can be used for additional teaching of 70%

# Optional Thirty Per Cent Curriculum

## Potential Challenges:

- time - is there enough time to complete planning / preparation?
- autonomy - too many teachers “doing their own thing”
- focus - insufficient focus on competencies
- 70% - time solely used to supplement 70% compulsory curriculum
- resources - insufficient to ensure some ideas will work effectively
- status - 30% not assessed so regarded as less valuable

# Optional Thirty Per Cent Curriculum

Please reflect on the opportunities and potential challenges suggested on the previous two slides – following the presentation there will be time for you to add your views and suggest how potential challenges could be overcome.

# Presentation

We are delighted to welcome Nick John, Deputy Headteacher at Whitchurch High School, Cardiff, Wales. Nick has agreed to share his experiences of curriculum reform.

Over recent years Welsh schools have been involved in significant curriculum reform.

# Questions and Comments

We are keen to hear your comments and questions for Nick -

please unmute or write in the chat box

# Break

We will now take a 30 minute break

– please return promptly

# Optional Thirty Per Cent Curriculum

Please share your reflections on opportunities and potential challenges suggested on slides 9 and 10.

- What additional opportunities can you identify?
- What further challenges would you identify?
- How would you address these potential challenges?

**Please unmute to share your thoughts and ideas**



# The 30% curriculum: what goes in it?

How would you like to use the flexibility of the optional curriculum to do things differently in your school? For example:

Developing Competencies through 1 day suspended timetable:

- Problem solving activities supported by business representatives
- Building civic responsibilities - linking with charities/community groups
- Extending creative skills and expertise - visits/talks from local artists/workshops/poets' corner
- Keep fit day – range of activities to build team work, develop well being
- Discovering science – workshops/environmental topics

Don't forget: ex student can be a valuable source of inspiration and support

# The 30% curriculum: what goes in it?

How would you like to use the flexibility of the optional curriculum to do things differently in your school? For example:

Cross curricular approaches – links between subjects to deliver competencies

- History, geography and RE – exploring changes in society / community/ environment over time
- Science and design – developing technological solutions to scientific challenges
- Lithuanian and history – looking at literary contributions during a given historical period
- Art, drama and dance – exploring themes to create exhibitions, presentations to showcase

Don't forget – developing digital competence is excellent for cross curricular work

# Breakout Discussion 30% Discretionary Curriculum

In your groups:

Drawing on your reflections of today's webinar and your ideas, identify some examples of cross curricular activity that would be appropriate in your context.

Please nominate someone in your group to report in plenary to share two examples the group considers to be worth developing

# Break

We will now take a 15 minute break

– please return promptly

# Embracing Change

“Teachers are creators and need professional autonomy, not for their personal expression, but to reach the heart of each student, to stimulate thinking and invite them on a learning adventure.”

“let's change the way education is organized at school, encouraging teachers to apply experiential, project-based learning, to leave school more often to other environments, to cooperate with each other”

Egle Pranckuniene (2022)

# Optional Thirty Per Cent Curriculum

## Project work

Project work is a planned study involving a task or problem taken up by the learner(s), either individually or in a group. Project work allows:

- self directed and collaborative learning
- individual research and investigation
- learning in depth
- opportunity to extend classroom learning
- range of competencies (e.g. cognitive, creativity, collaborative, digital) to be practised

# Project Work

Project work can be used to explore a wide range of topics – either subject specific or cross curricular.

Please unmute to share your experience / thoughts regarding project work. You may also like to share thoughts about why project work can support the 30% curriculum.

# Curriculum Mapping: next steps

**In webinar three we will consider in detail:**

- creating and leading a high performance team
- the consultation processes
- creating an implementation plan

Along with undertaking a curriculum audit, these three activities are important part of the curriculum mapping process – let's pause to talk about these three points.



# Curriculum Mapping: next steps

## Personal actions and reflections: a reminder

Please come to the next webinar with your ideas on how you will create a high performing team to undertake the curriculum mapping process and how you will engage all staff in a consultation process so their views can be noted.

# Thank you

Thank you for all your contributions today – we look forward to seeing you at webinar 3.

December 12<sup>th</sup> 2022

14.00 to 18.00