
Prompts for promoting pupils' learning about learning

Some starting ideas for getting learning onto the agenda with pupils, and for promoting further development as these four processes build with time and practice.

(i) Noticing things about learning,

staying close to experience and

giving words to aspects of experience which may not have been attended to.

- What is learning? – what do we mean? what is it not?
- When is it best? Where is it best?
- What helps your learning? (including, but not only, what teachers and others do)
- What steps or actions do you take in your learning?
- How did it feel?
- Does what you do and how it feels change as you go along?
- What surprises have you found?
- What hindered your learning?
- What do you learn for?
- What do you do with your learning?

(ii) Talking about learning,

starting to tell and re-tell stories of learning,

with others leading to dialogue.

- Tell me about a really good learning experience
- What made it so good? What did you contribute?
- What does this tell you about you? About learning?
- How do you make sense of that?
- What puzzles you about that?
- What I notice in your story is ...
- What differences do we see between our stories?

(iii) Reflecting on learning

developing some distance from the immediate experience

getting the view from a helicopter (going meta) and making wider meaning.

- Can you keep a log of your learning?
- What connections or patterns do you see?
- What new understandings about your learning have emerged?

(iv) Meta-learning

and probably becoming more self-directing in learning

- How can you plan to go about your learning?
- How can you monitor how your learning is going?
- How can you review how your learning has gone?
- How will you know that it has been as good as you can get it?