

The DfE Enrichment Framework: *what schools need to know*

Published by the Department for Education on **15 June 2026**, the framework is guidance to help schools and colleges in England **plan, strengthen and evaluate** their enrichment offer: the activities and experiences that sit beyond the curriculum. It sets out five strands of enrichment and eight benchmarks of a strong offer, with free tools for self-assessment and action planning.

Is it compulsory?

No. It is non-statutory guidance and a planning tool, not a legal requirement. Existing duties, such as careers guidance, still apply.

Why it matters now

Ofsted's inspection toolkit for 2026-27 asks inspectors to check that "any enrichment is purposeful and varied, having regard to the enrichment framework (where applicable)", within personal development.

The bigger picture

The government's National Youth Strategy aims to halve the gap in participation in enriching activities between disadvantaged young people and their peers by 2035.

01 The five strands of enrichment

Civic engagement

Volunteering, debating, community participation

Arts and culture

Music, art, dance, theatre, museum visits

Nature, outdoors and adventure

Outdoor time, sustainability projects, residential

Sport and physical activity

Team sports, dance, fitness

Wider life and future skills

Digital literacy, STEM clubs, enterprise, cooking, managing money

This is where AI literacy sits. The SOCS AI Standard is built for it (see page 2).

02 The eight benchmarks of a strong offer

- 1 Strategically aligned:** led by the school's vision and linked to priorities such as attendance, behaviour, careers and wellbeing.
- 2 Broad and well-rounded:** varied, purposeful and fun opportunities across all five strands over time.
- 3 Well communicated:** clear, timely information for pupils and parents, and participation celebrated.
- 4 Shaped by the school community:** pupil voice at the centre, with views from parents and staff.
- 5 Accessible and engaging:** open to all, tackling barriers for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND.
- 6 Works in partnership:** activities supported or delivered by high-quality external partners.
- 7 Outcomes-focused:** clear intended outcomes for pupils, tracked over time.
- 8 Continually improving:** regular feedback used to improve quality and impact.

03 What to do this year

- 1 Audit:** complete the DfE's self-assessment tool against the eight benchmarks.
- 2 Map your offer:** list current clubs and activities against the five strands.
- 3 Find the gaps:** check which strands you cover thinly and which pupils rarely take part.
- 4 Plan and evidence:** use the action planning tool, and keep simple records of participation, pupil voice and outcomes.

How the SOCS AI Standard, powered by Pedagogue, helps

SOCS, the all-in-one co-curricular platform trusted by more than 1,250 schools, already helps you run and evidence your enrichment offer. The **SOCS AI Standard, powered by Pedagogue**, adds what most schools find hardest: preparing staff and students for AI. It is now an optional extra for SOCS state schools, available at a special price of **£995 exc VAT for 12 months**.

NEW FOR SOCS STATE SCHOOLS

The SOCS AI Standard, powered by Pedagogue

- **Leading with AI: Core.** A 60-minute course for all staff, mapped to DfE guidance, KCSiE 2026 and JCQ.
- **Leading with AI: Advanced.** Three modules for leaders on assessment, ethics, and policy and strategy.
- **AI Passports and an admin console.** A record for every member of staff, and a view of who has completed.
- **Resource library.** Real AI use cases for staff, with ready-to-use student resources.
- **Future Skills: AI.** Four scripted 20-minute tutor-time sessions for Key Stage 3, mapped to the framework.
- **AI Club Toolkit.** A guide to running a student-led AI club, building to a whole-school AI manifesto competition.

THE PLATFORM YOU USE

What SOCS already does for you

- Every activity tagged against the five DfE categories, giving an instant picture of the offer.
- Participation reports by year group, gender, SEND and Pupil Premium, to show who is missing out.
- Online sign-ups, registers and attendance, with real-time absence alerts to designated staff.
- Sport, Music, Co-curricular and Tuition in one connected platform.

04 How the AI Standard and SOCS support the eight benchmarks

#	Benchmark	How it helps
1	Strategically aligned	The whole offer sits in one place, tagged against the DfE categories, so leaders can plan, audit and report on it as a single programme.
2	Broad and well-rounded	Future Skills: AI and the AI Club Toolkit add wider life and future skills and civic engagement, including within the school day. SOCS category tagging shows where else the offer is thin.
3	Well communicated	The Parent and Pupil Portal, synced calendars and targeted messages keep families informed.
4	Shaped by the community	The AI Club Toolkit puts student voice at the centre, ending in a student AI manifesto chosen by a whole-school vote. SOCS preference-based sign-ups show what pupils choose.
5	Accessible and engaging	Reports by year group, gender, SEND and Pupil Premium show who is missing out; a fair allocation algorithm shares places in popular activities.
6	Works in partnership	Pedagogue is a specialist external partner: staff training through the SOCS AI Standard, plus Future Skills: AI and the AI Club Toolkit for students.
7	Outcomes-focused	The Future Skills: AI check-in measures what students know before and after. Every SOCS register adds to a record of each pupil's engagement.
8	Continually improving	Termly rollovers and comparable reports show how participation changes from year to year.

05 Your year, made simpler

Audit and map

Category tagging maps your activities onto the five strands, ready for the DfE self-assessment tool.

Find the gaps

Reports show thin strands and which pupils, including disadvantaged and SEND pupils, rarely take part.

Plan and evidence

Registers, reports and the Future Skills: AI check-in give leaders and inspectors the evidence.

Learn more at socs.tech or pedagogue.io. To book a demo, contact Dr Will Van Reyk, Chief Academic Officer (william.van.reyk@pedagogue.io), or Angus Griffin, CEO (angus.griffin@pedagogue.io).

[Book a demo](#)