# Directed Task – An overview of the school’s curriculum

Use the following prompts to support your deepening understanding of how a school structures it’s curriculum including the sequencing of key concepts and critical knowledge and skills

This will need to include a conversation with your mentor to pick out anything that can’t be found on the school’s website or curriculum documents.

School: ………………………………………… Date: …………………………….. Year Group: ……………………

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| **Through discussion with your mentor, briefly describe how the curriculum is organised in the school** (i.e. discrete subjects, topic-based, mixture of the two) Are there any significant ways in which the curriculum is structured? |
| **How does the structure of the curriculum match with the school’s context?** (discuss the school’s context with your mentor) |
| **Does the school follow any particular schemes for any subjects?** |
| **Are there any specialist teachers that teach any part of the curriculum? If yes, make sure you have chance to observe them during the placement to develop your subject and pedagogical knowledge** |
| **Which foundation subjects will you be observing and teaching across this placement?  How do these lessons fit into the school’s long-term plan for these subjects?** Use the school’s long-term plan, what is the critical knowledge and skills you will observe / teach during this placement? You may want to have a conversation with subject leaders about the rationale for the sequencing of key concepts, knowledge and skills in these subjects. |
| **Cultural capital**  The importance of cultural capital in shaping children’s educational experiences and outcomes should be recognised. Cultural capital encompasses the knowledge, skills, and experiences that individuals acquire through their cultural background and upbringing.  Inspectors now consider how schools promote cultural capital and provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum that reflects diverse cultural perspectives. Schools are expected to demonstrate how they enrich pupils' cultural awareness and understanding. According to Ofsted (2019), it is “... the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.”  As you begin to understand the curriculum of your placement school, take a look at these resources and then make some notes about how your Phase 1 school supports the development of children’s cultural capital.   * <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/learning-about-culture> * <https://early-education.org.uk/cultural-capital/> * <https://nationalcollege.com/news/ofsted-cultural-capital-guide#:~:text=Cultural%20capital%20encompasses%20the%20knowledge,that%20reflects%20diverse%20cultural%20perspectives>. |