The Warriner School Principles of Teaching

"We cannot change a child's prior attainment, but we can change their future."

Questioning

Strategy 1-'STAR'

All students must be listening before questioning (or receiving instructions) so that all learners participate and are challenged to think more deeply.

We are encouraging our learners to be listening stars.

'STAR' is an active listening instruction to build a consistent strategy for your students to be quiet, focused and actively listening. It is based on the principles of Doug Lemov's 'SLANT', a command word to condition learners to actively listen so that instructions and questioning have greater impact. The purpose of 'STAR' is the same; it is an active listening strategy based on high expectations for all.

S: Sit up-students need to be attentive not slouched.

T: Track-students need to look at who is talking (teacher or fellow student) or track the text.

A: Always listening-not talking to others or fidgeting.

R: Ready-to respond at any time.

Strategy 2-'Hands Down'

When posing questions, 'hands down' questioning is used so that learners expect to be asked at any moment. This means teachers do not ask for "hands up" or respond to hands up when questioning. Politely remind students that we operate hands down questioning only. Explain the purpose – "this is so you are ready at any time to respond. We want you all to participate and be ready." You can select responses based on your awareness of student understanding. As you circulate and track conversations notice who can confidently respond.

Strategy 3-'PPPB'

'Pose, pause, pounce, bounce' so that students have thinking time, listen to their peers, and think more deeply when questioned further. It is a strategy for greater participation.

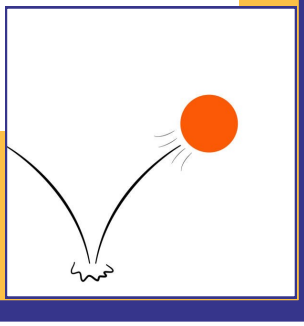
Pose-POSE the question.

PAUSE-Thinking time (in silence) can be anything from 5 to 30 seconds depending on question complexity. Use this time to scan the room and check focus.

POUNCE-ask the question. Encourage the speaker to respond loudly and clearly. Avoid repeating the response.

BOUNCE-respond to the answer by asking further, probing questions.

To increase participation bounce these questions around other class members.



RESPONSIBLE - RESPECTFUL - READY