

# General capabilities: A perspective from cognitive science

## Professional learning discussion guide

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

### Purpose

This workshop is designed to deepen understanding of the CESE paper *General capabilities: a perspective from cognitive science*, and to explore implications for participants' work in their schools.

It is suggested that this paper be read alongside *How to teach critical thinking* by Daniel Willingham, to provide more practical suggestions as to how general capabilities can be taught.

### Role

Facilitator/timekeeper, who both participates and keeps the process moving.

### Time

60 minutes.

### Questions

The reflection task involves participants discussing the following questions:

1. What are the major points being made in this publication? Name at least two that stand out strongly to you.
2. In a crowded curriculum, what do we value in our school?
3. How do you currently teach /apply/ address general capabilities in your class or subject?
4. How do you currently assess general capabilities in your class or subject? Do your assessments require general capabilities?
5. Which areas require further thought and development?
6. What actions do you want to take to move towards where you want our school to be in one year's time?

