**Why should we assess the key competencies?**

The key competencies are the tools that help the students to be independent learners who are prepared for the future. Incorporating the key competencies in delivering subject learning helps the students to be capable of learning. Thus, if the competencies are considered as important tools for future learning, the development and the progress of the key competencies should be monitored and students should be informed about their progress.

**Do the schools need to assess all the eight key competencies in each term?**

It is not possible to focus on the eight key competencies at any point of time. Therefore, what the schools could do is to identify the focus for a given period of time and all the teachers in the same grade should have a common understanding of the specific areas.

**When teachers focus on some key competencies they will miss the other key competencies. Isn’t this a problem?**

The key competencies are integrated and interrelated. If the key competencies are analysed in detail it would be noticed that certain aspects of the key competencies are repeated across different key competencies. For example, effective communication skills are supported through, relating to people, making meaning and it can also be part of using technology and the media as well as using sustainable practices. The key competencies do have a knowledge base. And they should change how students use curriculum knowledge, not just add something alongside.

**Do teachers need to cover all the focus areas that are specified in the key competency guide?**

The focus areas or explanations under each key competency helps to unfold the aspects of the key competencies for the teachers. But they are not indicators that teachers should follow step by step and it is not an exhaustive list. Teachers could use the explanations in the key competency guide to identify which areas of the key competency they would focus in the lessons.
How can we incorporate the key competencies in our lessons?

Take the competencies as a means to change the teaching and learning. They are not add-on elements but rather help the students to be independent learners. For example, when students are able to understand and manage themselves they become independent learners who identify their learning goals for the learning areas and work towards achieving their goal. But in order for this to happen, the learning opportunities in the classroom should include goal setting and reflecting on one’s own learning. This process works effectively based on the guidance and support provided by the teacher.

How can we assess the key competencies?

Assess the key competencies while the students are in action. Develop rich tasks that create opportunities to apply the key competencies through different subject matter. For example, some key competencies are applied in group settings and the best time to assess such aspects is while the students are engaged in completing group tasks.

Can we assess a key competency based on one learning task?

Student performance in applying the key competencies vary in different situations and therefore, it is better to collate evidence from multiple sources. This could include teacher observation or data from the student teacher conference.

Who should assess the key competencies?

All the teachers teaching in a particular grade should be involved in monitoring the development of the key competencies. However, in order to do this in a more effective manner all the teachers should have a common understanding of their focus areas of the key competencies. It is also important to involve the students in the assessment procedure. When students are involved, they are aware of their progress as well as the areas they need to work on.
Why should we report the progress of the key competencies to the parents?

The key competencies are a number of dispositions and skills that students develop through a variety of experiences. At the same time, the key competencies are not developed overnight through one learning activity. But the competencies are developed over a period of time. Students’ experiences at home or outside schools have a wide scope for developing and enhancing the key competencies. Therefore, parents can also contribute in the development of the key competencies.

How can teachers collect evidence of the development of the key competencies?

The evidence could be collected using different methods. One way is to help students to maintain learning logs that could record the progress and have their own reflections. Apart from this, videos and pictures, bulletin boards or portfolios could be ways to collect evidence.

Can the development of the key competencies be assessed based on classroom observations only?

It is better to assess the development of the key competencies while the students are in action in a number of situations and contexts. For example, the key competencies could be assessed when the students are involved in the co-curricular activities or school wide-activities. However, the key competencies should not only be assessed through co-curricular or school wide activities.