

Planning for assessment over time

In module 4 you learnt about how to use assessment and feedback to greatest effect. This included the point that effective assessment is critical to teaching because it provides teachers with information about pupils' understanding and needs.

Your scheme of work will be providing the framework and guide to the teaching and learning of your topic over a period of time. So, your scheme needs to build in enough space for formative assessment activities to inform the teaching and learning of the concepts, knowledge and skills as the scheme progresses. Returning to the metaphor of a roadmap, this ensures teachers can respond to pupils' needs and adjust the 'route' as the scheme is taught.

Additionally, there will be critical moments in your sequence of teaching and learning where it will be necessary to check that pupils have understood foundational concepts or knowledge before moving on.

Your school will also use a range of assessments and these will look different, depending on the phase, subject and year group you are planning this scheme of work for.

What assessment opportunities may be included?

A scheme of work is likely to include some assessment opportunities, such as:

- Formative assessment tasks or activities linked to the over-arching learning objectives of the scheme of work
- And, possibly, a summative assessment task at the end of the sequence (such as a test or an essay or performance piece) to showcase the learning

However, it will not detail all the classroom practice, including all assessment activities, that a teacher will carry out. If it did, it would become a very unwieldy guide, but most importantly it could restrict a teacher's ability to respond to the needs of their pupils. Learning is unpredictable and a scheme of work will be unable to anticipate how the learning will unfold for all pupils.

Planning for assessment

When planning for assessment in your scheme of work, you should be clear about the decisions it will be used to support (e.g. whether to move on or re-teach a concept) and why it's being used so that any teacher using your scheme fully understands how to use the assessment and is able to explain why it is necessary.

When planning for assessment, you can use the questions below (adapted from module 4) to help guide you:

- At what points in the scheme of work should learning objectives be assessed to inform future teaching and learning?
- What would be a good method of assessment?
- What will I/other teachers do with the information?
- How am I/other teachers going to feed back the information to pupils?