

A CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE (ACE)

The Curriculum for Excellence (ACE) currently occupies the centre spot on the development stage. The inclusive approaches we are focusing on in the Maximising Potential toolkit are consonant with developments within the ACE programme.

SUMMARY

The four ACE capacities

1. Successful learners
2. Confident individuals
3. Responsible citizens
4. Effective contributors

Implications for learning and teaching

1. Successful learners...

- experience success on a regular basis;
- are well-motivated;
- are ambitious;
- exercise imagination & creativity;
- can work independently;
- can learn in a group;
- are self-aware and able to self-assess; and
- use mistakes to improve performance.

2. Confident individuals...

- are confident of success as language learners;
- are convinced of the importance and relevance of foreign language learning;
- are enterprising (have the ability to assess and take calculated risks);
- can work independently and as part of a group;
- are willing to perform;
- are willing to make mistakes and learn from them; and
- make informed decisions and act on them.

3. Responsible citizens...

- demonstrate a positive attitude to difference and 'foreign-ness';
- are interested in and eager to learn about other nationalities and lifestyles;
- when offered a choice of activities, can select responsibly; and
- can offer informed opinions on a range of subjects, in the foreign language.

4. Effective contributors...

- contribute to the working ethos of the class;
- are willing to help others;
- are willing to learn from others;
- can lead or be good team players;
- are resilient - willing to learn from mistakes; and
- apply problem solving as opposed to wishful thinking.

The four capacities incorporate knowledge, skills and attitudes

Knowledge and skills

Knowledge and skills both need to be explicitly taught. Enhanced opportunities for practising skills for learning may have to be incorporated into modern language programmes.

Attitudes

Positive attitudes on the part of pupils depend on teachers' own attitudes and expectations as well as on opportunities for themselves to develop and reflect.

Implications for teaching

It is the teachers' responsibility to provide the contexts in which sound knowledge, effective skills and positive attitudes can be developed.

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The main messages emerging from the ACE development process:

- The whole school has responsibility for developing the four capacities in every child and young person.
- Learning and teaching are at the heart of an effective curriculum.
- Review work has shown that space can be found for learning in depth and wider experiences.
- ACE offers a way of unifying the curriculum.