Introduction

As a new teacher, now is a great time to begin practising your curriculum design skills. As you become a more experienced teacher, and especially if you choose to move into middle or senior leadership, you may find yourself designing the curriculum for a whole year, key stage, or even for a child's entire school life.

The curriculum design skills that you'll develop during this module can equally be applied to any future curriculum design you embark upon, no matter what the scope. What you're learning now will therefore be of great value to you throughout your teaching career.

What will this module cover?

This module brings together many of the things you have learnt in previous modules this year. It is designed to revisit and draw upon your existing knowledge, supporting you to apply it to think about what makes good curriculum design.

This module is not intended to provide a step-by-step instruction guide or recipe to producing a scheme of work. First, curriculum design is rarely a linear process and you should expect to go backwards and forwards as your scheme develops. Second, schemes of work can take many forms and there is not a blueprint for a scheme of learning that will suit all contexts. So, use the principles outlined in this module as a guide and remember that any scheme of work should be a supportive framework for responsive teaching and learning, rather than a bind that restricts your teaching, or the learning of your pupils.

Drawing on teacher expertise

Throughout the module, you'll hear from two teachers who will talk through how they have approached the design of a scheme of work.

Early Years teachers will hear from Maria, a teacher at One Degree Academy as she talks you through her scheme of work on learning the alphabet.

Primary and Secondary teachers will hear from Emily, Humanities lead at Reach Academy Feltham as she talks you through her scheme of work on tectonic plates.

Creating your own scheme of work

At the beginning of this module you will be asked to decide on a scheme of work that you want to work on throughout the module. This is likely to be a series of 5-10 lessons that make up a unit of work. This might be an existing scheme of work that you will edit and improve or a new scheme of work that you will design from the beginning. This choice is up to you. We recommend the option that works best for your development and your current setting.

In each session you will be asked to complete certain tasks that will support you in editing or developing your scheme of work and during your weekly mentor interactions, you'll have time to share, discuss, and get feedback as your scheme of work evolves.