

# Getting Started with Evaluating Impact

## Impact and Assessment for Learning - Transcript

### Interviewee

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Can you give an example of a challenge teachers may face when evaluating impact?

Evaluating impact can feel overwhelming and huge, and it can feel like a policy directive that brings with it ideas about there is a correct way of doing it, and you've got to collect loads and loads of data. And this is not the case with looking at impact. So, thinking about this, thinking about being really precise is a challenge for teachers, it's a challenge for all of us that are working in research.

You might think to yourself well what I really want to know about is assessment, and that feels very safe, it's a kind of label, and you know where you're going. But assessment is complicated. So, what part of assessment do you want to know about? Do you want to know how it changes pupils' understanding of themselves as learners, do you want to understand over time if there's progress? So, breaking this down into a really clear statement about this part of assessment is what I want to look at. That's the key to it.

What would you say to a teacher who says... 'I don't need to find out about impact, I know what works, I already get good results.'

I'd say that's great, that's absolutely fantastic, because you're clearly very effective. And what you're doing is what everybody else would like to do. So, what I'd like that teacher to be able to do is to tell me what is it that you do, how do you do it? Articulate your own practices so that I can understand them and I can share in them.

What would you say to a teacher who asks... 'How is evaluating the impact of my teaching on learning any different from assessment for learning?'

In some ways evaluating impact is quite similar to assessment for learning, there are similar practices, it's about questioning and dialogics. But, assessment for learning tells us what the difference is, because it's about students learning. And impact looks wider than that, it looks at teachers, it looks at schools, it looks at parents. So, actually it takes us into a bigger arena than AFL.