Introduction to the resource

Leading Learning – Making the Australian Curriculum work for us

The Leading Learning website is a suite of 21st century resources for leaders and teachers to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in South Australia.

How we work with the Australian Curriculum matters. This resource provides scaffolds and online tools for leaders and teachers to use to ensure that we make the curriculum work for us in South Australia. The resource intentionally supports us to bring out the big enduring concepts and understandings of the Australian Curriculum. These concepts increase in complexity over time from Foundation to Year 10.

Why this approach?

Current local and international research and global contexts demand a shift in our teaching from a linear, transactional, industrial approach to a post-industrial approach which is future focused and builds positive learner self-efficacy.

In South Australia we want to engage our students in rich learning experiences that intellectually stretch their thinking to develop skills and understandings that are transferable and enduring.

Designing this learning is a challenge, so in South Australia the advent of the Australian Curriculum, presented us with a great opportunity to bring together the curriculum (the what) with the South Australian Teaching for Effective Learning framework (the how).

How we work with our students to do this matters. Personalising and connecting the learning to their world and developing students as expert learners requires us to deeply understand what it is we want our students to learn and why it is important.

DECD believes that South Australian leaders and teachers can do this work, and this resource helps to achieve this aspiration.

What is the role of a leader?

Leaders do not have to know all the answers, nor are they expected to. This is significant work and leaders need support in their busy schedules to facilitate this professional learning. This resource supports leaders to lead learning in their sites, helping teachers to do the sophisticated and often messy thinking together in professional learning communities.

Developing a strong learning culture with structures at a site level is the work of the leader. Being actively involved in collaborative learning is the responsibility of both leaders and teachers.

The Leading Learning resource has been intentionally developed so that leaders have tools and scaffolds to facilitate learning experiences with their staff.

Background

This resource is not an instructional resource. It is a scaffolded resource where the leader is the lead learner, activating opportunities for shared leadership and enabling teachers to engage in ongoing collaborative learning focused on developing deep content and pedagogical knowledge.

This resource promotes learning through Domain 1 of the TfEL framework, Learning for Effective Teaching, through processes that:

- Create Safe Conditions for Learning (Domain 2)
- Develop Expert Learners (Domain 3)
- Personalise and Connect Learning (Domain 4).

The purpose of this resource is to support leaders and teachers to:

- Realise the strategic intent of the Australian Curriculum
- Develop content and pedagogical knowledge
- Build learner resilience in students through high challenge pedagogy
- Think and learn collaboratively in professional learning communities
- Design learning using the Learning Design thinking map (including multi-age and cross-discipline learning)
- Shift from an industrial to a post-industrial approach to learning.