The six steps of curriculum design

Designing a curriculum is not easy. It is a complicated process that needs to be carefully thought through and involves much strategic decision making. With over 1400 schools now using Curriculum Maestro, we have identified six crucial steps of effective curriculum design. Follow these steps to design your curriculum, whether you are starting from scratch or reviewing your existing curriculum.

**Step 1: Principles and purpose**
Set out the intent of your curriculum
Begin the design process by establishing your curriculum principles. The curriculum principles should reflect your school's values, context, pedagogy and needs. You should be able to explain the purpose or intent of your principles.

**Step 2: Entitlement and enrichment**
Develop your pupil entitlement
After clarifying your principles and purpose, you should set out your pupil entitlement. The pupil entitlement should explain how you intend to enrich the curriculum with educational visits, extracurricular activities and specific experiences.

**Step 3: Breadth and balance**
Develop the content of your curriculum
You will need to arrange your curriculum content into a range of exciting themes and projects. Make strategic decisions about what your curriculum covers, how it covers it, and in how much depth, to achieve both breadth and balance. These choices and decisions create your school's curriculum structure or long term plan.

**Step 4: Teaching narrative**
Plan the delivery of your curriculum
After organising your long term plans, teachers need to plot the narrative of their projects. A teaching narrative should be vibrant and cohesive. It should detail the starting point for each project, explain how it will develop and outline desired outcomes. This process creates a medium term plan that can be used as a starting point for short term plans if these are required.

**Step 5: Resources**
Source high quality resources to deliver your curriculum
You now need to identify the resources required to bring your curriculum to life and enhance its coherence. A good curriculum needs high quality resources. These include human resources, practical equipment, community partners, environments and teaching resources.

**Step 6: Review and evaluate**
Decide what works well and where there is room for improvement
You have an established curriculum. The next step is to regularly review its impact on teaching and learning and to make any adaptations or changes. It will help to consider the original curriculum principles and purposes when reviewing, and focus on areas for development in school.

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