



A curriculum for pupil need

Enjoying the learning adventure

The Buckinghamshire Seaside Gathering

Mick Waters 14 March 2013



What is the school curriculum..?

The School Curriculum comprises:

- elements the children need
- to nurture them as individuals
- and help them to appreciate their community,
- so they learn about their county, country, the world and the universe,
- and it includes the national curriculum



Notes for your session...

- Do schools offer learning that is fit for purpose in 21st century?
- Is the accountability framework effective?
- Is strengthening academic subjects the right approach?
- Are practical subjects given their due role?
- Can you comment on the new national curriculum proposals?
- Are we getting the right balance between teaching and learning?
- Is leadership able to exercise judgement at school level?
- Do you have some examples from elsewhere?



National curriculum paradox...

- encourage schools to step away from maintained status
- offer autonomy and freedoms
- including deregulation of learning
- at the same time set a national curriculum
- which is highly specific

National curriculum as an entitlement,
a requirement,
a benchmark,
or a talking point?



Our hopes for our young...

- competent and confident in self
- act with integrity and spirit
- be ready to take responsibility; to support and nurture others
- fascinated by the natural world
- intrigued by our attempts to manipulate the world
- recognise human achievements and failings
- enjoy the creative, sporting, cultural and innovative
- appreciate cultures, sensitivities and orientations
- qualified to take on the next stage of their learning
- fuelled with a desire to learn



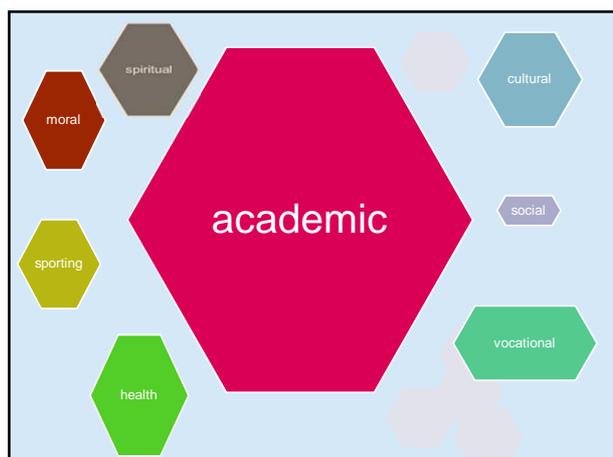



Proposals for a ~~new~~ national curriculum...

- subject programmes of study
- knowledge based
- specific building blocks for subjects
- ordering of subject knowledge
- ins and outs and talking points
- hierarchy of subjects

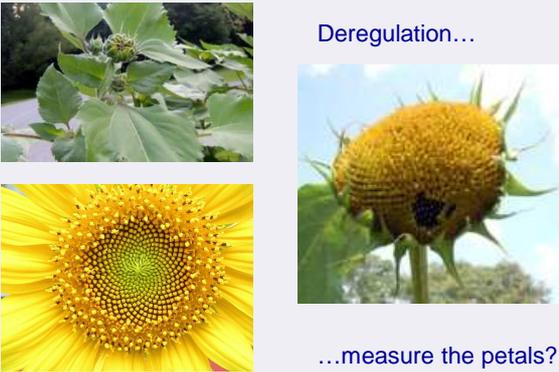
 Curriculum distorters...

- the downward pressure of examinations
- narrowing by inspection
- league table measures
- primary teacher purpose and expertise
- PPA, cover and specialists
- innovation at key stage 3
- resourcing...pupil premium



 Some talking points...

- aims that matter?
- core...English, mathematics, science and PE
- age and stage difference
- 'learn' or 'be taught'
- detail of programmes
- word lists, algorithms

 Deregulation...
...measure the petals?

This slide contains two photographs of sunflowers. The top one shows a sunflower head with its petals still attached to the stem. The bottom one is a close-up of a sunflower head with all petals removed, showing the central disk. The text "Deregulation..." is positioned above the bottom image, and "...measure the petals?" is below it.

 Some more talking points...

- narrative and chronology of 'British' history
- languages at key stage 2
- computing
- citizenship
- personal finance
- cooking

 Real drivers in the system...

➤ data ...often suspect	➤ cusp chasing
➤ league table position	➤ simplistic syllabus
➤ EBacc and beyond	➤ extended courses
➤ inspection...often suspect	➤ spoon fed learning
➤ market driven awarding bodies	➤ pupils as currency
➤ ministerial favour	➤ Ofsted tweeting

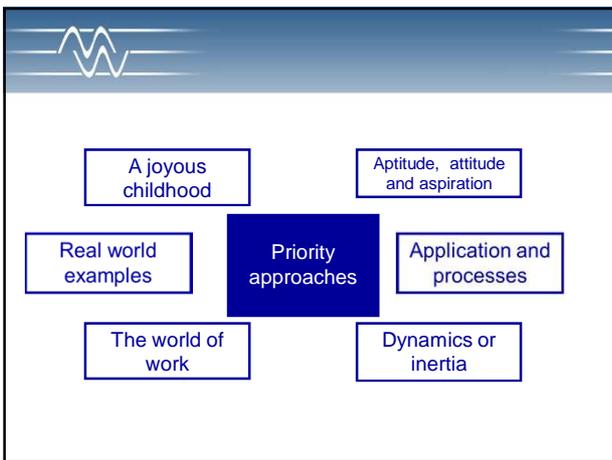
Let's understand 'Game Theory.'

Our integrity is challenged when we end up chasing perverse, often arbitrary performance indicators.

Somehow we have ended up with a mathematically modelled society controlled by readily amassed data such as quotas and performance targets

The entire planned learning experience

- lessons, events, routines, extended hours
- beyond school
 - Clubs
 - Hobbies and pastimes
 - Local band
 - Charity work
 - Part-time job
 - Work experience



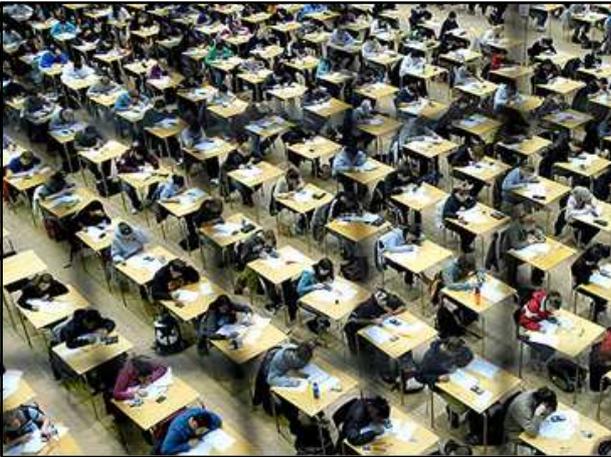
Raising aspiration

- more than higher grades
- not just more levels and qualifications
- more than career outlook and optimism
- aspiration for worth
- aspiring to contribute
- aspiration of spirit



CBI 2012 Manifesto...John Cridland

- ❑ Employers seek school-leavers who do not just possess a clutch of exam passes but are "rounded and grounded."
- ❑ Emphasis on exams and league tables "has produced a conveyor belt, rather than what I would want education to be, an escalator."
- ❑ "If we're all committed to raising the education leaving age to 18 over the next few years, then the tests at 16 are hugely important but they're not the end point. They're a staging post. Sometimes the entire debate seems to be about our exams at 16."
- ❑ "The best teachers we've talked to are rebels against the system. They have had to break out of the straitjacket of the curriculum which has stopped them delivering the sort of education our young people need."



What needs to be done by the pupils

appreciate, observe, record, measure, manage, hypothesise, test, perform, discriminate, create, exhibit, illustrate, exemplify, compose, serve, mix, investigate, conject, debate, discuss, note, argue, control, present, prove, demonstrate, define, persuade, produce, differentiate, design, practise, find out, make, argue, plan, devise, generate, mend, try, connect, interpret, know, translate, wonder, reject, discriminate, exercise, books, words, books, words, books, worlds



Measuring ...what and how?

What?

- success and achievement
- future potential
- compliance or character

How?

- invited demonstration
- boxes to tick
- compliance or character



What needs to be done by the children

microscopes, xylophones, compasses, wood, brushes, mirrors, maps, scales, plants, trowels, screens, rulers, charcoal, rocks, calculators, stamps, pipettes, lenses, prints, stages, mats, glue, hammers, arenas, pictures, spanners, pots, chemicals, creatures, dials, microphones, tapes, eggs, aquariums, landscapes, relics, specimens, ladders, costumes, discoveries, books, words, books, words, books, worlds



What needs to be done by the children

mirrors, material, plants, boxes, candles, wood, fish, mud, paint, sand, smiles, songs, space, pictures, hats, bricks, stories, friends, bubbles, dark, dragons, straw, silence, toys, sunshine, steps, dolls, letters, eggs, dough, puppets, tomatoes, tickets, balls, buckets, mobiles, maps, patterns, pedals, music, seashells, dinosaurs, wheels, lights, flowers, ladders, laptops, clocks, maps, rhymes, dough, books, words, books, words, books, worlds



What needs to be read by the children

journals, diaries, novels, obituaries, almanacs, logs, inventories, ledgers, documents, plans, autobiographies, reports, agreements, plays, conveyances, summons, invitations, replies, summaries, critiques, reviews, eulogies, fixtures, indexes, bibliographies, parodies, comedies, tragedies, treaties, religious texts, comics, menus, manifestos, promises, pledges, recipes, constitutions, screens, manuals, dictionaries, newspapers, timetables, past papers, exercises, books, words, books, words, books, worlds

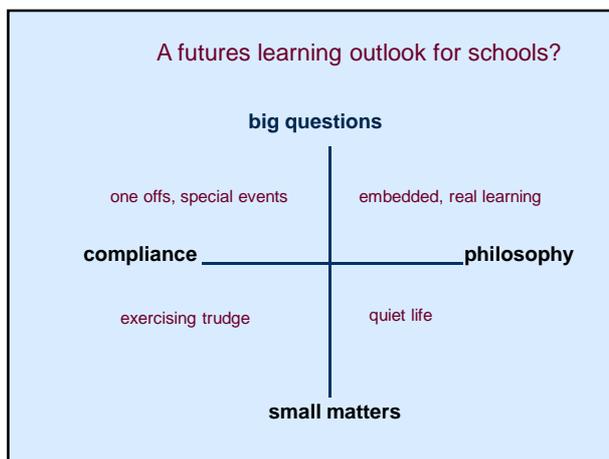
Features of schools making change...

- accept the testing/ curriculum divide
- consult the learners at every stage
- pursue coherent themes in learning
- deploy teachers in teams
- extend sessions: end 5 starts a day
- revamp homework
- consider the use of exercise books
- enjoy articulation and mathematicality
- focus on the real world and the news
- vitalise assembly
- exploit ICT
- use non teachers better
- say LO to Walt less often
- co-ordinate products
- provide audiences
- keep assessment in its place
- talk about jobs
- use artefacts, visits and people
- talk about talent and rigour
- encourage panache
- enjoy childhood



Enjoying a mathematical adventure...

- big numbers and micro numbers
- estimation
- measuring
- bonds
- maths everywhere



An alternative to game theory

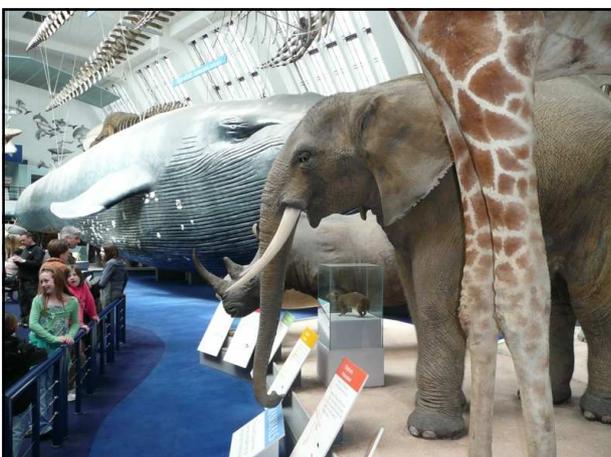
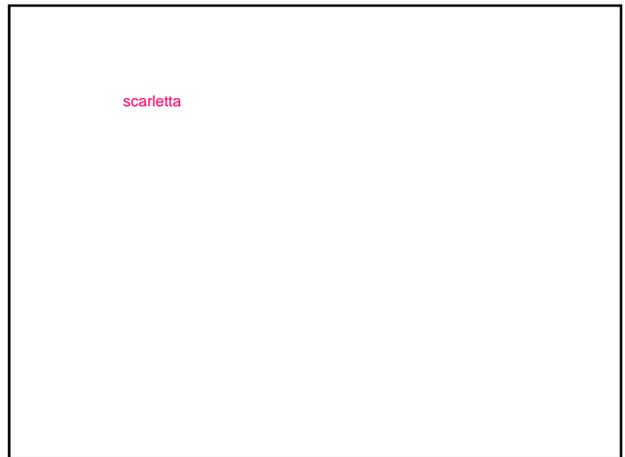
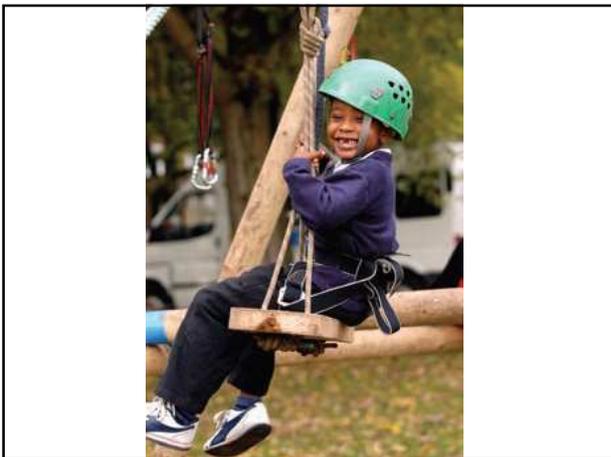
So instead let's pursue *new ways of bringing to life values that motivate us professionally*

In other words *innovating with integrity...*

To empower and inspire; *creating the conditions in which children can flourish*

Performance and effectiveness...

Tent pitched, xylophone played, model tested, song sung, play acted, fabric sewn, local community enhanced, fire lit, flowers and vegetables grown, foreign language spoken, poem appreciated, web site constructed, meal cooked, weather recording taken, armistice remembered, body exercised, bearing set, artefact explored, film viewed, photograph snapped, map interpreted, old people valued, dance composed, money accumulated, long shore drift measured, pot thrown, bouquet arranged, tickets ordered, bird spotted, constellation observed, wall built, spirit lifted, book read, story written, **LESSONS LEARNT**



What's the curriculum promise?

- a professional response
- a purveyor of rations or a crafter of abundance
- a guide on a learning adventure or a route marcher
- the next...inspection, examinations, election, generation
- remember your interview
- and keep your sunny side up