

# Application to practice

In this session, you have engaged with reading about the principles of curriculum design that Dylan Wiliam thinks are the most helpful and powerful in looking critically at school curricula.

Choose **one** of the following options to consider how principles of curriculum design could be applied in your context. When selecting an option, think about which one you think would most support the curriculum design of your subject or subjects within your phase.



## Over to you - Option 1

Thinking about your reflections on the seven principles outlined in the discussion:

- Are any important principles missing?
- Are any of the principles more important than others?
- Using these principles, what would you identify as the strengths and areas for improvement of your subject curriculum? (If you teach Primary or Early Years, you could either focus on one subject or consider your curriculum holistically.)

Record your reflections using the assignment tool to share with your mentor. You may wish to then discuss these together in your next mentor interaction.

Remember, your submissions here are not graded or formally assessed, and are here for you to share your ideas and responses with your mentor for future discussion.



## Over to you - Option 2

In discussing the idea that curriculum design should be 'focused', Wiliam says that:

*'...the difficult discussions about what are the most important ideas in a subject are essential to undertake if the resulting curriculum is to be manageable.'*

For your subject consider:

- To what extent is there a shared understanding of the big ideas in your subject, within your school and in the teaching of your subject more broadly?
- What ideas do you have for improving the focus on the big ideas in your subject curriculum and your teaching? (If you teach Primary or Early Years, you could either focus on one subject or consider your curriculum holistically.)

Record your reflections using the assignment tool to share with your mentor. You may wish to then discuss these together in your next mentor interaction.

Remember, your submissions here are not graded or formally assessed, and are here for you to share your ideas and responses with your mentor for future discussion.

In this stretch session you have reflected on some principles of curriculum design and considered how some of them could be applied to your practice and context. Hopefully, this session has further developed your own mental model of curriculum design and motivated you to discuss curriculum with your colleagues. To return to the roadmap analogy introduced at the beginning of this module, good curriculum design can provide teachers and pupils with a shared understanding of the learning destination and the most likely 'route' to success.

The quality of the curriculum experienced by your pupils, will also depend upon your growing expertise in navigating this journey with them in your classroom.