

Teacher Activity Groups

Traditionally, the main way to support teachers in their continuing professional development (CPD) has been to ask them to attend training talks, workshops or courses. These training events are often useful and enjoyable – you may have participated in or even led training such as this yourself. But training is not the only way to support CPD of teachers and it has some limitations.

This course presents a comparatively new way of supporting teachers: establishing a Teacher Activity Group (TAG). TAGs are semi-formal CPD associations of teachers, which can complement, extend or even substitute traditional seminars. As a way of CPD TAGs allow creating a unique community of practice that provides opportunities for its members to collaborate and support each other on an ongoing basis.

This course is for highly motivated active teachers, who are interested in CPD.

Objectives

- become aware of and assess range of learning opportunities available to teachers
- identify the advantages and limitations of face-to-face training and alternative ways of supporting the continuing professional development of teachers
- identify the aims of a TAG and ways to organise a TAG in your location
- plan a TAG session, deliver a TAG session yourself and participate in part of a TAG session to develop your skills in reflecting and evaluating a successful TAG.
- become aware of a range of online resources TAG members can access to support teaching, learning and their own continuing professional development
- plan ways to support your TAG members in communicating with each other and providing peer support.

Tentative course outline

Day 1	Welcome to TAGs programme Continuing professional development
Day 2	Teacher Activity Groups TAG resources Roles and responsibilities
Day 3	Going Digital Reporting of your TAG successes to the British Council
Day 4	Demonstration TAG sessions Micro-facilitating
Day 5	Micro-facilitating Feedback Action plan