

General Resources

Thinking and Learning Skills

THINK! *lessons will often follow the plan below:*

T **Tune in!**

Warm-up activities and games to get your brain working.

H **Heads together**

What do *you* think? Stories, poems and interesting topics to discuss and debate.

I **Investigate**

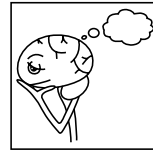
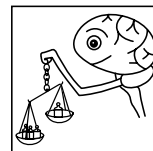
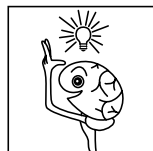
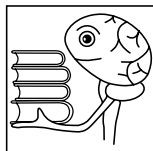
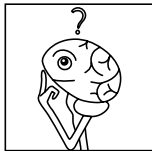
Learn how to improve your own thinking and learning.

N **Now reflect!**

Think about what you have done - what have you learnt?

K **Keep thinking!**

Something to do in class or at home.



Name: _____

Class: _____

20 Dispositions of an Active Thinker and Learner

By emphasising the behaviours listed here, the aim is to steer pupils away from the belief that being good at thinking and learning is limited to those who are conventionally 'clever'. Everyone – regardless of ability – can learn to improve their potential by developing positive thinking and learning dispositions.

- **Cooperation and collaboration:** a willingness to work with other people, to learn from different points of view and to form new ideas and plans by pooling talents
- **Concentration:** the ability to stay focused and avoid distractions
- **Courage and self-belief:** the confidence to put forward one's own suggestions and ideas and to stand by a reasoned opinion regardless of other people's reaction, knowing that many good ideas are initially ridiculed
- **Curiosity and enthusiasm:** an eagerness to ask questions, to explore beyond what is 'required' and to discover new things
- **Direction:** a sense of purpose, an awareness of one's own goals and the inclination to consider how these might best be achieved
- **Empathy:** a willingness to listen to others and to try to understand things from their perspective
- **Flexibility:** the ability to adapt, to generate alternatives and to change one's mind when new information or arguments are presented
- **Good judgement:** a desire to avoid gullibility and to think critically about ideas and information before deciding what to believe
- **Humility:** the willingness to be self-critical, to accept when one is on the wrong path, to seek help when it is needed and to learn from others
- **Humour:** an ability to laugh at oneself and keep a balanced perspective
- **Imagination:** an inclination to visualise, to dream, be creative with one's thoughts rather than to think within conventional boundaries
- **Independence and initiative:** an awareness of the strategies and options that are available and a willingness to reach one's own decisions and take actions based on these
- **An open mind:** a readiness to welcome unusual ideas even if they sound strange at first and to consider how existing ideas can be improved and adapted
- **Perseverance and tenacity:** a willingness to keep looking, keep thinking and keep learning rather than settling for the first plausible answer or idea that comes along
- **Precision:** the willingness to be careful, accurate and pay attention to detail
- **Reflectiveness:** an inclination to think about the methods and approaches that have been tried and to analyse both successes and failures
- **Resilience:** the confidence to 'stick with it' when thinking and learning 'hurt', to not give up at the first hurdle and to recognise the importance of intellectual struggling
- **Responsibility:** a recognition that each person is responsible for improving their own thinking and learning and for finding methods that suit them
- **Risk taking:** the courage to 'take a chance' and have a go at new things even when success may not be guaranteed
- **Self-discipline:** the self control required to make sure one's potential is achieved



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner knows what to do when they are stuck.

Details:



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner makes sure they have or can find everything they need.

Details:

Good Learner Certificates 2



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner thinks about their work when they have finished it.

Details:



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner knows what to do when they have finished.

Details:



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner knows how to avoid distractions.

Details:



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner thinks about how to become an even better learner.

Details:



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner learns well with other people.

Details:



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner behaves like a detective.

Details:



GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner _____

Details:



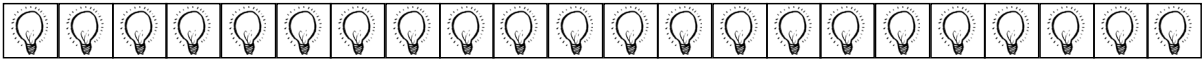
GOOD LEARNER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good learner _____

Details:

Good Thinker Certificates

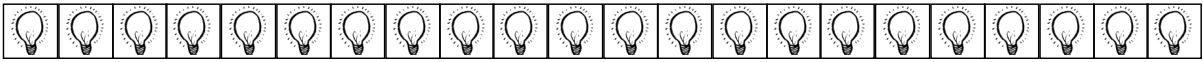


GOOD THINKER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

for remembering that a good thinker _____

Details:



GOOD THINKER CERTIFICATE

Well done _____

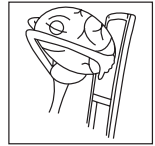
for remembering that a good thinker _____

Details:

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

THINKING ABOUT MY THINKING: SHEET 1



Today I think I was good at ...

I tried hard to ...

I could improve my thinking by ...

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

THINKING ABOUT MY THINKING: SHEET 2



As a group, we used the following thinking and learning skills:

Our strengths were ...

Our weaknesses were ...

My role in the group was to ...

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

THINKING ABOUT MY THINKING: SHEET 3



The types of thinking I used in this activity were:

The dispositions I was developing were ...

I think I'm good at ...

I'd like to improve ...

My three step plan is ...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

THINKING ABOUT MY THINKING: SHEET 4



The types of thinking I enjoy the most are ...

My top 5 dispositions are ...

When working in a group, I think I'm good at ...

If I have to remember something, I ...

If I'm asked to come up with an original idea, I feel ...

When I need to make a decision, I ...

**DISPOSITIONS OF AN ACTIVE THINKER AND LEARNER:
CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 1**

**COOPERATION and
COLLABORATION**

CONCENTRATION

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 2

COURAGE and SELF-BELIEF

CURIOSITY and
ENTHUSIASM

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 3

DIRECTION

EMPATHY

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 4

FLEXIBILITY

GOOD JUDGEMENT

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 5

HUMILITY

HUMOUR

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 6

IMAGINATION

INDEPENDENCE and
INITIATIVE

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 7

AN OPEN MIND

PERSEVERANCE

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 8

PRECISION

REFLECTIVENESS

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 9

RESILIENCE

RESPONSIBILITY

CARDS FOR DISPLAY AND DISCUSSION 10

RISK TAKING

SELF-DISCIPLINE