

Capitalise on existing resources

When designing your scheme of work, don't feel that you need to start everything from scratch. You will not be the first teacher (nor the last!) to go through this thinking and planning process, so make the most of building on what others have done before you.

As you're no doubt already aware, there is also an abundance of teaching and learning resources available online. This can feel overwhelming, especially as not all these resources are of a high quality. Following the recommendations of expert colleagues is a good place to start.

Draw on expertise of colleagues

Draw on the expertise of your colleagues and wider professional networks and seek out many of the high-quality resources that exist online. Not only will this reduce your workload, it will also enable you to connect with and learn from your colleagues and the wider teaching profession.

Colleagues in your department or phase - and in your wider professional networks - are likely to have a collection of powerful analogies, illustrations, examples, explanations and practice activities that they can share with you.

Consider the needs of the curriculum

Keep in mind that your decisions about what resources to use, should be driven by the needs of the curriculum (i.e. the concepts, knowledge and skills that pupils need to learn). What can be tempting but should be avoided, is using a resource that you think looks great and distorting your scheme to fit it in. Using resources aligned with the school curriculum (e.g. textbooks or shared resources designed by expert colleagues) will help you to develop a scheme of work that is coherent and well sequenced.

What to consider when selecting resources

Below are some questions which you could ask yourself when looking through available resources:

- Does the resource align with the school curriculum?
- Does the resource focus on the essential concepts, knowledge and/or principles of the subject?
- If the resource or material is related to a pupil activity, does it ensure pupils' thinking is focused on key ideas within the subject you want pupils to learn?