



Thinking Matters

Statement of Commitment:

Holy Cross School is committed to becoming a 'Thinking School' and receiving accreditation in recognition of our efforts.

What does this mean?

"... an educational community in which all members share a common commitment to giving regular, careful thought to everything that takes place. This will involve both students and staff learning how to think reflectively, critically and creatively and to employing these skills and techniques in the co-construction of a meaningful curriculum and associated activities. Successful outcomes will be reflected in students across a wide range of abilities demonstrating independent and cooperative learning skills, high levels of achievement, and both enjoyment and satisfaction in learning. Benefits will also be shown by the ways in which all members of the community interact and show consideration for each other, and in the positive psychological well-being of both students and staff." (Burden, 2006)

Why?

- Develops skilled, independent, reflective learners
- Greater motivation - for children and teachers
- Improved discipline and attendance
- Improved attitudes, behaviours and coping strategies
- Improved teaching and lesson quality
- Creates a common thinking language throughout the school

What We Will Do

- Create a Drive Team in order to implement change.
- Explicitly teach our children about different types of thinking.
- Introduce visual mapping techniques for thinking (Thinking Frames).
- Explicitly teach our children how to self-regulate in their learning so that they are able to plan, monitor and evaluate.
- Teach memory techniques.
- Use prompts and high quality questions to guide pupils in their thinking.
- Encourage collaborative learning and interdependent thinking.
- Create an environment conducive to Thinking and Learning.
- Incorporate all of the above into curriculum planning.

Signed: *C Gillespie*
Headteacher (Mrs C. Gillespie)