

Canny Planning

Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley

National Curriculum subject content

Year 7 Geography: understand, through the use of detailed place-based exemplars at a variety of scales, the key processes in: human geography relating to: population and urbanisation; international development; economic activity in the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors; and the use of natural resources.

Project Summary

The aim of the project is for students to consider what is meant by town or urban planning, and what planners need to think about when planning for a healthy high street in a place like Otley. They do this through a variety of problem-solving activities, working as a team to complete diamond ranking, debates and a game devised by Newcastle University. They consider cross-curricular themes such as healthy eating, social and cultural factors which impact health and lifestyle, and the financial implications of town planning. They work in groups with allocated roles such as traffic engineer, local parent or business owner, before discovering the real-life outcome to their town planning case, which brings authenticity and a real-world connection to the project.

Skill development

- Developing subject specific vocabulary and cultural knowledge
- Using ICT (Skype, iPads)
- Working independently and in a group
- Developing discussion, debating and problem-solving skills
- Creating a final product
- Communicating ideas, cultural knowledge and arguments to an external audience

Cultural capital

The project launch event involves working with Student Ambassadors from the town planning course at Newcastle University, who lead the students through the process of town planning and how decisions are made when planning applications are made, particularly for fast food restaurants. This provides the students with an opportunity to discuss the social and cultural implications of town design, and how healthy eating choices can impact young people in particular. The activity is based on their own local area which makes it relatable and authentic.



Gatsby Benchmarks

BM4: Linking curriculum learning to careers
 BM 5: Encounters with employers and employees
 BM 6: Experience of workplaces
 BM7: Encounters with further and higher education

Diamond Ranking

1. Cut out the photos of different aspects of a planned neighbourhood.
2. Work in groups to discuss and decide what is the most/ least important facility when planning your local area.
3. Stick the photos down in a diamond pattern and explain your ranking with notes next to each photo.



Project activity and timescale

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Lesson 1: How are towns planned/role of town planners, why does Otley's high street look like it does (including the diamond ranking task) <i>Assisted by Student Ambassadors from Newcastle University</i>	Lesson 2: Planning for healthy lifestyles, how healthy is Leeds/Otley (including research from council website and the board game)	Lesson 3: Debate/planning committee meeting on a new hot food takeaway shop in Otley (possibly based on actual application?)	Lesson 4: Debrief and write-up/assessment	Showcase: Students present their work to invited guests (including Town Planning students and local employers)

Launch event/ Final product and showcase

The project launches with a visit from town planning students from Newcastle University, which instantly gives the project authenticity and a real world link. Pupils begin to understand the role of geography in the wider world context.

The aim of the project is to consider all the relevant factors involved in the town planning process, particularly related to contentious issues such as the opening of fast food restaurants in areas within easy access of young people (such as next to a school). They relate the town planning process in these cases to wider issues such as childhood obesity and healthy eating. The project can integrate visits to the local area, invited speakers and examining authentic documents and articles.

The showcase event involves a formal presentation to invited guests, with a debate and discussion panel where the final "decision" on the planning application will be made.

Useful links/resources/ideas

<https://publicaccess.leeds.gov.uk/online-applications/>

If your school isn't near Newcastle, find your local university/college outreach teams.

Resources relating to this specific project on our website.

General resources on our website: blank planning tools, links to useful websites, more case studies

High Street Game

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