



Education
Scotland
Foghlam Alba

The Curriculum Story Project: 6. The Benefits of Partnerships

Discussion Activities

For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators

How to use this download pack

The discussion and practical activities in this pack connect to the case studies and ideas around interdisciplinary learning of

The Curriculum Story Project 6: The Benefits of Partnerships.

While there is value in using them as standalone resources, we encourage teams to read the case studies, together, as part of their own reflective practice.

From 2020-22, **The Curriculum Story Project** from Education Scotland brought together nearly 200 practitioners to understand the components, processes, and thinking behind successful interdisciplinary learning and the development of broader learner pathways.

The case studies and activities are designed by NoTosh, a firm specialised in helping people think differently and choose the way they learn and work.

Discussion activities

First read the case studies for The Curriculum Story Project – The Benefits of Partnerships. Then use one of these discussion points for a learning session or team meeting.

Discussion 1. What new opportunities can you envisage for partnerships in your community?

For example, what local businesses or charities has your school/setting not worked with recently or perhaps never?

Discussion 2: How could you apply or adapt the example of pupil passports to present information about learners' needs to partners?

For example, what essential information about attributes, skills, or passions might you include on a passport?

Discussion 3: How do you overcome challenges in building more community partnerships?

For example, how could you use former students or local residents to provide partnership experiences? How could you use technology to pursue partnerships beyond the community, even making links internationally?



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Practical Activities

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1. Options Explosion thinking routine to explore new opportunities for community partnerships

[Options Explosion](#) is a thinking routine from [Project Zero](#) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. It is a routine for creative decision making.

This routine helps explore 'hidden' or forgotten options in a decision making situation. You don't need a final decision at the end of the process, but it will hopefully provide more options to investigate further. Use post-it notes or chart paper to collect ideas.

1. List the obvious options – including the existing community partnerships
2. Now brainstorm all sorts of different options to find the 'hidden' options. Be imaginative and bold! Think locally, nationally and globally for inspiration. Also, consider the untapped potential in existing partnerships.
3. Ask: what have we learned about the situation from finding these options?
4. Compare and sort the options you have come up with. You could sort them in terms of local, national and global. Or sort them by preference into which options you are most interested in pursuing first.

2. Design Anonymised Pupil Passports

West Lothian Inclusion and Support Service use the concept of 'Pupil Passports' to amplify learners' voices in the curriculum planning process. The Pupil Passports are anonymised personas of learners which are given to a range of community partners to help them think about where they can support the learning pathways of those learners.

A Pupil Passport contains information about what they enjoy learning at school, their personal interests, and what they enjoy doing with their friends.

Explore the concept of Pupil Passports through role play.

1. Everyone creates their own fictitious and anonymous Pupil Passport based on the three categories above.
2. Then move into small groups and choose a 'partner' identity for that group. E.g. local business, a charity, international company.
3. Distribute the Pupil Passports to the different 'partner' groups. The groups then discuss and imagine possible ways of supporting the learners, looking at it from their 'partner' perspective.
4. As a whole group, discuss what you liked and disliked about the concept. How could you adopt or adapt it for your setting?



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