

Planning a pre-teaching session

The aim of any pre-teaching session is to teach pupils key information that will help them to access the material being taught in the classroom.

There are many ways that a pre-teaching session might run in school and it will be up to you to decide what is best for your pupils based on their needs and the material being taught. There is no 'one size fits all'. You will need to decide on the number of pupils to include in the pre-teaching session, how long the session should be, how regularly the sessions should occur, and when the session should take place. You will also need to consider how the pre-teaching session should be delivered. It would be beneficial to work closely with your SENCo and other special education professionals to support you in making these decisions.

Example:

Take a look at the below example of how a teacher might plan and deliver a pre-teaching session.

Adam, a class teacher, is about to begin a new topic on Ancient Egyptians. Through assessment and his understanding of pupils' needs within his class, he identifies 4 pupils who would benefit from pre-teaching.

He looks at the first lesson he will teach and identifies key subject-specific vocabulary that will be present in the lesson. He knows that he must be selective with which vocabulary to choose as too many words might overload pupils' working memory. As a result, he chooses five words that he believes the pupils will be least familiar with and which will appear most frequently.

He plans to run a ten-minute session to teach pupils the key vocabulary, whilst the rest of the class are in assembly. During the session, he begins by explaining the vocabulary with the use of pictures, actions and non-examples (where appropriate) and asks probing questions to check understanding. He then presents one word to the group and asks them to share what it means with their partner. He works his way through the remaining vocabulary and provides corrective or affirmative feedback to pupils.

In this example, the teacher is delivering the session whilst the rest of the class are in assembly. However, he could have planned to deliver it during class time, for example, whilst pupils were completing a retrieval activity, reviewing and responding to feedback or reading. If you have additional adults available, they may be able to run the session provided you give them the correct resources and information that they need. If you don't feel as though you have the available time and don't have an additional adult to support with pre-teaching, the resource could be sent home with pupils. Parents or carers can work with their child to pre-teach material ahead of the lesson.

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