Professional learning communities

‘Working together to improve learner outcomes’
What is a professional learning community (PLC)?
• A PLC is a group of practitioners working together using a structured process of classroom enquiry.
• The enquiry focuses on a specific area of learning and teaching to improve learner outcomes.

What are the benefits for me and my school?
• Improved outcomes for your learners.
• Improved professional learning for you as a practitioner.
• Improved school performance.
• Enhances your CPD.
• Develops your teaching practice and leadership skills through a focussed and measurable process.

How can PLCs improve learner outcomes?
• The PLC process, supported by the national model, encourages effective analysis of data. This supports effective measuring of improvements and better evaluation of outcomes.

• Using action enquiry, practitioners develop a better understanding of the most effective strategies to improve classroom practice.
• PLCs are at their most effective when practitioners are supported throughout the process and their work has a direct impact on changing classroom practice and learner outcomes.

How much time will I need to dedicate?
• PLCs should be part of a whole-school approach to school improvement and professional development.
• Regular opportunities for practitioners involved in a PLC to discuss progress and plan next steps is vital to the success of the PLC.
Where do I start?

- Use data to identify a particular issue/problem for a specific group of learners.
- Establish a group of practitioners to enquire into ways of overcoming the issue/problem.
- Identify a group facilitator and follow the national model.

The national model for PLCs

Seven easy stages to help you achieve your target to improve learner outcomes.

Where can I find more information?

Visit our website at learning.wales.gov.uk/yourcareer/PLC

or click on the QR code to link to the site.

Follow us on Twitter @DfESwales

You can also e-mail the team at PLC@wales.gsi.gov.uk