

Lesson Study

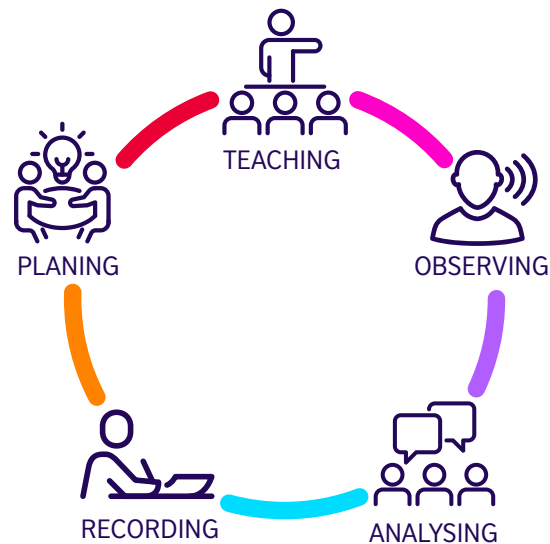
Introduction

This document is designed to help you implement a ‘Lesson Study’ approach to teacher development in your school.

Lesson Study uses a cycle of collaborative tasks that involves groups of three teachers working together to plan a cycle of lessons that address a challenge in student learning that they identify together.

What’s Lesson Study

May involve extended preparation (training, reading and collaboration)

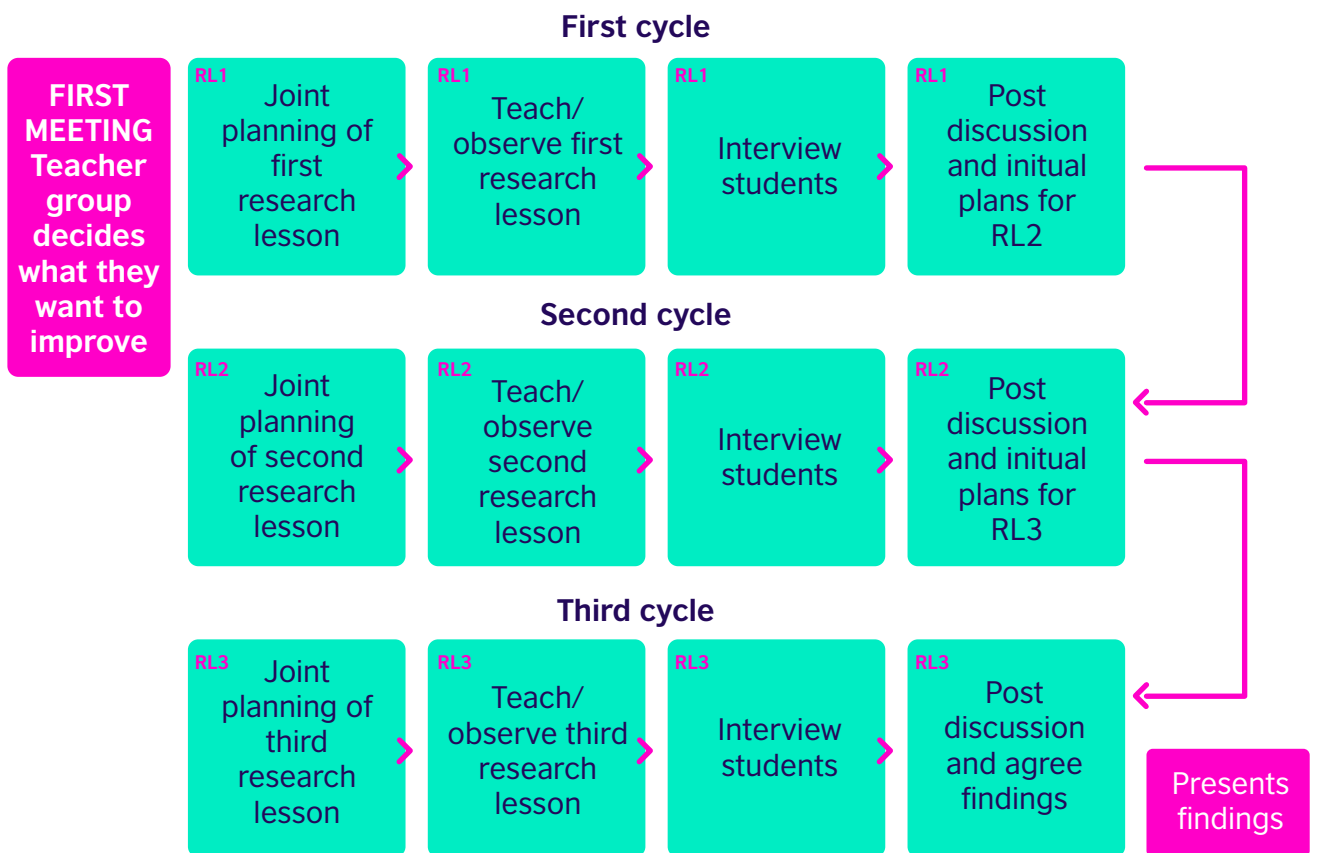


The Lesson Study process involves three cycles of joint planning, teaching and observation, and analysis.

At the end of the three cycles, the group of teachers usually presents and shares their findings to the other members of staff so that everyone in the school can benefit from the insights gained and the resources that have been developed.



Lesson Study process



To find out more about Lesson Study, you can watch Silvana Richardson’s webinar ‘Collaborative approaches to teacher learning and innovation’.

Time reference: 30:02 - 35:53.

Session plan

Stage 1 Initial meeting

In this initial meeting, teachers should work together in groups of 3. This will probably work best if the teachers work with people they are comfortable with and who have similar interests and who teach similar levels and age groups.

Procedure

- Put the teachers into groups and ask them to brainstorm areas that they would like to improve, either with their own teaching or the students’ learning.
- Ask the teachers to focus on quantity of ideas rather than getting into detailed discussion.

- It may help to set them a time limit of five minutes to produce as many ideas as possible.
- Next, ask the teachers to decide which of the topics they brainstormed have the most impact on students learning. You can let each teacher decide and then try to create groups of three teachers that have similar interests.
- Ask the teachers to work together to find research, reading and resources that can help them develop a deeper understanding of their chosen area.
Note: You may want to give the teachers time to do this outside of the training session.
- Get the teachers to share their research and resources together and ask them to complete the template Lesson Study - Research

Lesson Study - Research

1. What do you want to find out from your lesson study research?
2. How will your research inform your teaching?
3. What useful resources did you find?

Stage 2 Planning

In this second stage, the teachers start to plan the first experimental lesson and decide which of them will teach the lesson and which will observe and support.

Procedure

- Ask the teachers to work together and plan a lesson.
- Ask them to decide who will teach the first lesson.
- Ask them to write some notes about what they think will happen in the lesson.
- Ask them to complete the template Lesson Study - Lesson Focus

Lesson Study - Lesson Focus

Focus of the lesson:

1. What we think will happen in the lesson.

Stage 3 Observing

In this stage of the Lesson Study process, the teachers will work together to design an observation task for the two teachers not teaching the lesson.

Procedure

- Ask the teachers to work together to prepare an observation task that helps them to focus on student-behaviour and any changes they expect to see in student-behaviour.
- Tell the teachers that aren't teaching the class they can either observe the live class or the teacher can record a video of the class for them to watch.

Lesson Study - Observation task notes

Focus of the lesson:

1. The focus of my observation will be:

2. My observations from the lesson are:

Stage 4 Teaching

During this stage of the cycle the teachers will deliver their classes and enable the other two teachers to observe either in the classroom or using a recorded video of the lesson.

Stage 5 Student interviews

During this stage of the cycle, the teacher who taught the class carries out student interviews. These interviews could be done one-to-one, in small focus groups, or the teacher could hand out a questionnaire or a link to a digital questionnaire to all the students.

Procedure

- Get the teacher who taught the class to use the student interview questions to interview their students about how they felt about the lesson.
- Ask the teachers to either focus on a small group of students and interview them one-to-one, or give a copy of the questions to all the students and get them to answer them.
- Tell the teachers they can use the Lesson Study student interview questions template below, or they could adapt it to suit their own lesson.

Lesson Study - Student interview questions

1. What did you enjoy most about the lesson?
2. What did you learn from the lesson that you didn't know before the lesson?
3. What part of the lesson worked best for you?
4. Were there any parts of the lesson when you felt lost or confused?
5. If the same lesson was taught to another group, what would you change? Why?

Stage 6 Analysing

During this stage of the cycle the teacher groups work together and analyse their findings from the student interviews and the teacher observation tasks as well as the teachers' own impressions of the lesson.

Procedure

- Get the groups of teachers together and give them the analysis notes template.
- Ask them to analyse the student responses and share their observations.
- Ask them to work together and complete the Lesson Study - Analysis notes template.

Lesson Study - Analysis notes

1. What progress did each pupil make? Was this enough?
2. What about others in the group?
3. How did the approach help or hinder the lesson?
4. What surprises were there?
5. What aspects need to be changed next time?
6. How do we want the outcome to change?

What's next?

Once the teachers have completed this first cycle, they will need to repeat the cycle two more times working through stages 2 - 6 again with a different teacher leading the class each time.

Final stage - Sharing findings

During this final stage of the cycle, the teacher groups will present and share their findings to other teachers from the school.

Procedure

- Ask the groups of teachers to plan and deliver a short presentation to share their research and any outcomes, findings and resources.
- Ask them to include:
 - The aims of their Lesson Study.
 - What they did in each lesson and what they discovered from the lesson.
 - What informed the changes they made.
 - What conclusions they made.
 - What lessons learned and materials they can share with the other teachers.
- After each presentation, give the other teachers time to ask questions, then put the teachers into groups to discuss what they can take and use in their own teaching from their colleague's Lesson Study.
- Ask the teachers to feedback to the Lesson Study group and share what they took from their presentation.
- Repeat this procedure with the other teaching groups.

Additional resources

The Lesson Study Handbook

- This is Pete Dudley's Lesson Study Handbook. It is a 28-page PDF document packed with advice and further reading for any teacher or trainer that wasn't to learn more about Lesson Study.

<https://lessonstudy.co.uk/2015/11/download-a-free-copy-of-the-lesson-study-handbook/>

Lesson Study blog

- This is the lesson study website with links to more articles, videos and case studies connected with Lesson Study.

<https://lessonstudy.co.uk/>

Lesson Study case report template

- This is a template designed to help teachers share their findings with other teachers who may be interested in finding out more.

<https://lessonstudy.co.uk/capture-and-share-your-lesson-study/>

Videos showing a Lesson Study in primary literacy

- This is a sequence of videos that show teachers going through some of the stages of the lesson study process.

<https://lessonstudy.co.uk/2444-2/>

Becoming a better teacher: Exploring professional development

- This is a British Council course designed to help you keep up your professional. This online course, broken into simple steps, will help you develop your reflective skills and improve your practice in the classroom.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/becoming-better-teacher-exploring-professional-development>