

Curriculum Rationale and Pedagogy at Mayfield

What is pedagogy and what do we do at Mayfield?

Pedagogy is the way that the teacher delivers the content of the school's chosen curriculum, the teaching styles used, and the theories employed. A secure understanding of the chosen pedagogy is essential for effective teaching. When excellent pedagogical content knowledge complements a clear overarching pedagogy, the result is outstanding classroom practice. Having an established delivery method allows consistency across the school that helps children progress seamlessly across year groups, allowing a greater focus on teaching key concepts.

Our pedagogy has been devised using some of the Cornerstones approaches to teaching and learning. We use a centrist approach which is a balance of teacher led and-enquiry based activities. We have a balance of both skills and knowledge, and we use strategies including whole-class teaching, rote learning, modelling and demonstration. Subjects are taught discretely, as opposed to being topic-based. enquiry based learning but where possible, cross curricular themes are used, but not at the detriment of the subject specific content.

The four stages we use are built upon different aspects of educational and cognitive research. The stages are Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express. Subject leaders use these four stages to plan a scheme of work.

Asking the right questions is a vital part of the pedagogical process. In each of the four stages, children will be asked a variety of questions in order to learn and progress.



Engage

Engage is a short stage in which children take part in a memorable experience to stimulate their curiosity, ask questions and talk about their prior learning and recall prior knowledge. They are introduced to the required baseline knowledge to support future learning.

Examples include:

- gain memorable first-hand experiences, such as going on a visit or inviting a special visitor into school
- get an exciting introduction to the projects
- begin researching and setting enquiry questions
- get lots of opportunities to make observations
- develop spoken language skills
- take part in sensory activities
- have lots of fun to fully 'engage' with their new project.

Examples of the type of questions used during the 'Engage' stage.

1. What do you know about...?
2. What do you want to find out more about...?
3. What interests you about...?
4. What do you think we should do next?
5. What would happen if...?
6. Why do you think that...?
7. Can you explain why...?

Develop

Develop is a longer stage, where children delve more deeply into the theme, explore and acquire new skills and knowledge, revisit previously acquired skills and knowledge, make links between subjects, explore, make, read and write for a variety of purposes across the curriculum.

- Improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic
- Develop and practise their new skills
- Compose, make, do, build, investigate, explore, write for different purposes, and read across the curriculum
- Research their own questions and those set by others
- Follow new pathways of enquiry based on their interests.

Examples of the type of questions used during the 'Develop' stage.

1. Can you explain how...?
2. What is your plan?

3. Why is that information important?
4. What do you need help with?
5. What resources will you need?
6. What do you think, so far, about...?
7. What have you found out about...?
8. Why did that happen?

Innovate

Innovate is a crucial opportunity for children to return to previous skills and knowledge and apply them in new contexts.

- Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in real-life contexts
- Solve real or imagined problems using everything they've learnt
- Get inspired by imaginative and creative opportunities
- Revisit anything not fully grasped at the 'develop' stage.

Examples of the type of questions used during the 'Innovate' stage.

1. What is the problem with...?
2. What do you know about...?
3. What do you need to think about?
4. What do you need to do first?
5. Can you think of ways to solve this problem?
6. How many ideas can you think of?
7. Which is your best idea?
8. What resources will you need?
9. What is your plan?
10. Why do you think that?
11. How can you improve...?
12. How might you change...?
13. Is it working?
14. What happens next?
15. Who can help?

Express

Express gives children a structured opportunity to reflect on their learning, test their knowledge and celebrate their achievements.

- Become the performers, experts and informers
- Share their achievements with parents, classmates and the community
- Evaluate finished products and processes
- Link what they have learnt to where they started

- Celebrate their achievements

Examples of the type of questions used during the 'Express' stage.

1. What have you learned?
2. What else would you like to find out about...?
3. Which part of the project did you find most challenging?
4. Which part of the project did you enjoy the most?
5. What progress have you made during this project?
6. Which skills have you mastered?
7. How would you like to share what you have learned?
8. How can you celebrate your learning?
9. What do you think you need to revisit?