
Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners©

The Professional Learning Programme (PLP) is based around six recorded training modules released half termly throughout the academic year and available to all staff (and governors) to access at their own convenience.

Each training module will be divided into a series of short video sessions (viewable online only) and a number of these will be accompanied by additional reading and/or reflective worksheets that can be downloaded. A licence agreement for the PLP 2020-21 grants access to all materials from release date to 31st August 2021. It also gives access for the lead professional learner (LPL) to a forum from the licence agreement date to 31st August 2021.

Content of the Training Modules

Our modular approach means we will revisit regularly the topics we believe are most pertinent to disadvantaged youngsters: What it is like to be poor in school; The impact of the curriculum; Adapting teaching and effectively using metacognitive strategies; Addressing the difficulties of participation; Teaching appropriate learning behaviours and career-related learning.

It is our ambition to be flexible around the exact content that is released throughout the academic year. By this we mean flexible to:

- Feedback from LPLs on previous sessions (including considering requests for specific sessions)
- Shifts and changes in education policy
- National and international research around supporting disadvantaged youngsters.

Therefore, we will not finalise the absolute detail of the content of each module in advance as this will restrict our ability to respond to changes as outlined above.

However, we have carefully planned the themes for our modules to ensure they match what our experience has shown us are some critical time points in the academic calendar, particularly for disadvantaged learners. These are outlined below, along with release dates for the modules and dates of follow up Q&A sessions.

Themes of training modules	Overview	Release date ¹	Q&A session ²
Settling In	This will include sessions on (e.g.) top tips for newly qualified teachers; teaching learning behaviours and setting high expectations for our most disadvantaged learners.	5 th October 2020	19 th October 2020
An equity-based ethos	This module will focus on 'hearts and minds' encouraging staff to reflect on their own beliefs and how this impacts on their actions, so that work being undertaken in school is carried out with the most disadvantaged learner in mind.	23 rd November 2020	7 th December 2020
Assessing the poorest child	The sessions here will include how lesson planning and curriculum planning impacts on the poorest learners. It will examine how to avoid assessments further disadvantaging the poorest learners	25 th January 2021	8 th February 2021
Hard to reach schools?	Here we will look at the school as part of the community, including the challenges of attendance and parental engagement for the poorest families.	22 nd February 2021	8 th March 2021
Moving on and Moving up	This theme will allow us to deliver sessions on careers-related learning, transition (in school and between schools) and the additional support that a disadvantaged learner may need.	10 th May 2021	24 th May 2021
Taking the REINS; Reflection, Evaluation, Impact, Next Steps	In the final module, we will run sessions to enable all practitioners to reflect on their successes during the academic year and help them to plan the best ways to ensure that the positive differences made for disadvantaged learners become embedded in the school.	28 th June 2021	12 th July 2021

¹ Modules will be released by the end of the week stated

² Recorded at some point during week stated and available on the forum for the LPLs to access