



## Wyndham Primary Academy

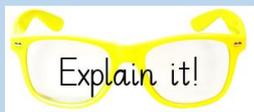
### Thinking On

At Wyndham Primary Academy we pride ourselves on regular opportunities for children to think and reflect to support their social, emotional and academic development.

Here are some of the ways in which we do this.

### Mastery Glasses

Mastery glasses are used every day to enable children to deepen their understanding of the task in hand whether it is English, maths or other subjects in the curriculum.



Firstly, children are asked to 'Explain It,' what is the problem they are tackling and how can they explain it to another.



Then children are asked to convince the teacher or peers. How do they know the answer is correct? Can they disprove an incorrect answer?



Children then have to prove it. In maths can they use another method to prove the answer is accurate? Could they use the inverse to prove their point?



This time children need to use the method to work out another problem. Does it work? What prior knowledge can they bring to the problem to help them find a solution?

This method coupled with children working with *Mastery Partners* has been a very effective and powerful strategy in supporting children to grow in confidence when thinking and subsequently make progress.

All of these very popular methods are very effective in supporting children to think and to become a 'Master' in the subject.

## De Bono Thinking Hats

Another very popular method used at school are the 'De Bono Thinking Hats'. There are 6 colours that the children regularly use. These are:

White hats (Information) Children think about: What do we know? What do we need to find out? How will we get the information we need?

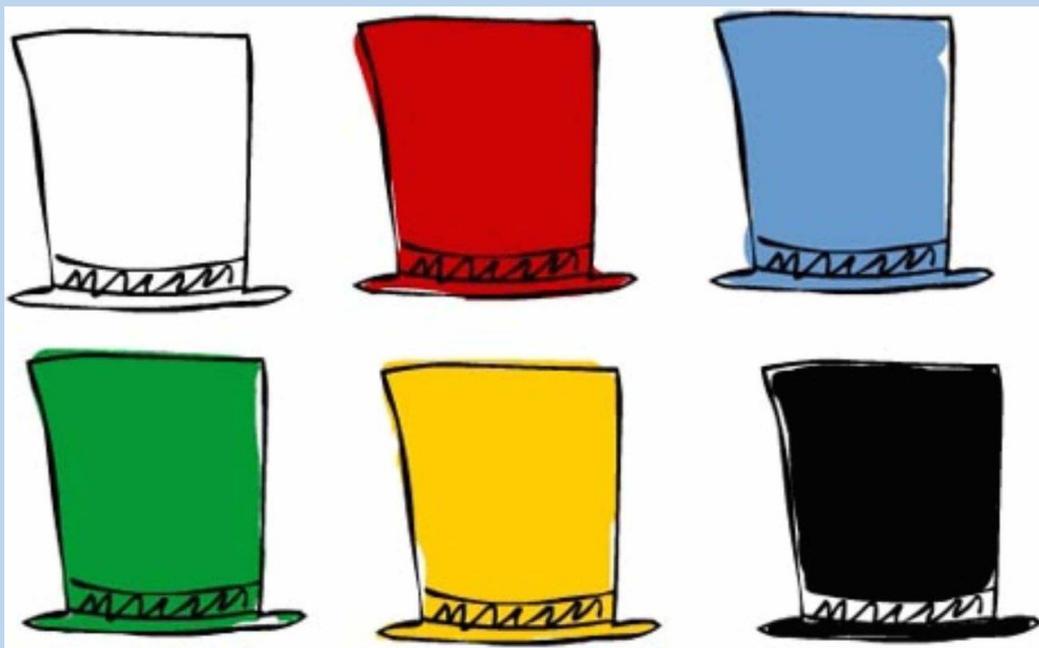
Red hats (Feelings) Children consider: How do I feel about this? Likes? Dislikes? How might others feel? How might I feel about this in the future?

Blue hats (Thinking about thinking) Children think about: What is our focus? What thinking is needed? Where are we now? What do we need to do next?

Green hats (Creativity) Children consider: What new ideas are possible? What do we suggest? Can we create something new?

Yellow hats (Benefits) Children reflect on: What are the strengths? How will they help us? Why will our idea work?

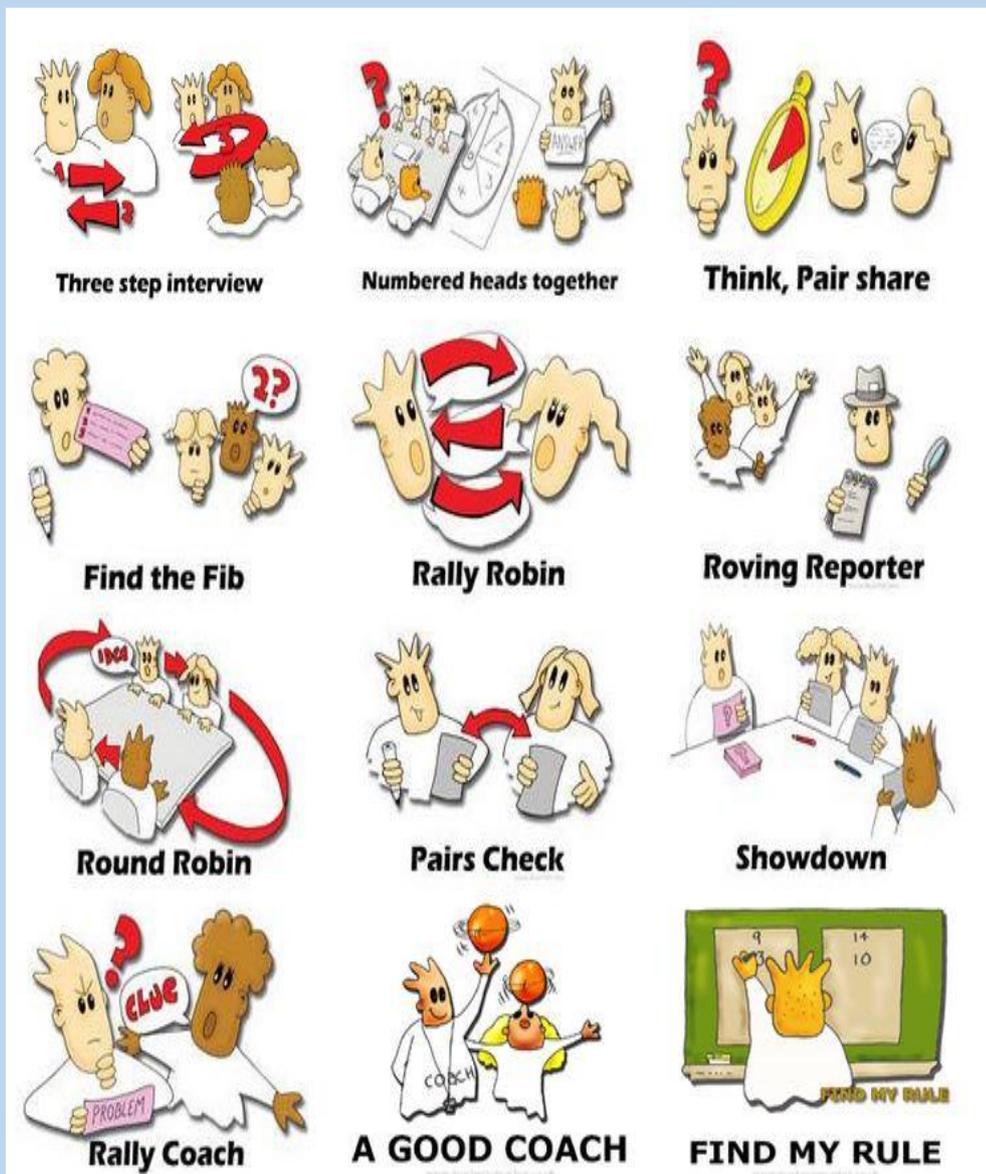
Black hats (Judgement) Children think about: Will this work? What are the weaknesses and why? Is this safe?



## *Kagan Structures*

Dr. Spencer Kagan is world renowned author and keynote speaker in the field of education and psychology. He was a clinical psychologist and full-time professor of psychology and education at the University of California Berkley. He has developed ways to support children's engagement to learn and in turn have a profound effect on their ability to think.

Kagan Structures are instructional strategies designed to promote cooperation and communication in the classroom, boost students' confidence and retain their interest in classroom interaction. Here are just some of the methods that we use at school to support children's development.



### *Linking Our Thinking (LOT) time*

Every Friday the school has designated learning time on 'Linking our Thinking' which enables children to reflect on specific school topics, British values and stories in the news. Children have opportunities to debate, reflect and respond to topics such as democracy, looking back and into the future and how British values are pertinent to what we learn in school.

### *Question of the Week*

Each week every class in the school is given a question to consider to enable children to think about issues within school and beyond. Questions include:

What do we need to be thankful for? Are you ready to do your duty? (WW2 link) and what does a dinosaur do to have fun?

### *Philosophy for Children*

Children also have the opportunity to think and learn through the 'Philosophy for Children' initiative at Wyndham. Philosophy for Children is enquiry based learning offers a way to open up children's learning through enquiry and the exploration of ideas. Children learn that their ideas have value, and that the ideas of other children have value too. Through Philosophy for Children they realise that they don't always have to be right, but they gain the confidence to ask questions and learn through discussion.

This has had a profound effect on children's ability to expand their thinking here at Wyndham Primary Academy.

### *Random Questioning*

To reinforce thinking even further, the school has questioning as a priority and a strength to support the thinking and progress of all groups of children at Wyndham. Teachers and Learning Ambassadors routinely use random questioning to ensure all children are given opportunities to share their thinking to support their learning. A list of all the children's name are kept by the teacher and selected at random. One effective example of this is by using lolly stick questioning.

Questioning is also a variety of both open and closed to suit the nature of the activity and the impact it will have on learning. This is regularly observed in weekly drop in's and lesson observations throughout the school by senior leaders.