

Deep dive question examples

A deep dive is an in-depth look by Ofsted inspectors at specific subjects in a school, based on the most recent Ofsted framework. It helps inspectors to get a feel for whether a broad and balanced curriculum is being offered, the quality of education the children are receiving, progression and sequencing, retention of prior learning, and whether the curriculum at the school is doing what is intended. Ofsted can choose any subject area for their “deep dive” during an inspection, including the subjects we offer here at Kapow Primary.

A deep dive means looking at:

- **Curriculum Intent** – what knowledge and skills do we intend the children to gain from our curriculum?
- **Implementation** – how is the curriculum implemented?
- **Impact** – what progress do children make?

What is curriculum intent?

Your school or subject’s curriculum intent is what you want children to learn, and the skills you want them to acquire. Be clear on exactly what this is so you don’t go off on a tangent. What is key to their future life chances? What do teachers think is their objective in teaching that subject? A key focus of deep-dives have been on the 'Cultural Capital' of a school's curriculum, in other words, how does your curriculum reflect your school's location and potential challenges?

What is curriculum implementation?

Curriculum implementation is the way the curriculum is taught and assessed in order to support pupils to build their knowledge and apply their skills. Ofsted will assess curriculum implementation in many ways. In addition to information provided by a subject leader, they will be interested in what they see in children's books, on wall displays and in discussion with the children themselves.

What is curriculum impact?

Curriculum impact means the outcomes that pupils achieve as a result of the education they have received. Have the children learned what is set out in the curriculum for that subject? How successful has the implementation of the subject aims been?

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How are deep dives carried out?

Ofsted explains that deep dives into subjects includes:

- interviews with staff members including curriculum leaders, pupils and the leadership team
- examining pupils' work – especially over time to check that there is progression
- lesson observations (though individual lessons will not be judged).

The reason for this is to give Ofsted inspectors a full picture as to what is going on in your school in terms of subject coverage.

Typical Ofsted deep dive questions

Of course Ofsted will ask whatever questions they see fit, but here are some examples of previous Ofsted deep dive questions from our community:

- Why is the curriculum structured the way it is?
- How do you ensure the National Curriculum is covered?
- How do you ensure progression in your subject?
- How do you track progression in your subject?
- How do you evidence progression?
- How do you assess progression in your subject?
- What topics do you cover and why?
- What provision do pupil premium, EAL children, SEND children and lower ability children have?
- How do you challenge your higher ability children?
- How can you demonstrate progression across key stages?
- What are children learning?