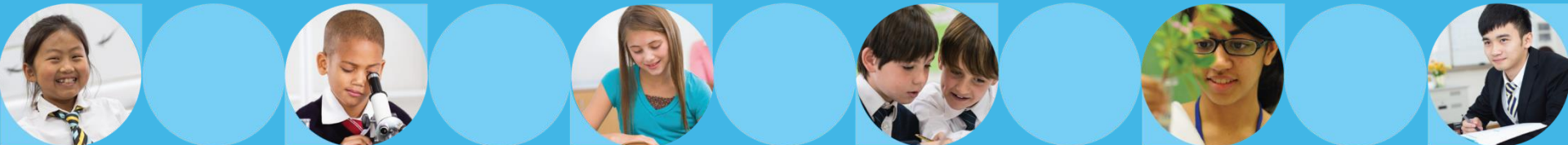


Interdependencies – Curriculum, Assessment and Pedagogy

A national policy perspective

Abigail Barnett
Deputy Director

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Interdependencies and the importance of alignment

Content and structure of this session:

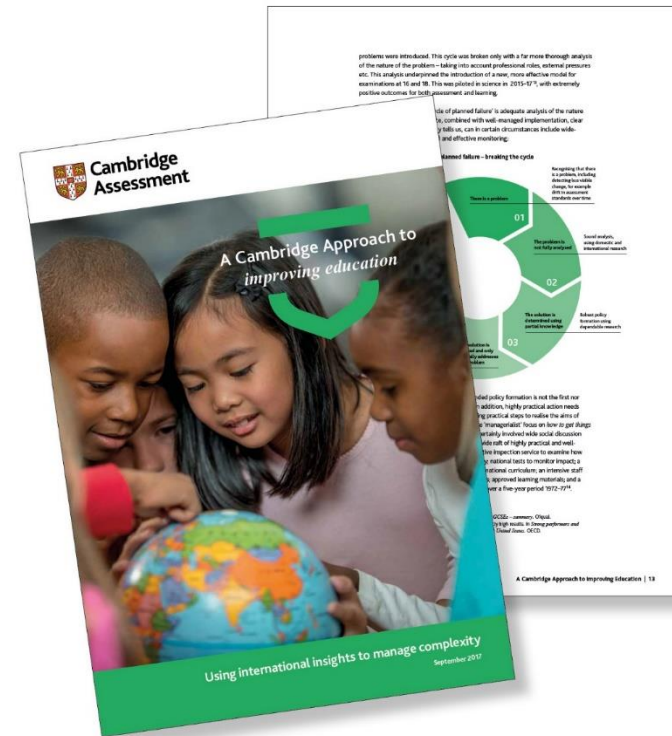
- ▶ Understanding your system – its complexity and resilience
- ▶ Control factors and curriculum coherence
- ▶ Aspects of the curriculum
- ▶ The landscape of assessment
- ▶ Approaches to teaching and learning
- ▶ Next steps

Coherence at policy making level

“A system is regarded as ‘**coherent**’ when the national curriculum content textbooks, teaching content, pedagogy, assessment and drivers and incentives are all **aligned** and **reinforce** one another.”

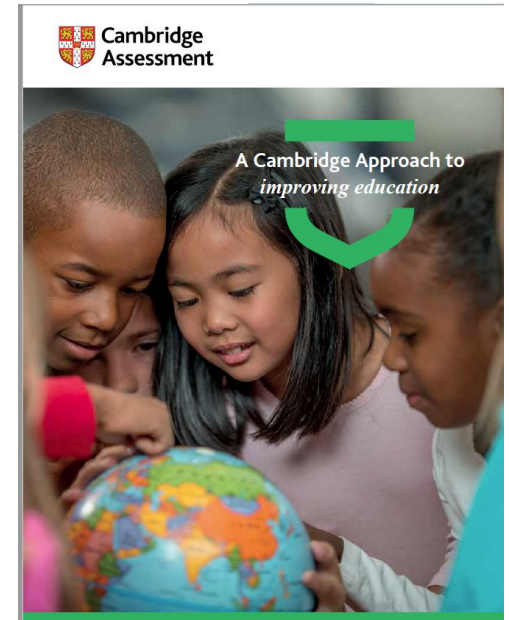
Tim Oates, CBE

Group Director for Assessment
Research and Development,
Cambridge Assessment

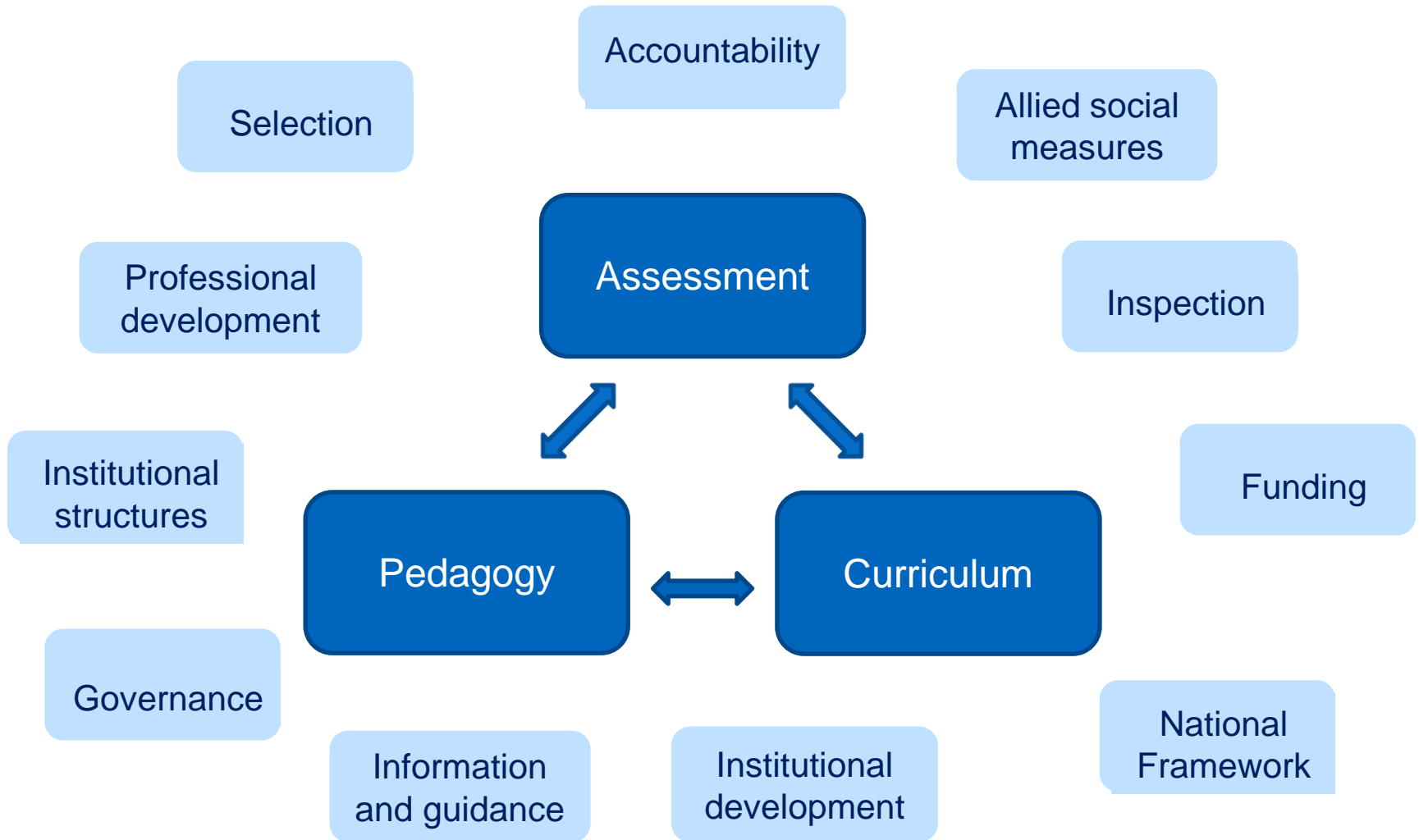


Coherence when managing your system

▶ Analysis through the lens of “control factors” and “curriculum control (alignment)” point to the importance of careful management of the alignment of the different elements of each system, effected through constant monitoring and “fine tuning” – and abandonment or revision of those innovations and changes which initially appeared to hold promise but which monitoring suggests are not working”



The elements of an education system



Control and policy instruments

- ▶ Studies have shown that control is necessary to promote coherence
- ▶ Control need not come from top-down measures
- ▶ Elements of the system should interact in ways that reinforce each other



Ideas helping us to understand the curriculum

Curriculum manifestation	Definition
The intended curriculum	Sets out what learner should know, understand and be able to do
The enacted or taught curriculum	What is happening in the classroom
The assessed curriculum	What are learners tested on as a measure of their performance
The learned curriculum	What learners actually learn
The hidden curriculum	The experience of being in school, including Ethos and culture

How is the curriculum articulated and where?

Curriculum specification options	Present in current system?
national standards	
curriculum 'frameworks'	
aims statements	
subject specifications	
textbooks	
schemes of work	
support materials	
subject discipline models/domain specifications	
subject sequencing	
subject combination criteria/baccalaureate models	

- ▶ Once all the sources of curriculum specification have been identified, it is then possible to evaluate the current approach to curriculum development, progression and structure.

Discussion

- ▶ Think about your experience of curriculum in your current context.
- ▶ Can you come up with examples of good alignment?
- ▶ Are there any examples of misalignments in your context and any issues this may be causing?

The assessment landscape

- ▶ Map the totality of the assessments that a student will experience
- ▶ Consider all types of assessment experienced e.g.
 - ▶ formal high-stakes summative assessments
 - ▶ internal school assessments
 - ▶ informal continuous assessments etc

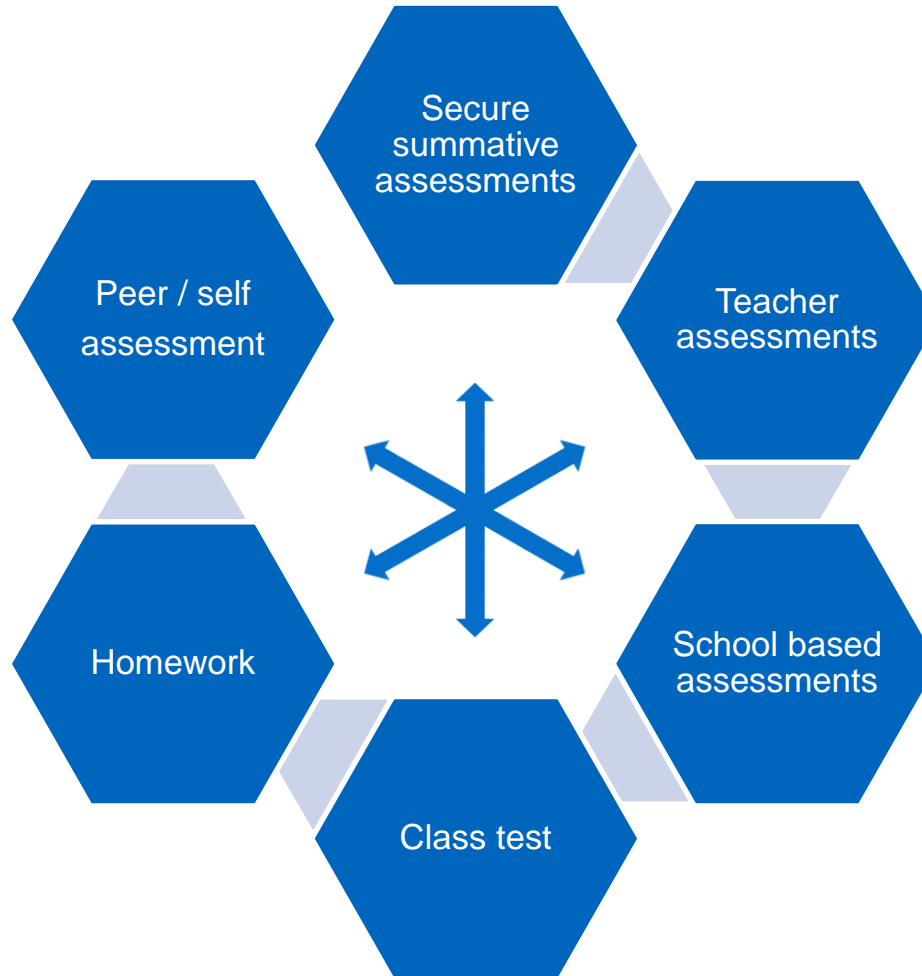


Coherence when managing your system

▶ When considering optimal design characteristics for future assessment systems it is necessary to bear in mind the underlying purposes of those systems. The fact that a system which is fit for one purpose will not necessarily be fit for all purposes is a fundamental consideration when evaluating the legitimacy of proposals. It is one of the most important messages for policy-makers to understand.

▶ (Newton 2007)

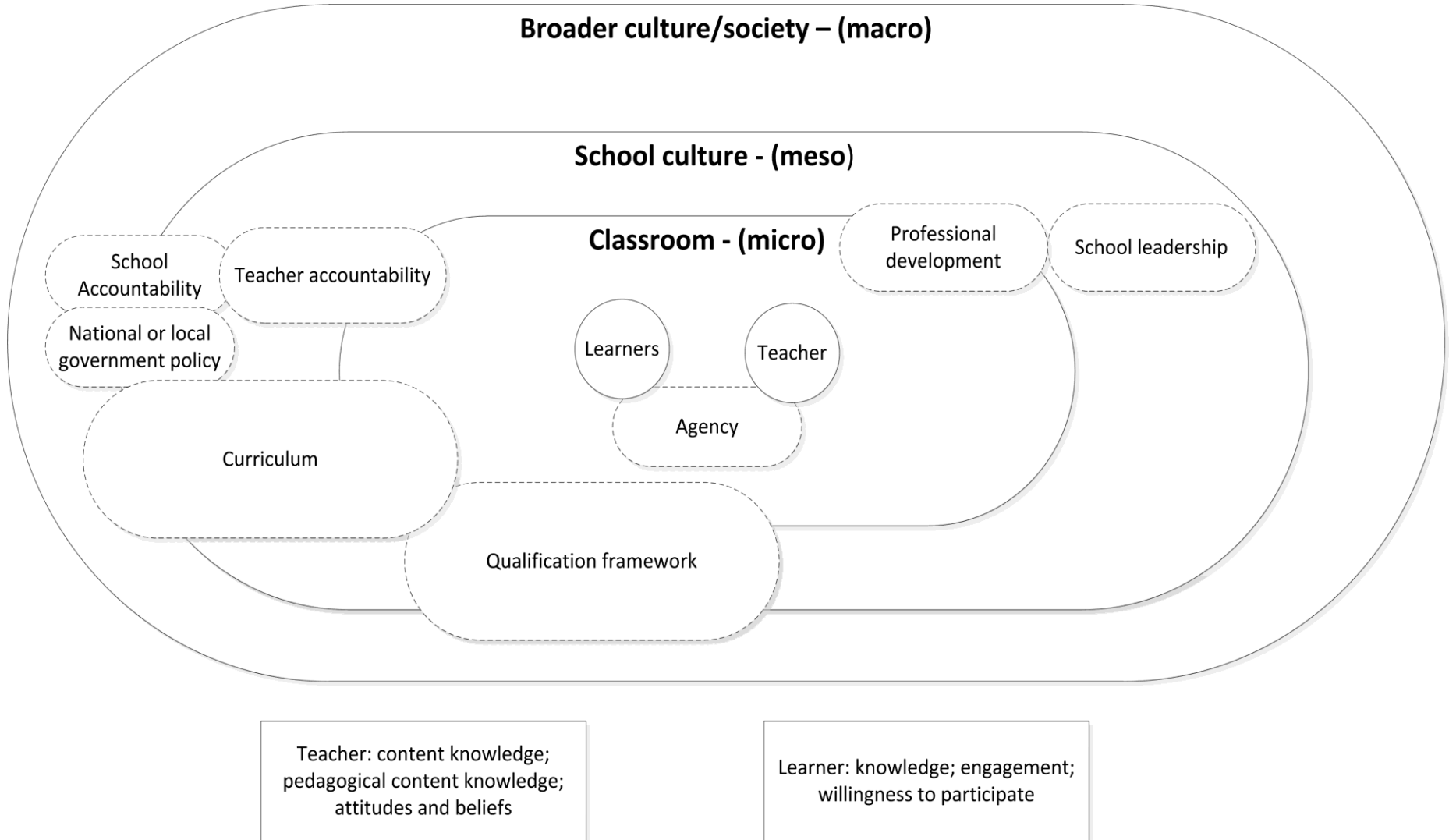
Coherence of assessments



Discussion

- Think about your experience of the assessment landscape in your current context.
- Can you come up with examples of good alignment?
- Are there any examples of misalignments in your context and any issues this may be causing?

Influences on the classroom context



How can we encourage and support teachers to change?

- What did I choose to do?
- How did I plan?
- What activities did I use?

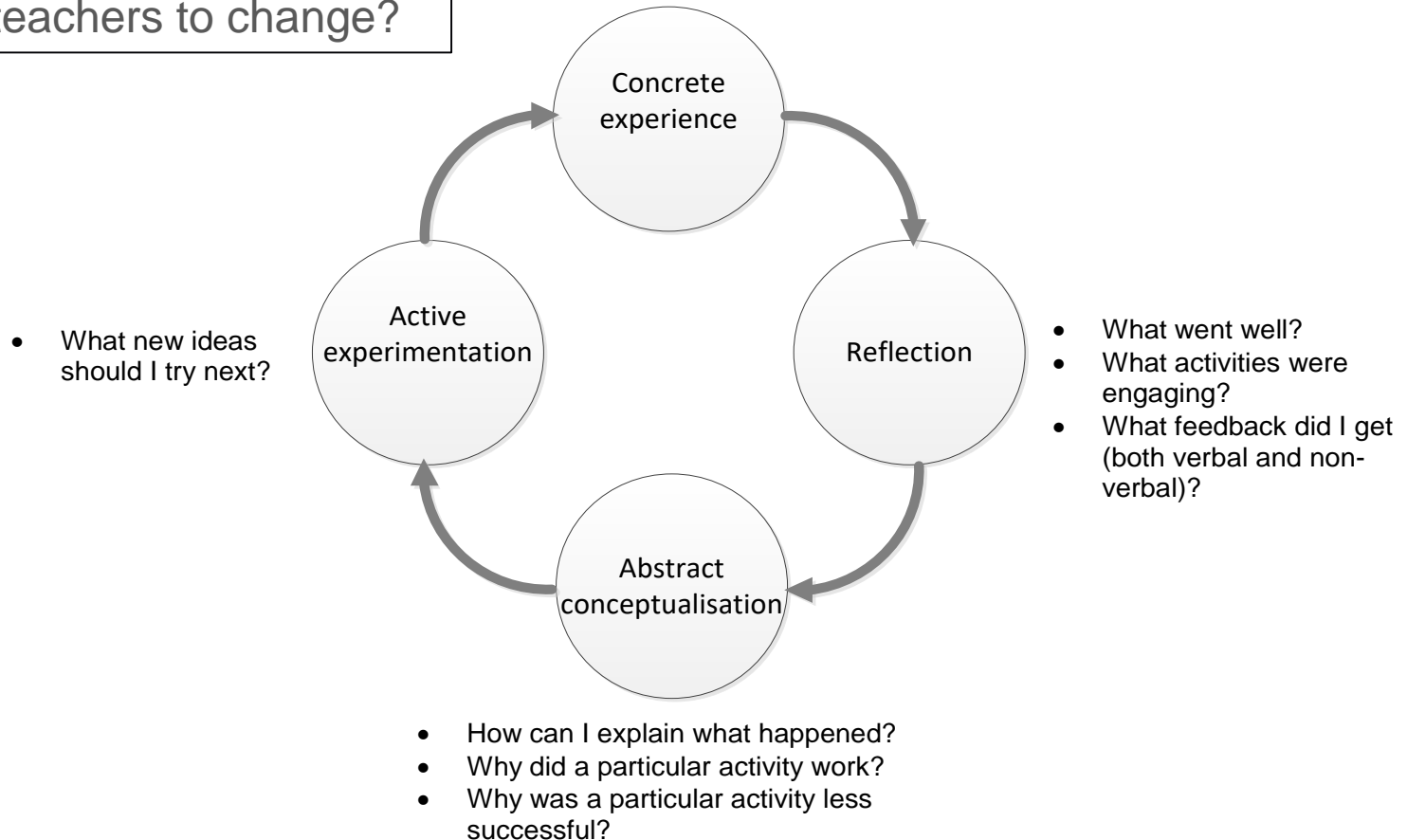


Figure 2: Kolb's cycle of experiential learning. Based on Kolb (1984)

Discussion

- Think about teaching and learning in your current context
- Can you come up with examples of good alignment?
- Are there any examples of misalignments in your context and any issues this may be causing?

Thank you
Any questions?

