

Statement on TLP's Civics & Meta-Skills Competency Framework

At The Learning Project, we believe that in a world where democratic values are being challenged and reshaped, it's more important than ever that young people don't just learn about democracy - they experience it. Our Civics and Meta-Skills Competency Framework is how we embed this belief into the everyday life of our school.

We've developed a set of observable competencies that help us evaluate and guide learner growth in areas such as conflict resolution, participation, empathy, responsibility, feedback, and communication. These are linked to real-world democratic practice — learners chair meetings, serve on justice committees, create proposals, and make decisions about their own learning and community.

To ensure these are measured with care and purpose, we've built a reporting and feedback process that is both developmental and reflective:

- Each competency is described across a 1–5 scale, showing progression from early awareness to leadership and role-modelling.
- Learners receive regular feedback through structured reflection, peer input, and facilitator observations.
- Feedback is recorded in narrative and rubric form using tools like Volantis (our digital learner profile system), which tracks progress over time and supports learner-led conferencing.

We explain these competencies through ongoing discussion in community meetings, personal learning reviews, and project reflections. Students are invited to co-define what success looks like and reflect on their growth — often through group dialogue or one-on-one mentoring.

What makes this framework especially powerful in our small-school context is that we can truly follow each learner closely. Everyone in the community knows each other, and the competencies are not isolated “lessons” — they are experienced through daily participation, decision-making, and relationship-building.

Ben Kestner