

Professional learning communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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'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.

‘For many staff, involvement in PLCs has allowed them to move on to the next stage of their career.’

Deputy Headteacher,
St. Joseph’s R. C. High School

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.

‘For us, the most important element of the PLC was raising learner outcomes.’

Headteacher,
Llangynidr Primary School

- 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](https://twitter.com/DfESwales)

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

