

Executive function

James Crompton (SEND Advisory Teacher) and Dr Carrie Gould
(Specialist Senior Psychologist, Cognition and Learning)

Relational approaches





- Five ways to wellbeing:
- Connect
 - Be active
 - Take notice
 - Keep learning
 - Give

Three key strategies to help EF

- Classroom environment
- Check lists – at home and at school
- Understanding unstructured time at school

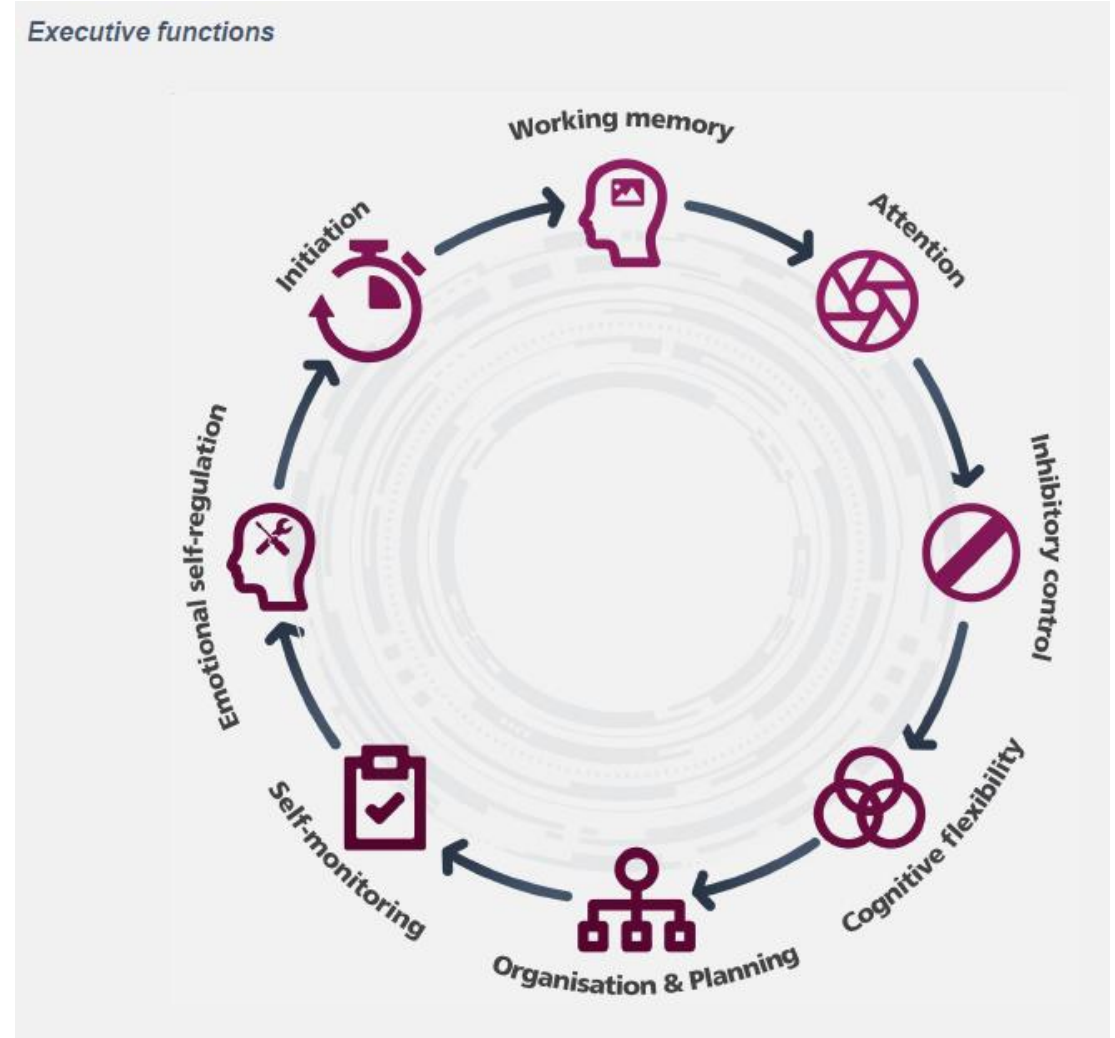
Today's session

1. Relational approaches / wellbeing
2. Three key things to help EF
3. What is executive function?
4. What will we see in pupils?
5. Strategies to support executive function.
6. SWOT analysis
7. Feedback

What is executive function?

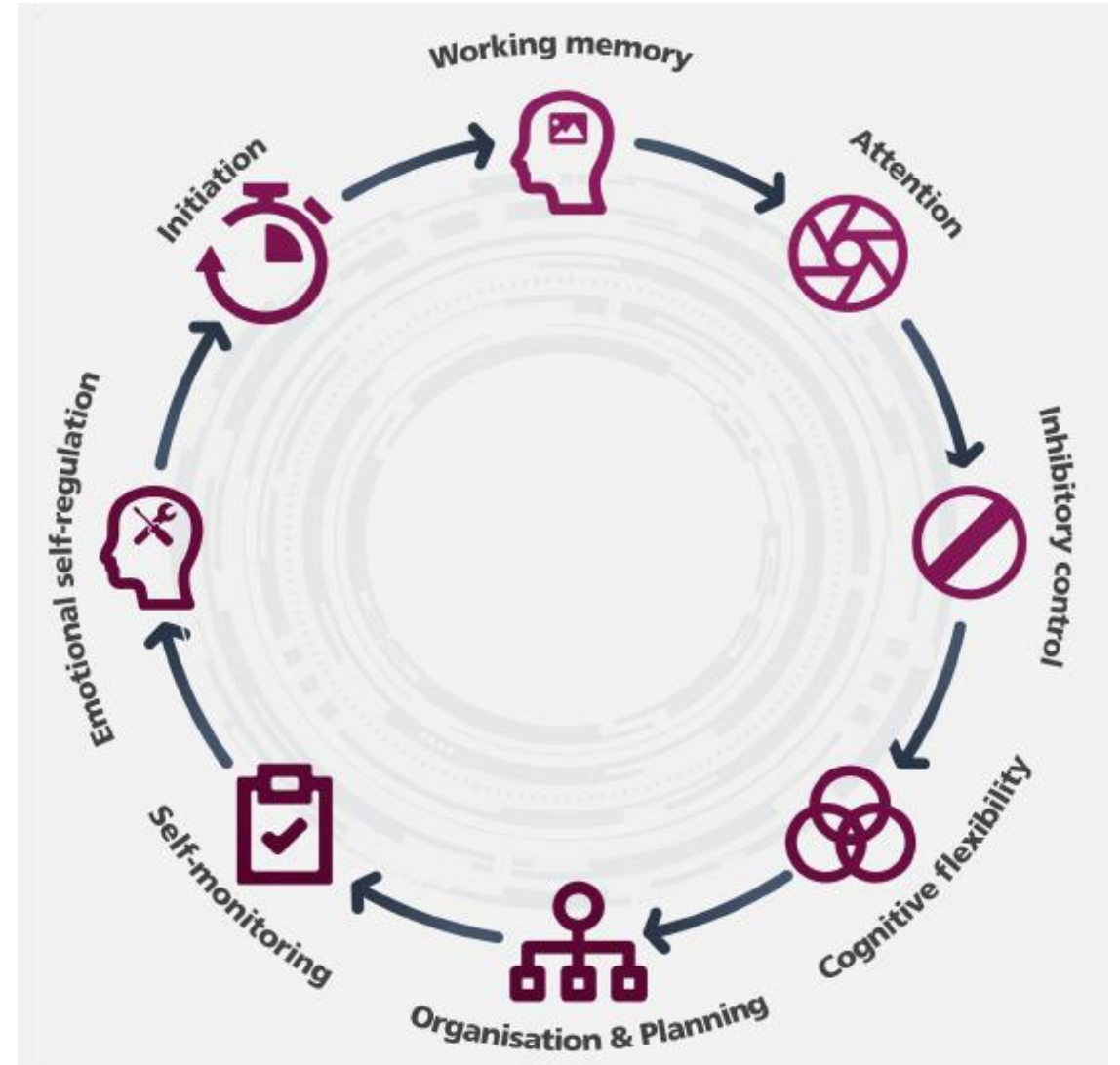
Executive Function is a term used to describe a set of mental processes that help us to connect experience to present action. These functions enable us to plan, organise, strategise, pay attention to and remember details.¹ They develop across childhood and into early adulthood.

- Such a big and broad area
- Context specific executive function
- Needs led approach
 - Knowing the pupils
 - spotting warning signs
 - knowing how to help



What will we see in pupils?

- In lessons
- At unstructured times
- At home



Strategies to support EF

- Direct teaching of planning and organising
 - teaching how to organise materials
 - teaching how to organise ideas and information
 - teaching how to organise writing
 - teaching organisational strategies for note-taking
 - teaching organisational strategies for revising

What can it look like in practice?

For example:

Visual



Visual scaffolds may support a pupil to know what equipment they need, the steps they need to take or what their work should look like.

- A task planner
- A list of the steps a pupil needs to take
- Model examples of work
- Images that support vocabulary learning



Task Plan	
What did I need?	_____
What did I need to do?	_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
Anything else?	_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
How long?	_____ 

Strategies to support EF

- Checklists
- Learning strategies – visuals
- Routines – rehearsing steps
- Modelling and reinforcing executive function skills
- Practising self-reflection and self-monitoring
- Thinking and focusing
- Managing transitions
- Environment

SWOT analysis

Leading your school
to develop
executive functioning
strategies.

SWOT Analysis

S: Strengths	W: Weaknesses
O: Opportunities	T: Threats

Opportunities

- Sharing centralised resources (e.g. visuals) for all teachers to access
- Task board templates
- Graphic organisers
- Executive Function Champion
- Apps/Assistive Technology

Questions and feedback

Executive function evaluation

