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Newsletter - Autumn 2025

Hi there,

we hope you're having a fun and productive start to the 2025-26 academic year - we've been very busy at CDEC catching up after a bit of a break over the summer and getting stuck into new and continuing project work while making plans for our training programme and other events during the rest of the year.

You'll find information about all of this and more in this Autumn Term edition of our newsletter - we hope you find something useful or interesting and please get in touch if you have any questions or if you'd like to be featured in a future edition.

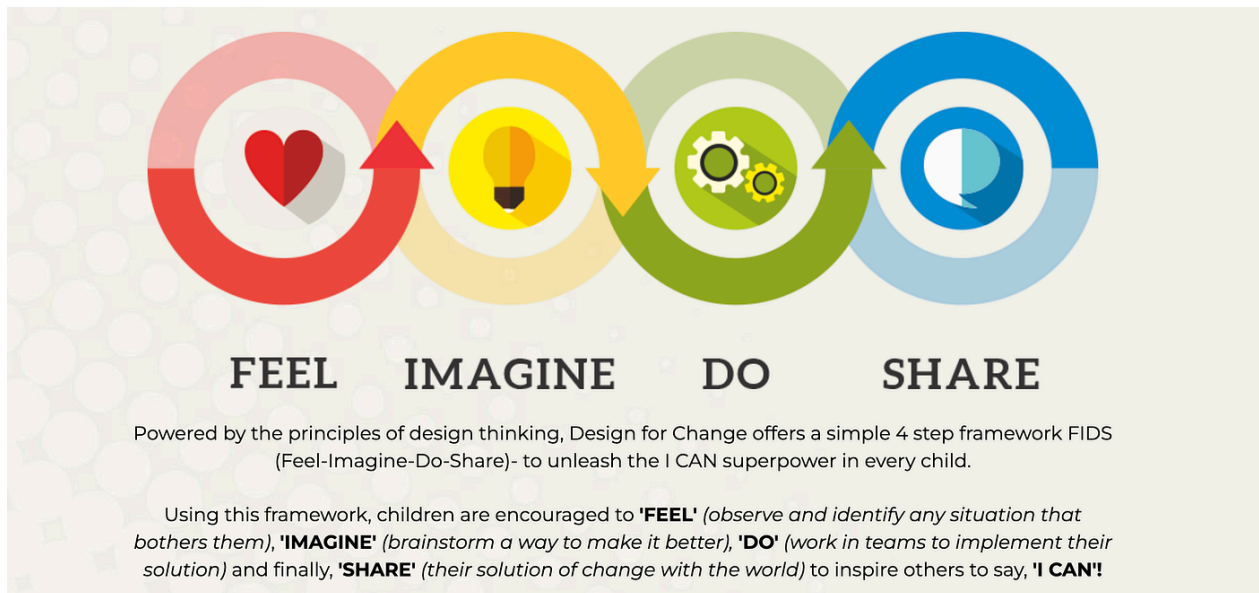
With best wishes from the CDEC team - **Laura, Alison, Geoff and Dan**

2026 TRAINING DATES

LEADING FOR THE FUTURE - an inclusive approach to pupil voice

“Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously”

This right recognises children and young people as actors in their own lives and we believe that empowering children to exercise their rights is essential for their wellbeing, their learning and their contribution to their local, national and global communities. CDEC is now offering training in a whole-school approach to pupil voice called F.I.D.S. - a 4-step framework designed to unleash the **I CAN** superpower in every child.



The language in this process is the key to its success - asking children what 'bothers' them can reveal a host of issues that may otherwise have remained unknown. Children are then asked to focus on one issue and imagine what it would look like if it was solved. This serves as a platform for action, and celebrating impact is the final stage of the process.

Schools in Cumbria have been adopting the F.I.D.S. approach over the last year and have been astounded at the results. At Ambleside Primary, it's been delivered across the whole school, involving every child from Reception to Year 6 and Lyndsay Tarr, the headteacher said, "this approach has enabled all of our children to work together and celebrate their achievements, from contributing to climate action to improving our community." F.I.D.S. has been running at Ambleside since January 2025 and Lyndsay has received great support from governors and parents after sharing plans and information with them.

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get to work together. I love working with the younger children.”

F.I.D.S. can be applied to a wide range of curriculum and non-curriculum activities and is used in many different ways in thousands of schools around the world.

Andreas Schleicher, Director of Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) says “...children are 100% designers of their future. This approach enables them to see their solutions happen and experience their impact, developing compassion, empathy and agency.”

F.I.D.S. can unleash the extraordinary creative talents of every child in a school and also support communication, teamwork and leadership skills while giving children a real sense of agency. We can see the positive impact it's already having in schools in Cumbria and we're delivering more F.I.D.S. training in the spring term:

F.I.D.S. - Pupil Voice

Monday 19th January

1pm - 4pm

CDEC offices, Low Nook, Rydal Road, Ambleside LA22 9BB

This course is delivered by CDEC - book your places at the link below

[CLICK HERE](#)

F.I.D.S. - Oracy

Monday 9th February // 1pm - 4pm

Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth Street, Penrith CA11 7QY

F.I.D.S. - Oracy

Wednesday 29th April // 9am - 12pm

Phoenix Business Centre Unit 8, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2UA

These courses are delivered by CDEC in conjunction with Westmorland & Furness Council. Book your places via your school's SLA account at the link below or send an email to school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

TEACHING A CLIMATE CURRICULUM

This training is focused on supporting teachers to develop their own knowledge and to focus on developing their curriculum (primary and secondary) to include the climate knowledge, skills and attitudes required by young people. It will also provide support with your school's Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Curriculum offers a holistic framework with age-appropriate learning outcomes from KS1 to KS4 ensuring progression. The climate crisis reaches into so many areas of our lives and the Climate Curriculum encompasses aspects including:

- scientific knowledge
- values
- attitudes and mindsets
- emotions and the psychology of behaviour change
- climate justice and injustice
- positive stories of hope in action from around the world

This CPD will provide you with the tools and approaches to integrate climate change meaningfully into both the taught and hidden curriculum, with the minimum of effort and disruption.

Outcomes for staff:

- a sound overview of the essential Climate Change & related sustainability issues and the knowledge to teach them well and with confidence
- tools and guidance to incorporate Climate Curriculum Learning Outcomes across your curriculum
- access to engaging curriculum-linked resources and mentoring to create and trial your own lessons
- opportunity for discussion, sharing and learning with colleagues
- a framework for integrating climate across all areas of school life

Outcomes for pupils:

- provides specific and relevant age-appropriate knowledge
- addresses eco-anxiety through fostering agency and hope
- empowers students with practical things they can do to make a positive change

Outcomes for the school:

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- fun, engaging and interactive approaches to teaching climate change
- support your staff team to gain a shared understanding of the importance and urgency of climate education (and its relationship with ecological sustainability)

Tuesday 27th January // 9am - 4pm

J36 Rural Auction Centre, Crooklands, Milnthorpe LA7 7FP

This course is delivered by CDEC in conjunction with Westmorland & Furness Council and includes a follow-up session to track progress and support implementation - this will take place on Wednesday 11th March // 1pm-4pm. Book your places via your school's SLA account at the link below or send an email to school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

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CRITICAL THINKING IN AN AGE OF DISINFORMATION

This critical literacy training will support you as you equip your learners with the skills to analyse texts and media critically, recognising power dynamics, biases, and perspectives. It will encourage questioning, and challenge engagement with information in a thoughtful and informed way, ultimately fostering social justice and critical thinking.

This course will give you the skills, understanding and resources to empower your pupils and students to think critically and thoughtfully, to see multiple perspectives and have the skills to interpret information that is harmful.

Outcomes:

- to increase your ability to understand and critique the knowledge base and key concepts associated with education for a just and sustainable world (global learning)
- to be able to identify a range of different perspectives, and question the assumptions behind them
- to enhance your understanding of approaches to learning which promote critical literacy and how to develop the skills to engage in respectful discourse and action in your pupils/students

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local and global issues

- to increase your confidence and understanding of how to promote informed, active global citizenship

Wednesday 4th February // 1pm - 4pm

J36 Rural Auction Centre, Crooklands, Milnthorpe LA7 7FP

Tuesday 5th May // 1pm - 4pm

J36 Rural Auction Centre, Crooklands, Milnthorpe LA7 7FP

These courses are delivered by CDEC in conjunction with Westmorland & Furness Council. Book your places via your school's SLA account at the link below or send an email to school.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

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Many schools are choosing CDEC to deliver training to a whole staff team or to a cluster of schools - this can be arranged for any of the above courses at a time and place that suits you. To discuss bespoke options for your school or cluster, please send an email to Alison Hooper: alison@cdec.org.uk

CDEC MEMBERSHIP 2025-26

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Global Learning can be the golden thread through your curriculum, enhancing your personal development outcomes and encouraging young people to become informed, responsible and active global citizens with a lifelong commitment to building a fairer and more sustainable world.

The benefits of membership for 2025-26:

- Members' **newsletter** each month
- Borrow our **Resource Boxes**
- Get involved in our **project work**
- A **FREE** place on one of our open training courses
- Additional, bespoke **support** for your cluster/MAT
- Your school in a draw for **FREE** CDEC books!



- The satisfaction that you are supporting **Global Learning** in Cumbria for years to come!

Membership Fees - 2025-26

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • All preschools and nursery schools and
• Primary schools with fewer than 50 pupils | £45 |
| <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #e91e63;"/> | |
| • Primary schools with more than 50 pupils | £80 |
| <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #e91e63;"/> | |
| • Secondary schools | £100 |

If you're not sure whether or not you need to renew, or if you have any other questions about membership, please send an email to dan@cdec.org.uk

CDEC RESOURCE BOX COLLECTION

We have lots of resource boxes available for our member schools to borrow including two **brand new Climate Change boxes** and our popular box of **Kenya** resources has recently been completely updated with lots of new activities. Click the link below to see the full list of our resource boxes and book yours for the rest of the year.

One of our favourite boxes is *Wild Words in the World: The Lost Words* - it's perfect for connecting with nature and stimulating an exploration of your school grounds



This lovely set of activities is based around the bestselling books by **Robert Macfarlane** and **Jackie Morris**. The box contains multiple copies of the book alongside a wealth of specially-designed additional materials ideal for the classroom and great for autumnal explorations!

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BOOK YOUR BOXES HERE

CDEC PROJECTS

BLUE INFLUENCERS - Geoff continues to work with schools and youth centres in his role as a Blue Mentor for the Ernest Cook Trust.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

CLIMATE LEADERS - The film and report from this year's Youth Climate Summit are now live!

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

WELCOMING THE STRANGER - 2025-26 is the third year of our Welcoming the Stranger project and we're continuing to deliver in schools on the west coast of Cumbria with **The La'al Collective** and with funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS

Outdoor Essentials Grant

This fund from The Ernest Cook Trust is back with specific eligibility for some postcodes in Cumbria - follow the link below to find out more!

[Information and applications here](#)

REWEAR REVOLUTION

RHEGED // Saturday 28th February // 10am - 4pm

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event at Rheged in February. This is an opportunity for Cumbrian schools to make a collective 'sustainable fashion statement' at a high profile event!

Fast fashion is a significant issue related to climate change. We are inviting each school to put together an outfit from preloved clothes. These outfits will be celebrated in a fashion show on the day. You can submit more than one outfit and your students can model these on the day and provide a description of their inspiration for their design.

There's plenty going on including: thought-provoking films, keynote speakers, discussion panels, hands-on workshops, clothes swap, exhibition of mending and repair innovations from leading companies and more!

This can be added to your school's **Climate Action Plan**, too!

If you would like to take part, please send an email to alison@cdec.org.uk

2025 Global Goals Week Toolkit

The World's Largest Lesson, in partnership with **UNICEF** and UNESCO, brings the Sustainable Development Goals to life, with free resources for teachers and children around the world.

[Information and download link here](#)

DfE's Climate in Education Snapshot

October 2025

This is a collection of ideas, activities, resources and opportunities - read the October edition at the link below and sign up to get future Snapshots emailed directly to you.

[Start exploring here](#)

Topical Talk from The Economist Foundation

Sign up to Topical Talk to get free teaching resources connected to the most important news and current affairs stories of the moment. Aimed at teachers of 10-16 year olds,

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Classroom Resources for Global Days

Our friends at **Global Dimension / Reboot the Future** have released their calendar for the new academic year and because their Global Learning values and principles align with ours, we'll be sharing their resources with you throughout the year in our member newsletters and on our social media platforms.



[Take a look at the calendar here](#) and follow us on social media at the links below

Donations to CDEC help us to continue our work supporting Global Learning in Cumbrian schools.

We really appreciate your support - thank you!

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