

# Towards Equipping Teagasc Teachers To Use a Problem Based Learning Approach

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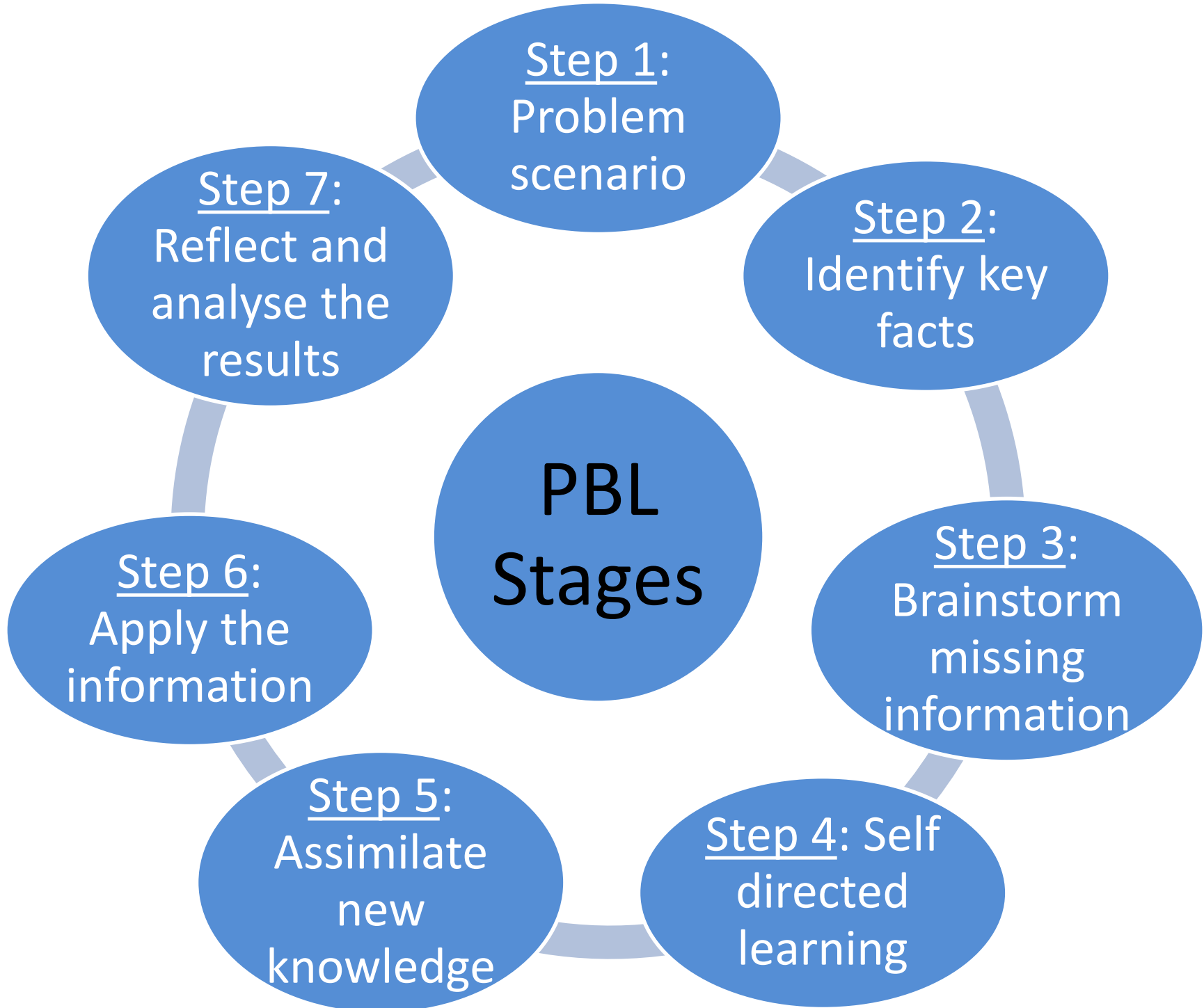


## Background/Context

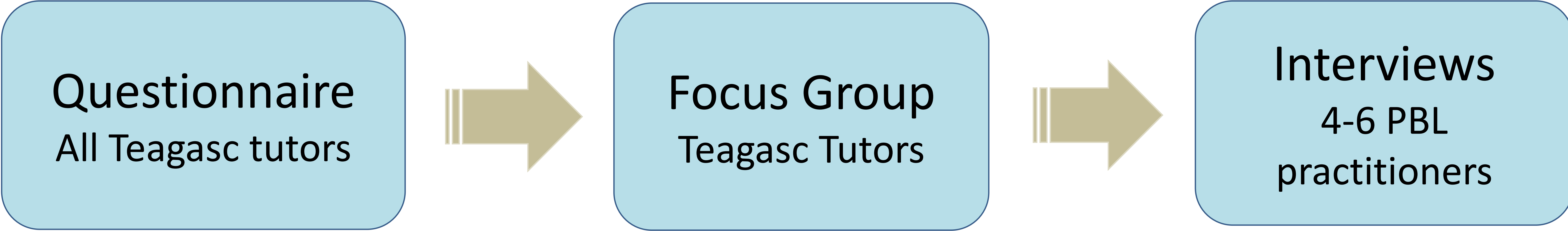
- Problem Based Learning (PBL) is a student centred learning approach where teachers become facilitators of group work as students work their way through a presented problem developing both knowledge and transversal skills along the way.
- Teagasc Education Vision – Goal number 8  
*“Adopt innovative teaching and learning methodologies, delivery approaches and learner supports that will enhance the capabilities of Teagasc learners in a holistic way”.*
- The Department of Education and Skills outlines in its “Ireland National Skills Strategy 2025” that core skills change over time, and the increasing importance of transversal or soft skills (such as problem solving, creativity, entrepreneurship, critical thinking, teamwork and communication).

## Research Objectives

- To identify the benefits, challenges and implications of PBL as a teaching approach in further education
- To determine teacher knowledge and attitudes towards PBL
- Identify models of PBL most suitable for Teagasc education
- Identify area of Teagasc education delivery best suited to a PBL approach
- To identify teacher support resources for those delivering education using a PBL approach



## Methodology



## Key Findings

- Positive attitude towards PBL amongst participants
- PBL seen as a way of increasing engagement within the classroom
- Teachers outlined how they would like PBL to complement traditional teaching

Figure 1. How important would you consider the uptake of new innovative teaching approaches in Teagasc such as PBL?

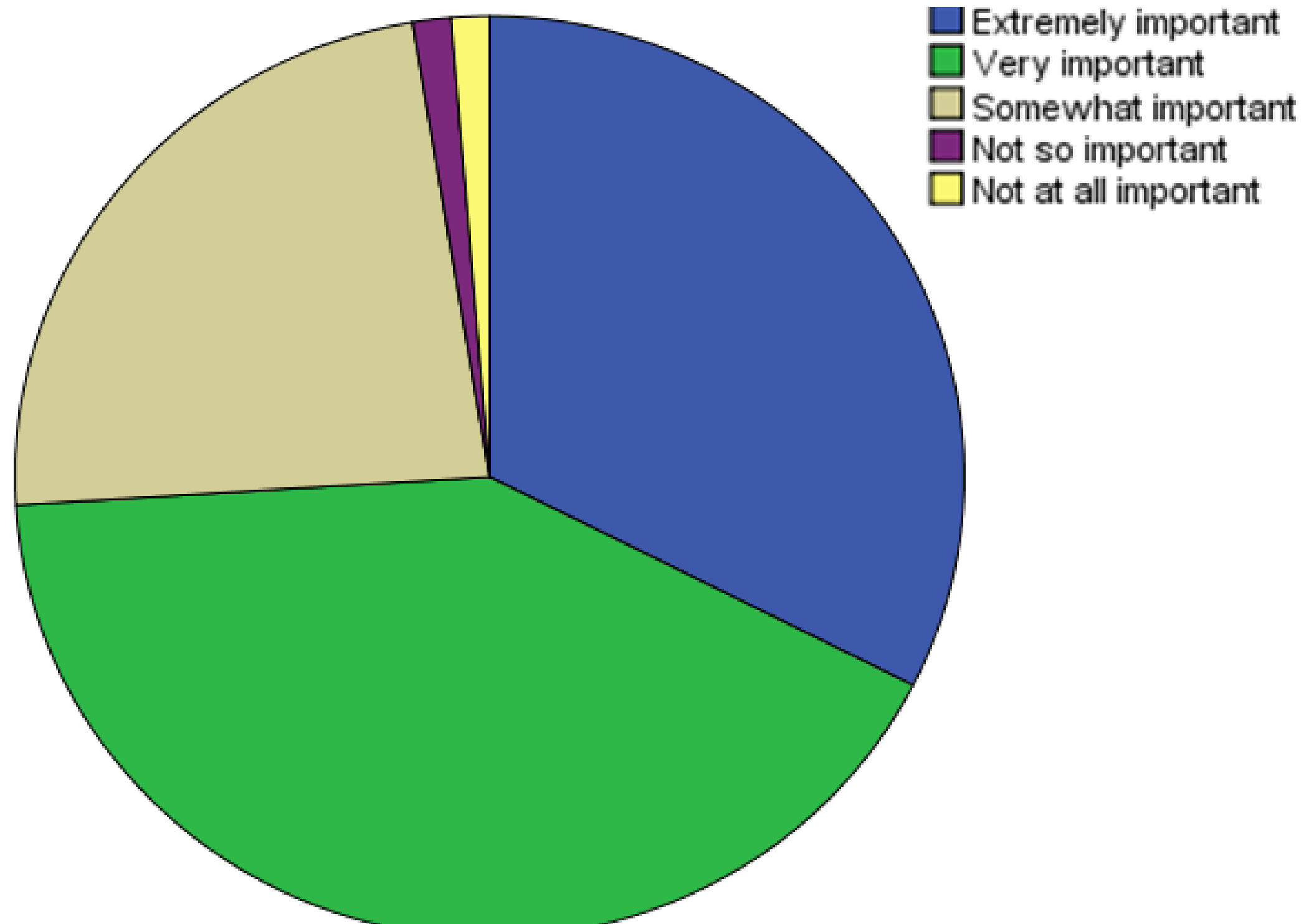
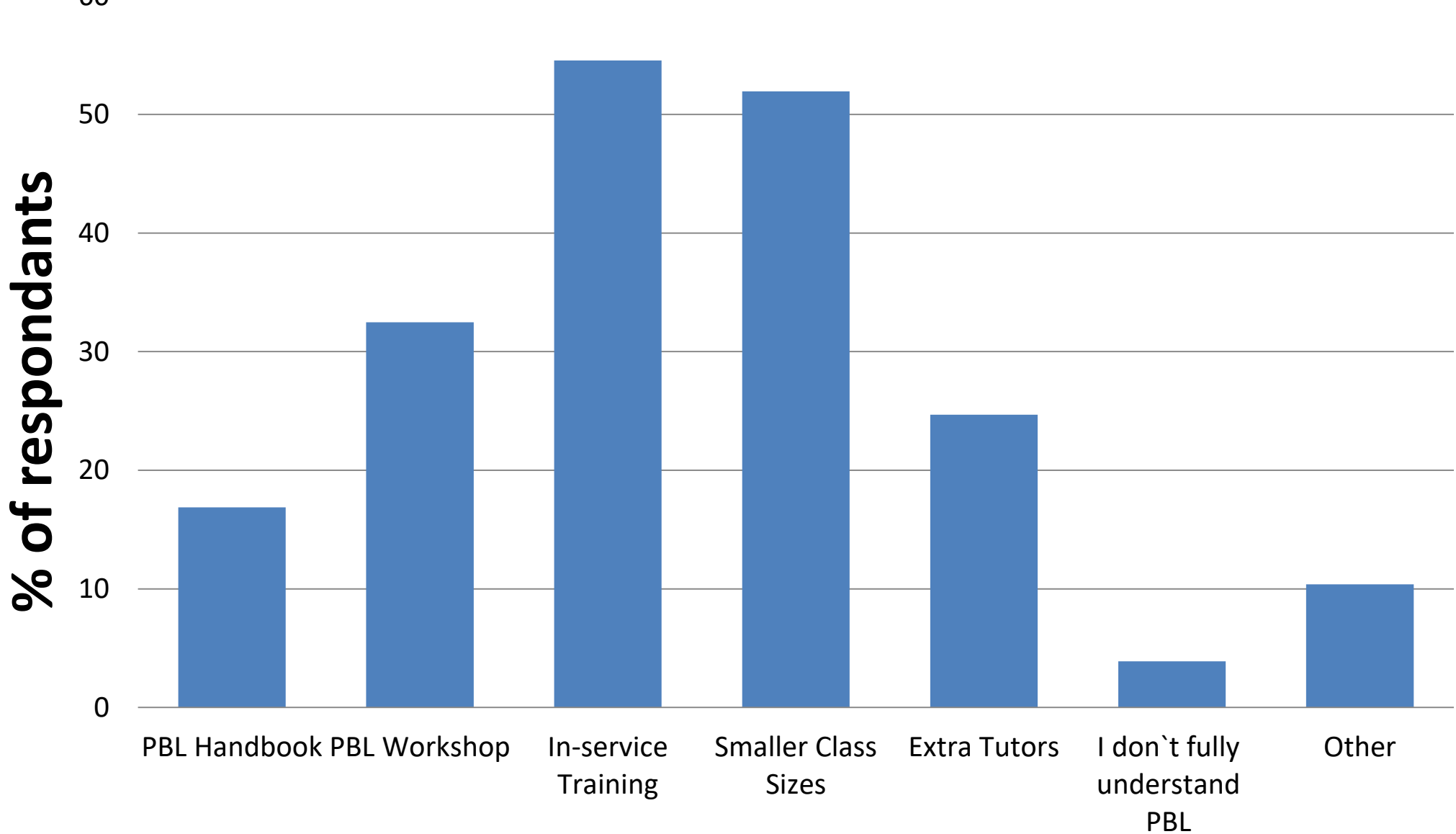


Figure 2. Which support resources do you feel is most needed if you were to teach using a PBL style approach (tick all necessary boxes)



- Level 6 modules identified as best suited to PBL
- Course design is seen as a challenge to implementing PBL (too many Learning Outcomes to cover)

## Conclusions

- Importance of a PBL co-ordinator/team within Teagasc
- Teachers need training prior to PBL implementation which should include a PBL workshop experience
- Bottom up approach to PBL implementation
- Hybrid PBL model approach