

Executive Functions in the classroom

The hidden architecture behind access, independence and inclusion

Executive functions not only play a crucial role in academic achievement, they also contribute to emotional regulation and psychological well-being.

They are hard to assess, partly due to their contextual nature, sit on a continuum and work in conjunction. With development, proactive control can increasingly replace reactive control.

Executive functions are the mental processes that help pupils focus, hold information in mind, regulate impulses, switch flexibly, plan, organise and persist. When these processes are underdeveloped, pupils can appear distracted, forgetful, disorganised, passive, dependent, oppositional or “not trying”, when in reality they may be struggling to manage the demands of learning. Understanding executive functions helps teachers respond with greater precision, strengthen pupil independence and build classrooms that work better for all learners, particularly disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND.

Sessions are rooted in research, but always translated into practical classroom action.

1. Develop teacher knowledge of the executive functions most relevant to classroom learning and gain greater precision in interpreting pupil difficulties;
2. A focus on designing lessons, adaptive teaching and creating classroom environments that support pupils experiencing difficulties with executive functions;
3. Support pupils to find strategies that will enable them to be more successful and independent;
4. Seek to address root causes by unpacking research to identify what is most likely to have a positive impact on executive functions.



“This work has two strands. Practical training for teachers, and strategic support for headteachers and senior leaders. The aim is to help schools make sense of the complex research on executive function and turn it into clear whole-school actions, consistent routines and classroom practice that strengthens inclusion.”

*Vicky Crane
Consultant and Trainer*



Evaluations from previous courses:

“Whole course was excellent – delivery, materials, presentation.”

“An excellent course, thank you. Will have a major impact on practice immediately.”

“Effective blending of theory and practical application in the classroom.”

“Inspirational. Thought provoking. Really made me think about my own mindset.”

Bespoke in-school consultancy and training

Full day £750+VAT

Half day £550+VAT

Twilight £425+VAT

Q & A consultancy 90 minutes
£195+VAT

For larger conferences and groups please request a quote.

Includes access to online supporting resources.