

## Thinking Schools

Becoming a 'Thinking School' has played a significant role in teaching pupils how to learn effectively. The range of strategies we now use in our teaching have had a positive impact both during lessons and outside of the classroom. 'Habits of Mind' allows children to become more independent, they practise a range of skills which help them develop both academically and socially. Children are improving their learning across a range of subjects by developing and ordering their own thinking clearly and concisely; they are able to plan and direct their own writing effectively; and they allow themselves to make positive decisions.

The use of 'Thinking Maps' during the planning stages of writing gives children a starting point for their work; they are able to begin and progress on a task with ease and subsequently, children are always motivated to produce high quality writing. Every pupil is able to access and understand the task and most children are eager to share and discuss their ideas.

Children often use the 'Thinking Hats' for discussion and group work, which allows further organisation to their thoughts and ideas. Much of the time, the hats become a springboard for ideas within the classroom. We also often use the hats for peer assessment, where the children are able to assess their own work and the work of others.

Overall, becoming a 'Thinking School' has had a multitude of positive effects. It has certainly become embedded within our teaching practice and in the pupils' learning.

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