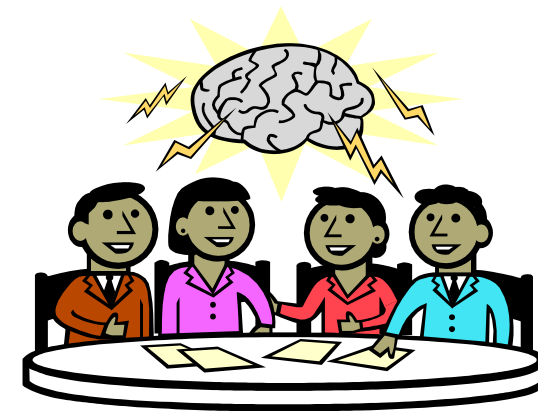




Building Learning Power



A guide to what it all means,
what we are doing in school, and
how you can help at home

For further information on our school, please see our
website at:

www.kingtonstmichaelschool.co.uk

What is Building Learning Power?

An approach grounded in solid science and practical experience which is designed to help young people to

Learn more

Learn better

Become better learners

Become lifelong learners

Learning about learning has more of an impact on pupils achievement

Learning Power involves building and developing particular **habits of mind** to enable young people to face difficulties calmly, confidently and creatively, and hence be better prepared as lifelong learners.



Realising that we are all smart at something

Here at school we are showing the children that they are all good, or "smart" at something and we can all achieve, succeed and excel in particular areas.

The display in the Hall shows how we can encourage the children to find their strengths and see the strengths of others.

Individuals may be smart at practical tasks, musical activities, sport, relating to others—or in many other ways.

The teachers at school are using book characters to illustrate the 5Rs and the qualities of each. You could try this at home when you read stories to your child. For example, Red Riding Hood is reflective, the third little pig is resourceful, the Seven Dwarves are reciprocal and Cinderella is resilient. These are all characters used in Reception and Key Stage 1. Key Stage 2 children are being encouraged to source their own characters to illustrate each of the 5Rs. Harry Potter could cover most of them!



Reflectiveness

- Encourage them to take responsibility for preparing for school
- Ask not what they did at school, but what they learned
- Help them to think about, and plan, activities
- Encourage flexibility and the ability to change a plan if necessary

Reciprocity/Relationships

- Demonstrate/model being a good learner
- Work, play and learn alongside your children, enabling them to pick up good habits through imitation
- Make expectations of turn-taking and cooperation clear

Risk Taking

- Encourage them to take calculated risks in their learning
- Instil the ethos that we learn from our mistakes and it is good to make them
- Remind them that learning can be messy and there will always be ups and downs
- Encourage an enjoyment and satisfaction in challenging ourselves and stretching our learning

What do good learners do?

Question

Show enthusiasm

Embrace the task

Have alternatives

Explore alternatives

Take risks

Have confidence

Have different strategies to tackle tasks

Articulate their thinking

Work with others

Are creative

Develop collaboration

One way of mapping these qualities is in terms of the "5Rs"

Resilience - locking onto learning, perseverance, managing distractions

Resourcefulness - knowing what to do when you don't know what to do, questioning, imagining, making links

Reflectiveness - strategies to use, self-awareness, Learning to talk the language of learning, self-evaluation

Reciprocity/Relationships - learning alone and with others, empathy, listening

Risk Taking - having the confidence to try something new and challenge oneself

What are we doing to promote the 5Rs?

Resourcefulness

I'm stuck boards (in each class—what to do when stuck)

Independence (coming into class alone, sorting belongings)

Sorting own resources (deciding what is needed for a task)

Questioning games

Wonder walls (in each class to encourage questions)

Resilience

Carrying on with difficult task

Looking for more challenge themselves

Using resourcefulness

Managing distractions

Reciprocity

Working in groups/pairs

Working independently

Choice in way of working (independently/with teacher)

Discussing the successes/difficulties as a team

Circle time activities (listening/empathy/points of view)

Reflective

Discussing learning

Developing pupil's self-assessment skills

Self-evaluation of work

Peer evaluation of work

Whole school and individual targets

Learning muscles

What can parents do?

Draw attention to, and model, positive learning habits

Resilience

- Demonstrate/model sticking at things even if they are difficult
- Talk about how you feel when you are taking on challenges
- Praise your child when they persevere....but also encourage them to take a break when they have had enough
- Help them to find interests and activities that are really absorbing
- Talk with them about what help them to concentrate and manage distractions

Resourcefulness

- Encourage questions
- Demonstrate making links between different ideas
- Don't allow your child's imagination to shrivel up!
- Help them to find ways of using resources such as reference books, dictionaries, the Internet

