

Descriptions of Strategies Available for Raising Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

Over and above best classroom practice, a number of strategies have been introduced in order to raise attainment in Literacy, Communication and Mathematics across the school. These are used with whole classes, individuals or in small groups.

Literacy strategies include:

- **Rapid Phonics**: a phonic catch up programme which comprises snappy lessons that reinforce the basics of phonics in small, manageable steps.
- **Rapid Reading**: a comprehensive reading intervention programme. Books and IT resources are integrated to motivate students. Finely levelled fiction and non-fiction books are included.
- **Rapid Plus**: a series of finely levelled books and software for older readers with age appropriate content.
- **Catch Up® Literacy**: a structured one-to-one intervention for learners who find reading difficult. It addresses all aspects of the reading process: word recognition and language comprehension.
- **Toe by Toe**: This is a highly structured phonetic approach to reading developed as a method of teaching dyslexic individuals. It works well with older readers who have not previously made progress with reading.
- **Big Writing**: a teaching methodology in which pupils learn and develop the ideas, vocabulary and higher level grammatical structures needed to improve their writing almost entirely through talk. The key to Big Writing is “If a child can’t say it, a child can’t write it”.
- **Thinking Maps®**: Thinking Maps are consistent visual patterns linked directly to eight specific thought processes. Using these maps we can establish a common language for learning across the school. Our students are able to use these tools to visualise their thinking to create concrete images of abstract thoughts. At every ability level, Thinking Maps® help all students reach higher levels of critical and creative thinking.
- **Philosophy for Children P4C**: P4C is about getting children to think and communicate well; to think better for themselves. It encourages students to engage physically as well as mentally in Thinking Enquiries!
- **Tracks Literacy**: an integrated literacy programme designed to develop students’ abilities in reading and writing. It uses a multi-sensory and

synthetic phonics approach. It is used with small groups in short, snappy lessons designed to maintain the interest and focus of students.

- **Letters and Sounds**: a systematic programme for teaching phonic skills to enable fluent reading and improved spelling. Decoding by blending sounds and encoding by segmenting are taught as reversible processes.
- **Jolly Phonics**: a multi-sensory approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics using actions for each of the 42 letter sounds. Students learn how to form letters and blend sounds to read and write new words.
- **Targeted Comprehension**: Students with reading skills are encouraged to develop their literal and inferential understanding by following a finely graded set of comprehension exercises based on fiction and non-fiction texts. They are encouraged to decode; to make connections between what they have read and what they already know; to think deeply about what they have read, and to broaden their vocabulary.
- **Shape Coding**[®]: a visual coding system with different shapes to show a child the rules for how words are put together in sentences. This helps develop the students' ability to express themselves grammatically and to form their own written sentences.
- **Colourful Semantics**: is aimed at helping children to develop their basic grammar, so that they can create coherent sentences, but it is rooted in the meaning of words (semantics).

Numeracy Strategies include:

- **Big Maths**: a teaching method that embraces the logical nature of Maths, translating it into simple steps. This makes progress easy and fun for both children and teachers giving all pupils the opportunity to achieve. This strategy is designed to be used with whole classes; and lessons focus on repetition, core skills and learned facts.
- **Numicon and Manipulatives**: Numicon is a multi-sensory mathematics teaching programme using visual Numicon images in a series of practical teaching activities. The Numicon shapes and rods help students understand number relationships, spot patterns and make generalisations, by providing them with a visual representation of abstract concepts. This strategy is used for a whole-class, small groups and for individual support.
- **Catch Up**[®] **Numeracy**: a structured one-to-one intervention for learners who find numeracy difficult. It addresses 10 key components of

Numeracy including: counting verbally, counting objects, reading and writing numbers, HTU, estimation, word problems, translation, remembered facts, derived facts and ordinal numbers through 15 minute sessions twice a week.

- **Power of Two**: a structured approach which bonds facts into the long term memory. Pupils work 1 to 1 with an adult for 10 minutes. Each question must be answered correctly on 3 consecutive occasions. Pupils gain a sense of confidence and achievement as they work through the book.