



School Prayer This Week Dear God, Thank You for our plentiful world. Remind us not to take more than we need and give the land and nature time to rest and recover. May we always remember that even the smallest helpful action matters. Amen.



School Diary

7 th November	Virtual visit from a famous author for Y5/Y6 classes
11 th November	Y6 Remembrance day assembly
12 th November	Y3 Cinema morning Wild Robot
14 th November	Y4 cinema morning Paddington
21 st November	Non-uniform day – bring a bottle
25 th November	Y5/6 cinema - Bad Guys 2
26 th November	Parent's evening
28 th November	Wear blue for St Andrew's day

Important Updates

- Quick reminder -please do not park on the zigzag lines outside school. These are there for the safety of our children and all our families.
- Applications are now open for **September 2026** intake for reception. Please complete any application forms ready for the new school year. This relates to children who were born between 1st September 2021-31st August 2022.
- We have been notified of a child within school who has chickenpox. NHS guidelines have been sent out to the rest of the pupils class. Any concerns, please ring the office.
- Three way traffic lights are being set up over the next few days where Bennington St meets Haslingden Rd.
- School car park gate will be closed between 2.30pm-3.30pm every evening from now on due to cars churning up the grass areas

Friday Bake Day

We will be selling cookies/cakes every Friday. Today will be in the parent porch due to the high winds. This is being done as a treat for the children. They are nut & dairy free but not gluten free.

Pupil Vacancies in Reception and Year 1

We currently have 3 places available for pupils in Reception, 3 places available in Year 1 and 1 place available in Year 2. If you know of anyone who would like to join our wonderful school. It is rare that we ever have places in our school available for pupils.

Attendance for the week

Whole school target: **96%** Current attendance of whole school: **97.7%**

Rec: **97.7%**

Year2: **97.8%**

Year 4: **98.8%**

Year 6: **99.6%**

Year 1: **97.2%**

Year 3: **94.2%**

Year 5: **98.3%**

Overall attendance week winners.....Year 6 !



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Ask Better Questions



The art of asking questions is more complex than we might assume. Teachers ask hundreds of questions every day as they try to unravel what pupils are thinking. If we are to maximise the benefit of using questions to gather feedback, we should aim to ask a range of question types, from information recall to promote retrieval practice to higher-order questions which encourage the development of answers.



1. BE CLEAR



Ask questions which are clear and concise to reduce ambiguity and to ensure that pupils understand what type of response you are looking for. Repeat your question to provide clarity and give wait time.

2. PLAN AHEAD



When developing your scheme of work and planning a series of lessons, allocate time to discuss common misconceptions with colleagues. This will allow you to formulate questions to help dispel misconceptions pupils may have about your subject.



3. GIVE TIME



Give pupils time to process the question you have asked them and to think about their response. This will boost their confidence in sharing ideas without feeling that they are being put on the spot. Research suggests 3-5 seconds of wait time.

10. PRACTISE QUESTIONS

Make time to practise drafting and asking questions with colleagues. This can support the development of the clear and concise questions that you then ask pupils and reduce the potential for misunderstanding.



9. COLD CALL



Encourage pupils to share their ideas with the rest of the class by directing questions to specific pupils. For example, "What is the process of erosion, Tom?".



4. BUILD ENGAGEMENT

Take the time to build a classroom culture where pupils feel confident in sharing responses. You can do this by establishing expectations, and creating an environment where pupils feel that they can contribute without fear of retribution from their peers.



8. ENCOURAGE THEIR QUESTIONS

Build in time for pupils to ask their own questions, either to you, as the teacher, or to their peers. This will support their own development towards mastery in your subject.

5. PROMOTE EXTENSION

Pupils will want to find the shortcut that allows them to provide the shortest response. Instead, encourage pupils to extend on their initial response by asking them a follow-up question, "Can you give me an example...?"



6. MOVE FROM LOW TO HIGH

Use lower cognitive questions to establish foundation knowledge recall, and then build on this by subsequently asking higher-order questions to deepen understanding.



7. USE LOW-STAKE RECALL

Use questioning to gather information quickly about what pupils have understood. This can be achieved through closed questions that allow you, as the teacher, to uncover any misconceptions and gaps in knowledge of the subjects you need to re-teach.



The National College

This guide is part of The National College staffroom poster series. A collection of information posters for your school staffroom.



Meet the Expert: Michael Chiles
Principal Examiner, Curriculum Development Adviser and an experienced school leader.

At The National College, we provide everything educators and trusted adults need to strengthen, manage and evidence their professional, and personal development, in one place, on one platform. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.thenationalcollege.co.uk for further information and resources.

Tips for Supporting Children in DEALING WITH GRIEF

It's important that trusted adults feel able to help children and young people cope with grief – particularly at the moment, when we are a nation mourning the loss of a public figure who was treasured by so many. Children are seeing bereavement and sadness being featured heavily in the national news and in their favourite online spaces, and hearing it being talked about extensively among families and in the community. How can we help them in processing this healthily?

1 UNDERSTAND WHAT GRIEF IS

Grief is emotional distress which is a normal response to the death of someone close, well known or admired. It may feel overwhelming – especially for young people – and is often accompanied by feelings of shock, disbelief, anger or fear. These emotions may also mean that sleep, eating and our relationships with others could be affected.

2 MEET THE CHILD WHERE THEY ARE

This could be a child's first experience of grief and loss – or conversely, they may have already encountered it several times. Make sure that any conversations you have with them, and the support that you give, are led by their experiences and their understanding of death – and in the context of their religious or community beliefs.

3 EXPLAIN CLEARLY WHAT DEATH IS

It may often feel uncomfortable, but it's healthier to actually use the words "dead", "death" or "died". Abstract explanations of death can frequently create even more confusion – particularly for younger children, who are still trying to grasp this complex (and possibly unfamiliar) concept.

4 BE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS

On subjects such as this – especially when it involves a person who's well known to them – children and young people often have lots of questions, all at once. Sometimes, new queries about the issue will occur to them weeks after the event. Be ready to answer their questions as honestly as you can, using language that's appropriate for their age.

5 FIND WAYS TO REMEMBER THEM

It can help to talk to about the person who's died, even if that individual wasn't personally involved in the child's own life – such as a significant public figure, for instance. You and your child can discuss what that person meant to you, celebrate the things they achieved or go to a place where they can be remembered.

6 ENCOURAGE COPING STRATEGIES

You can help a child or young person to identify what their usual positive ways of coping are when they have overwhelming feelings. For example, do they find that talking with someone, drawing, going for a walk or listening to music help when they're feeling upset? These same activities could form an important part of the grieving process.

7 REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

If a child or young person is struggling with grief to the extent that it's impacting on their everyday life, there are lots of expert organisations that you could reach out to for further help. Samaritans provides a listening ear for anyone in emotional distress; The Mix offers specialist support to people under 25; and Winston's Wish deals specifically with helping young people who are grieving.

SAMARITANS:
116 123

WWW.THEMIX.ORG.UK/GET-SUPPORT
0808 808 4994

WINSTON'S WISH:
08088 020 021

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



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