

Explaining and modelling - Questioning

PROCESS QUESTIONS

Encourage independent Metacognition (+7 months)

1. Model your thinking
2. Emphasise How and Why
3. Ask students to explain their methods and reasoning
4. Ask students to explain their ideas and choices
5. Ask how similar alternative problems might be approached

*More effective teachers use this
EEF encourages metacognitive talk
Focus on “How do we know?” and “How do we work it out?”*

PROBING QUESTIONS

To understand (and clarify) a student’s schema

1. Ask a student a question
2. Check and clarify their schema by following up with a probing question
3. Listen and probe further
4. Ask another student to continue
5. Check for understanding from others

Choose questions to create links, connect abstract and concrete, identify knowledge gaps and misconceptions

COLD CALLING

Force the whole class to think

1. Ask the class a question
2. Give thinking time
3. Select a student to respond
4. Respond to the answers
5. Select another student and respond again
6. etc

*Make all the students think!
No hands up
Choose who answers-keep whole class involved, gain info to plan next steps*

SAY IT AGAIN BETTER

Develop high quality verbal skills as standard

1. Ask a student a question
2. Acknowledge the first response
3. Give supportive formative feedback
4. Invite student to ‘say it again better’
5. Respond to the improved response

*Supports developing high quality verbal responses
Models expectations that are beyond simplistic half-formed answers.
MUST allow for basic responses first so that they can develop*

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check understanding to inform next learning steps

1. Cold Call – asking WHAT not IF
2. Probe with a short dialogue
3. Follow up with more checking dialogues
4. Explore differences and details
5. Re-teach, defer or, or move on

*Effective teachers systematically check for understanding
Only feedback from students allows us to know if they understand
Information received informs the next steps in learning
Checking process helps students deepen understanding*