

Session Report Form

OUR GUIDING QUESTION: What learning arrangements can we design that will achieve a step change in engagement and integration for all students?

Session Name: Project based learning - the way ahead?

Summary of the guiding ideas arising from your session:

E.g. We trust learners to take responsibility for their learning

PBL is an excellent way to engage students and develop a whole range of skills. Students can be progressively helped to take a greater responsibility for their own learning. However it is easy to do poor PBL and we need to be absolutely clear as to what the essential characteristics of PBL actually are.

Please describe the pedagogic design of your idea

E.g. Key teaching and learning principles, learning arrangements, workforce deployment/development, etc).

PBL can be both thematic and within subject. Teacher is a facilitator. The following are essential characteristics:

Big question which must have a relevance to the real world

Rigorous

SMART

Negotiated success criteria

Allow for self management, self paced, different ways of presentation

Assessed – possibly through portfolio / exhibition.

Please describe the curriculum design of your idea

E.g. How engagement & integration - made possible through vibrant pedagogy - is reflected in content selection/balance/sequencing

Applies to all subjects. Can develop particularly the application of skills within an authentic context. Student involvement via (a) potential choice of pathway or topic (b) success criteria generated by students (c) say how assessed (d) self-pace, managed etc.

Please describe any implementation issues you see

e.g. Mechanisms to avoid 'roadblocks', priority strategic development areas

Need to give permission as to risk factor re not knowing whether its going to fully work
Involves teacher in new role where (a) has to stand back yet (b) knows when to intervene to promote new thinking.

Needs suitable learning environment i.e not a traditional classroom, with appropriate resources e.g. ICT.

Possible to 'walk through' staff via a 'tool kit'; enquiry 'wheel' etc.