

Key Skills

Six skills are described as key skills because they help learners to improve their learning & performance in education, work & life. These key skills are embedded in the National Curriculum.

Communication

- Speaking: including effectively for diff audiences
- Listening: to understand & respond appropriately & participate effectively in group discussion
- Reading & writing: ability to read fluently a range of fiction & non-fiction texts & to reflect critically on what is read; & ability to write fluently for a range of purposes & audiences, including critical analysis of their own & others writing.

Application of number

- Includes developing a range of mental calculation skills & the ability to apply them.
- Developing the understanding & use of mathematical language related to numbers & calculations in order to process data, solve increasingly complex problems & explain the reasoning used.
- Applying calculation skills & understanding of number to problems in other NC subjects & real-life situations.

Information technology

- Ability to use a range of information sources & ICT tools to fins, analyse, interpret, evaluate & present information for a range of purposes.
- Ability to make critical & informed judgements about when & how to use ICT for maximum benefit in accessing information, in solving problems or expressing work.
- Ability to use ICT information sources includes enquiry & decision-making skills, as well as information-processing & creative thinking skills & the ability to review, modify & evaluate work with ICT.

Working with others

- Working with others including the ability to contribute to small-group and whole-class discussion, & to work with others to meet a challenge.
- Social awareness & understanding the needs of others.

Improving own learning & performance

- Involves pupils reflecting on & critically evaluating their work & what they have learnt & identifying ways to improve their learning & performance.
- Identifying purposes of learning, reflecting on the process of learning, assessing progress in learning, identifying obstacles or problems in learning & ways to improve learning.

Problem solving

- Involves pupils developing the skills & strategies that will help them to solve the problems they face in learning & life.
- Includes the skills of identifying & understanding a problem, planning ways to solve a problem, monitoring progress in tackling a problem and reviewing solutions to a problem.

Thinking Skills

By using thinking skills pupils can focus on 'knowing how' as well as 'knowing what' – learning how to learn.

Information-processing skills

These enable pupils to locate & collect relevant information, to sort, classify, sequence, compare & contrast & to analyse part/whole relationships.

Reasoning skills

Enable pupils to give reasons for opinions & actions, to draw inferences & make deductions, to use precise language to explain what they think, & to make judgements & decisions informed by reasons or evidence.

Enquiry skills

Enable pupils to ask relevant questions, to pose & define problems, to plan what to do & how to research, to predict outcomes & anticipate consequences, & to test conclusions & improve ideas.

Creative thinking skills

Enable pupils to generate & extend ideas, to suggest hypothesis, to apply imagination, & to look for alternative innovative outcomes.

Evaluation skills

Enable pupils to evaluate information, to judge the value of what they read, hear & do, to develop criteria for judging the value of their own & others work or ideas, & to have confidence in their own judgements.