Spiral Thinking: Twelve Practical Tools for a Thinking Classroom

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Abstract
Many schools are now committed to helping their pupils develop as independent thinkers and learners. Translating this into day-to-day classroom experience, however, requires time, as well as plenty of practical guidance and support for teachers. This workshop draws on the experience of Northwood College and its Advanced Cognitive Development Programme – an initiative designed to foster the critical and creative thinking skills of each of its pupils. C J Simister offers a simple, but effective framework for introducing thinking skills across the curriculum, together with a set of 12 powerful strategies to use with children, aged 5-12.

Key Words: Tools Strategies, Practical support, Curriculum planning, Spiral Thinking.

Outline of Workshop
1. Introduction to Northwood College’s Advanced Cognitive Development Programme
   - Supporting the development of thinking and learning skills across the curriculum
   - The ‘Spiral Thinking©’ model
2. A toolkit of classroom tools and techniques
   - Part One: Strategies to encourage thinking dispositions and active questioning
   - Part Two: Strategies to improve information gathering and decision making
   - Part Three: Strategies to develop critical awareness and logical thinking
   - Part Four: Strategies to enhance creativity and idea generation
3. Advice and support in developing practical applications across the curriculum

About the presenter
C. J. Simister (MA Cantab, MA London, PGCE) directs an extensive programme of thinking and learning skills for pupils aged 3 -18 at Northwood College, Middlesex. She has published papers in the field of thinking skills and gifted education, as well as a series of teacher resources to promote creativity in the classroom, and has spoken at conferences in Australia and Singapore. Her most recent book, ‘How to teach thinking and learning skills: a practical programme for the whole school’ was published by Paul Chapman Publishing in March 2007. Further information about this book can be found at: http://www.amazon.co.uk/How-Teach-Thinking-Learning-Skills/dp/1412934222/

Comments about ‘How to Teach Thinking and Learning Skills’
“A treasure-trove of practical resources to stretch young people’s thinking muscles!” – Professor Guy Claxton, University of Bristol

“It is full of useful ideas for busy teachers and helpful in getting the children rather than the teachers to do the thinking in the classroom.” – Professor Robert Fisher, Brunel University

To find out more about Northwood College and its Advanced Cognitive Development Programme, go to: www.northwoodcollege.co.uk.