

Introduction to the Thematic Units Years 6 & 7



Thematic Units

The Ideas for Connecting Learning (ICLs) provide teachers with a large menu of teaching and learning options. However, we recognise that teachers still need to select, adapt and plan specific teaching and learning opportunities for their class. The Thematic Units develop the ICLs further and show how flexible they are. Each unit offers structured learning and teaching opportunities that can be taught over a period of six weeks.

Each Thematic Unit focuses on:

- One of the objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum; and
- One aspect of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

They:

- Encourage children to make connections across the Areas of Learning;
- Use Active Learning strategies;
- Provide opportunities for the assessment of the skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT; and
- Incorporate the principles of Assessment for Learning.

The Thematic Units are underpinned by key questions that help focus children's learning.



The Thematic Units and the Northern Ireland Curriculum Objectives

The objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum are to help young people develop as individuals, contributors to society and contributors to the economy and the environment.

The table below gives a brief outline of each of the Thematic Units and how they relate to the objectives of the curriculum:

| Thematic Unit | Ideas for Connecting the Learning | Northern Ireland Curriculum Objective | Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | Areas of Learning |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Let's Get Moving | Thinking Through the Past | To develop the young person as an individual. | <i>Being Creative</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arts; and • The World Around Us. |
| Fair Enough? | Wonderful World | To develop the young person as a contributor to society. | <i>Thinking, Problem-Solving, and Decision-Making</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and Literacy; • Mathematics and Numeracy; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; • The World Around Us; and • The Arts. |
| Money Wise | Needs and Wants | To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment. | <i>Managing Information</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics and Numeracy; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; • The World Around Us; and • The Arts. |
| Actions Speak Louder | Around the World | To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment. | <i>Managing Information</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Around Us; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; • Language and Literacy; • Mathematics and Numeracy; and • The Arts. |
| Impact | Eco-Warriors | To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and the environment. | <i>Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Around Us; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; and • Language and Literacy. |

Let's Get Moving!

This Thematic Unit is linked to the Years 6/7 ICL *Thinking Through the Past*. It explores the theme of the Victorians through the context of creative dance, to help children develop positive attitudes towards physical activity and supporting an active lifestyle.

The unit supports one of the key elements behind the aims and objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, **Personal Health**, in that it helps children develop an understanding of the importance of exercise in a healthy lifestyle. Many of the activities encourage children to work practically and creatively with others and to share and value others' ideas and opinions.

Children will have the opportunity to develop some of the skills that meet the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 2. The focus within this unit is outlined below:

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| Northern Ireland Curriculum Objective | To develop the young person as an individual. |
| Key Element | <i>Personal Health</i> |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | <p>This Thematic Unit focuses on Being Creative. Children will have opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Experiment with ideas and questions;</i> • <i>Make new connections between ideas/information;</i> • <i>Learn and value other people's ideas; and</i> • <i>Make ideas real by experimenting with different actions.</i> <p>There will also be opportunities for children to develop the skills of <i>Working with Others</i> and <i>Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making</i>.</p> |
| Cross-Curricular Skills | <p>Where appropriate, learning intentions that relate to cross-curricular skills are signposted. These cross-curricular skills are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (Comm); • Using Maths (UMaths); and • Using ICT (UICT). |
| Connecting the Learning | <p>This Thematic Unit provides teachers with the opportunities to connect learning across the following Areas of Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arts; and • The World Around Us. |
| Aim | <p>The aim of this Thematic Unit is to encourage children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge, skills and understanding in a range of physical activities and challenges; • Develop thinking skills through a range of movement contexts; and • Develop personal qualities such as taking responsibility, fairness, working with others and leadership. |

Fair Enough?

This Thematic Unit is linked to the Years 6/7 ICL *Wonderful World*. Within this unit children have the opportunity to think critically about the world, explore its diversity and understand its interdependent nature.

Through the activities children are encouraged to find out about the concept of Fair Trade and to compare the roles of those people involved in the production of commodities that are fair for all with their own role as consumers in society.

Children will have the opportunity to develop some of the skills that meet the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 2. The focus within this unit is outlined below:

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| Northern Ireland Curriculum Objective | To develop the young person as a contributor to society. |
| Key Element | <i>Ethical Awareness</i> |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | <p>This Thematic Unit focuses on Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making.</p> <p>Children have opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Examine evidence and distinguish fact from opinion;</i> • <i>Make links between cause and effect; and</i> • <i>Examine options and weigh up pros and cons.</i> <p>There will also be opportunities for children to develop the skills of <i>Being Creative</i> and <i>Working with Others</i>.</p> |
| Cross-Curricular Skills | <p>Where appropriate, learning intentions that relate to cross-curricular skills are signposted. These cross-curricular skills are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (Comm); • Using Maths (UMaths); and • Using ICT (UICT). |
| Connecting the Learning | <p>This Thematic Unit provides teachers with the opportunities to connect learning across the following Areas of Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and Literacy; • Mathematics and Numeracy; • The Arts; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; and • The World Around Us. |
| Aim | <p>The aim of this Thematic Unit is to encourage children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an awareness of imbalance existing in the wider world; • Develop an awareness of global issues and understand how these impact on their lives; and • Develop respect for self and others through deeper understanding of other cultures; |

Money Wise

This Thematic Unit is linked to the Years 6/7 ICL, *Needs and Wants*. Within this unit, children will be enabled to foster positive attitudes towards financial decision making.

Children will learn about making financial decisions and consider how to spend money. They learn that resources can be allocated in different ways and these decisions have individual, social and environmental consequences.

Children will have the opportunity to develop some of the skills that meet the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 2. The focus within this unit is outlined below:

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| Northern Ireland Curriculum Objective | To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment. |
| Key Element | <i>Economic Awareness</i> |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | <p>This Thematic Unit focuses on Managing Information. Children have opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Classify, compare and evaluate information;</i> • <i>Develop methods for collating and recording information; and</i> • <i>Ask deeper and wider questions to clarify a task.</i> <p>There will also be opportunities for children to develop the skills of <i>Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making and Working with Others</i>.</p> |
| Cross-Curricular Skills | <p>Where appropriate, learning intentions that relate to cross-curricular skills are signposted. These cross-curricular skills are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (Comm); • Using Maths (UMaths); and • Using ICT (UICT). |
| Connecting the Learning | <p>This Thematic Unit provides teachers with the opportunities to connect learning across the following Areas of Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics and Numeracy; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; • The Arts; and • The World Around Us. |
| Aim | <p>The aim of this Thematic Unit is to encourage children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the skills to make financial decisions and become more financially responsible; • Develop their thinking through a range of problem-solving and decision-making challenges which make connections from their own experiences to the wider world; • Apply financial knowledge, understanding and skills across a range of contexts; and • Understand how financial decisions can affect not only themselves but also their school community and family. |

Actions Speak Louder

This Thematic Unit is linked to the Years 6/7 ICL, *Around the World*. Within this unit, children explore the lives of others less fortunate than themselves. In doing so, they find out about the work of volunteers and the role they play in helping to make the world a better place in which to live.

By adopting an enterprising approach, children are encouraged to identify opportunities where they could make a difference by organising an event to raise funds for a charity of their choice.

Children will have the opportunity to develop some of the skills that meet the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 2. The focus within this unit is outlined below:

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| Northern Ireland Curriculum Objective | To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment. |
| Key Element | <i>Employability</i> |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | <p>This Thematic Unit focuses on Managing Information.</p> <p>Children have opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Classify, compare and evaluate information;</i> • <i>Develop methods for collating and recording information; and</i> • <i>Have a sense of audience and purpose.</i> <p>There will also be opportunities for children to develop the skills of <i>Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making</i> and <i>Working with Others</i>.</p> |
| Cross-Curricular Skills | <p>Where appropriate, learning intentions that relate to cross-curricular skills are signposted. These cross-curricular skills are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (Comm); • Using Maths (UMaths); and • Using ICT (UICT). |
| Connecting the Learning | <p>This Thematic Unit provides teachers with the opportunities to connect learning across the following Areas of Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and Literacy; • Mathematics and Numeracy; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; • The World Around Us; and • The Arts. |
| Aim | <p>The aim of this Thematic Unit is to encourage children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and awareness of the inequalities that exist in the world; and • Understand the role of voluntary workers and the reasons why people choose to volunteer. |

Impact

This Thematic Unit is linked to the Years 6/7 ICL *Eco-Warriors*. Each of us has an impact on the environment, locally and globally. In this Thematic Unit, children develop an understanding of how the things we do can impact on people and animals in other countries and how we can make a positive contribution to our world.

Children begin to be aware of the contribution they have to habitats elsewhere in the world. They explore ways in which they can make a positive contribution.

Children will have the opportunity to develop some of the skills that meet the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 2. The focus within this unit is outlined below:

Children explore:

- Different ecosystems;
- Global issues and their impact on the environment; and
- Our collective responsibility to the local and global environment.

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| Northern Ireland Curriculum Objective | To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment. |
| Key Element | <i>Education for Sustainable Development</i> |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | This Thematic Unit focuses on Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making . Children will have opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Examine evidence and make links between possible causes and effects;</i> • <i>Understand more than one point of view;</i> • <i>Examine options and weigh up pros and cons; and</i> • <i>Suggest possible solutions to problems.</i> |
| Cross-Curricular Skills | Where appropriate, learning intentions that relate to the cross-curricular skills are signposted. These cross-curricular skills are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (Comm); • Using Mathematics (UMaths); and • Using ICT (UICT). |
| Connecting the Learning | This Thematic Unit provides teachers with opportunities to connect learning across the following Areas of Learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Around Us; • Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; and • Language and Literacy. |
| Aim | The aim of this Thematic Unit is to encourage children to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how they can make a difference; • Understand how their actions locally may impact globally; and • Build knowledge of the wider world through examining an ecosystem/region. |



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Rewarding Learning