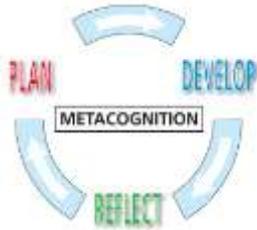


How are we going to prepare your child?

Firstly it is important for all our pupils to have a rich vocabulary, we will therefore engage in a variety of talk-based activities that will help to develop their thinking skills.



It is important for all our children to understand their learning. Each lesson will therefore focus on the three areas of planning, development and reflection.

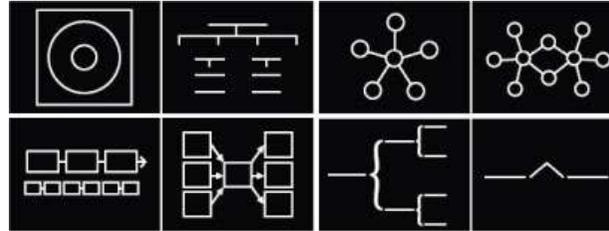


Planning will include - Asking Questions, activating their knowledge, gathering information, planning the process and determining what will make their work successful.

Developing will include - developing their ideas, considering evidence, thinking logically, looking for patterns, monitoring progress, forming decisions and opinions and thinking about causes and effects.

Reflecting will include - reviewing the process and method, linking their learning and evaluating their learning.

Children will also use a range of 'thinking maps' when completing their work. These maps will enable them to plan their thinking effectively and to see relationships between things more easily.



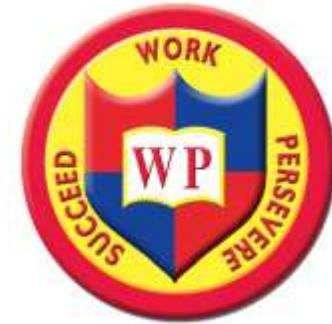
If you would like to read further information about 'Thinking Schools' you may wish to look at the following websites:-

<http://education.exeter.ac.uk/projects.php?id=29>

www.thinkingfoundation.org

http://www.brainboxx.co.uk/a3_aspects/pages/ThinkingSkills.htm

West Park Primary School



Becoming a Thinking School



Why are we becoming a thinking school?

As a result of the "Future Skills Wales survey" completed in 2003, the Welsh Government in 2008 made the teaching of thinking part of our National Curriculum.

Working towards having an accreditation as a "thinking school" will help us all to put thinking at the heart of our teaching and learning.

What are thinking skills?

The way in which we apply our minds to solve a problem are our '*thinking skills*'

We at West Park, along with many educational researchers, believe that thinking skills are essential for effective learning.

Thinking is how children make sense of learning. By developing their thinking skills, it will help our children to get more out of their learning and make them more likely to become a 'lifelong' learner.

Don't our children think already? Why is it important to teach thinking?

Our ability to understand, or *intelligence*, was once thought to be innate, something you were born with and something that could not be changed.



As a child once put it:
'Either you've got it or you haven't.'

Today however we have new knowledge about how the brain works and how people learn

Many researchers from around the world, along with those from Kings College London and Exeter University are agreed that intelligence is modifiable and that specific interventions can improve children's thinking.

Why is it important to teach thinking skills?

Thinking skills are important because mastery of the 'basics' in education such as literacy, maths and science, however well taught, are not sufficient to fulfil potential, or to meet the demands of the ever changing labour market.

We have to make sure that we prepare your child well for the future.



The top 10 jobs in the world in 2010 didn't even exist in 2004.