

Effective Teaching

At Stranmillis Primary School we have agreed that an effective classroom will demonstrate the following key characteristics:

1. A positive, stimulating, challenging and safe classroom environment, with:

- good, respectful relationships between pupils and between pupils and adults;
- clear routines and expectations;
- high expectations for pupil achievement and behaviour;
- appropriate noise levels;
- an enthusiastic teacher and pupils; and
- positive attitudes and dispositions (self-esteem, respect, flexibility, independence) being promoted.

2. Learning which is both active and challenging, where:

- thinking skills are promoted;
- there is an appropriate pace, variety and progression in the learning; and
- the children are encouraged to, and supported in, giving full explanations.

3. Effective questioning, based on Bloom's Taxonomy:

- using the children's responses and extending their learning / thinking;
- teacher to pupil;
- pupil to pupil.

4. On-going Assessment for Learning, where:

- clear expectations are set;
- Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are shared;
- self and peer assessment is embedded into the normal practice;
- pupils are encouraged to evaluate their learning; and
- feedback is clear, positive, constructive and indicating to pupils the next step in their learning.

5. **Appropriate and meaningful differentiation**, which:

- takes into account where each child is in his / her learning;
- provides appropriate challenge and support; and
- engages the pupils in the tasks.

Consequently in effective classrooms differentiation will be clearly evident by:

- L.I.
- task;
- support
- resources; and / or
- outcome

as most appropriate.

6. **Planning**, which:

- supports the learning;
- is specific to the needs of the class; and
- is evaluated regularly to take account of the learning that has taken place.