Title: Using a thesaurus

### **SKILLS FOCUS**

Using a thesaurus to expand vocabulary

LEARNING INTENTION	SUCCESS CRITERIA Children will be able to:
To use a thesaurus to find synonyms and antonyms	<ul> <li>✓ Understand when a thesaurus could be used</li> <li>✓ Explain what is meant by synonyms and antonyms</li> <li>✓ Demonstrate how to use a thesaurus efficiently</li> </ul>

#### **PREVIOUS LEARNING**

Children will have experience of using monolingual dictionaries, and have come across synonyms (similar words) and antonyms (opposites).

#### **LESSON**

## **Introduction** (10 mins)

- Bring out a monolingual dictionary and ask children to suggest what they would expect to find in it.
- Bring out a thesaurus what is the difference? When would each be used? Discuss with class.

## **Development** (10-15 mins)

- Recap on what is meant by synonyms and antonyms. Use a beanbag to play a game: say a word, throw the beanbag to a child who has to quickly say a synonym or antonym of it.
- Children work in pairs or small groups: give out A3 sheets and pens to each group. Say a word and in a set amount of time groups have to write down as many synonyms or antonyms as they can for that word. Discuss answers and award points for correct answers.
- Show children a thesaurus entry on the whiteboard look at how information is displayed (alphabetical order, part of speech, main synonym first, etc).

# Follow-up (20 mins)

Give children a piece of text containing a certain number of words which are underlined. A thesaurus should be
used to find a synonym and replace the word. Remind children to check that the word can be used in the same
way and that the sentence still makes sense.

### **Plenary** (5 mins)

- Ask some of the children to read out their amended and improved text and ask the class to give feedback on their effective use of the thesaurus.
- Set of thesauruses
   Prepared text with underlined words
   A3 paper and pen
   Beanbag
   Timer

### **CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS**

- IT: use a thesaurus to create a word cloud of synonyms of overused words for display
- PSHE: use a thesaurus to create a scale of feelings eg happy = pleased → ecstatic, as a basis for discussion