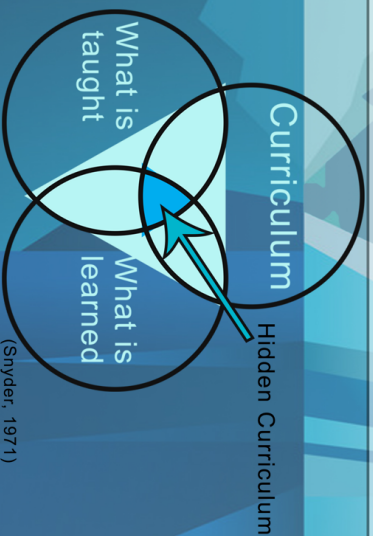


What is it?

"...that which is not explicitly taught in a classroom setting"
(Brodie, 2013).

"...the hidden curriculum refers to a range of things that pupils learn not from the formal curriculum but simply from the experience of being in school".
(Humes, 2013)

Within the current education system, it can be assumed that children receive academic lessons in accordance with the National Curriculum (Meghan & Harber, 2017). However, alongside this, sociologists believe that settings implement a hidden curriculum, focussing on societal norms, values and procedures as well as "cultural values and attitudes such as authority, punctuality and organisation through the structure of teaching and organisation of schools" (Scott & Marshall, 2009).



National

Numeracy. Literacy. Geography. History. PSE.
Physical Education.

Dedication. Hard work. Good Habits. Failure.
Persistence. Tidiness.

Hidden

(Aurifeleki, 2018)

HIDDEN CURRICULUM

"If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what then is an empty desk a sign?"

(Pater, 1993, p339)

Encouragement or hindrance for children?

- Implementing the National Curriculum in a tidy environment is the main priority within today's educational settings in order to encourage work efficiency.
- Settings implement various strategies to encourage children to tidy their workstations, yet is this beneficial or a hindrance to children?
- Tidiness is a key quality for employers (Levitt & Harwood, 2010) which Cox (2017, p1) agrees by promoting efforts taken by educators to show "students the importance of a clean and tidy environment".
- Yet (Vohs, 2013) believes an untidy environment can "promote creative thinking and stimulating ideas".
- The introduction of the Donaldson Report (2015) increased emphasis is placed on creativity throughout the curriculum.
- By tidying are settings indirectly inhibiting children's creativity and moulding them to work in a tidy environment regardless of their preference and needs as opposed to encouraging a life-long skill required for future employment.
- Educational settings could allocate an area or specific time in order for children to store their unfinished tasks so that they can return at a later time within the day.

"A messy desk is a sign of a genius, according to Science".

(James, 2017, p1)

Strategies Around the World.

- Focus is placed on educational outcomes with the neglect of fundamental life skills (Crehan, 2016) within schools as they are "about making children clever and nothing else" (Dabbell, 2017).
- The hidden curriculum allows for the promotion and enforcement of certain behaviours and societal standards within an educational environment (Miller & Sellar, 1990)
- Children in Japan are encouraged to tidy their schools at the end of the academic day which allow them to "learn about responsibility and gain an understanding of life skills" (Tokuyama, 2018).
- The older children help the younger children in order to model appropriate behaviour and reciprocal teaching which Vygotsky (1978) advocated.

Functionalist

Educational settings implement a functionalist approach by encouraging and modelling a tidy environment for children.

This will allow them to promote this environment at home. Children in a neat environment are seen to be well behaved (Weinstein & Woolfolk, 1981).



Strategies to Encourage Cleanliness

- Assign a specific clean up song
- Clean up parade
- Designate a class clean-up captain
- Assign table captains
- Play Beat the clock!
- Create clean up task cards

(Starr, 2010)

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