

# Building the habits of... Ethical Informed Citizens



## Successful Futures: a new curriculum for Wales

The new curriculum is shaped by four statements of purpose that emphasise the importance of longer-term outcomes designed to equip young people to thrive in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world. One of these purposes states that young people should develop as **Ethical, Informed Citizens**, ready to learn throughout their lives, and the subject of this resource.

## Ethical Informed Citizens:

- **find, evaluate and use evidence** in forming views
- engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values
- understand and exercise their human and **democratic responsibilities and rights**
- understand and **consider the impact** of their actions when **making choices and acting**
- are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past
- **respect the needs and rights of others**, as a member of a diverse society
- show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet
- **are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world**

**Uniting the models of Successful Futures and Building Learning Power.** All powerful learners cultivate a set of key learning characteristics. Ethical, Informed Citizens would deploy a subset of these characteristics, the most important of which are highlighted below.



## The BLP approach



There are two main parts to the approach:

A a model of a learner and learning, in terms of a set of characteristics that work together to make a person a highly capable learner; we use 'learning power' to describe the effect. (Several of these characteristics appear in this resource.)

B a view of the kind of pedagogy that will nurture and strengthen the learning characteristics in young people.

These are bound together by the fundamental idea that '**learning is learnable**', and by explicit, detailed discussion of how learning works, supported by a rich repertoire of words and action.

## Wider Strategic Skills

The Successful Futures' view of **Ethical Informed Citizens** covers a range of learning habits:

- **cognitive** habits which help learners handle information effectively
- **social** habits which help them work effectively with others
- **emotional** habits which help them manage the feelings of learning positively.

Building Learning Power adds a fourth aspect to this recipe for success: **Strategic**, or meta-cognitive, learning habits.

In the case of an Ethical Informed Citizen, these strategic habits would include *Distilling* - discerning what is and is not important; and *Revising* - willing to amend their views in the light of evidence.

**Learning behaviours to build Ethical Informed Citizens**