



Essential Agreement

Inquiry at Annesley Junior School

At Annesley Junior School questions matter. In a collaborative and supportive environment, learners are invited to wonder, to formulate questions and to investigate widely building new understandings, meanings and knowledge. Explicit teaching supports students to develop skills and knowledge enabling deeper inquiry. This knowledge is shared with others and promotes action in response to learning.

In the Early Learning Centre inquiry capitalises on students' natural curiosity across four transdisciplinary units. A wide range of stimulating learning environments fosters wonder and engagement. Students are supported to express their investigations in a variety of ways and to engage in purposeful outcomes.

In the Junior Primary Learning Centre students are encouraged and supported to take responsibility for their learning through personal, collaborative and guided inquiry across six transdisciplinary units of inquiry in a dynamic learning environment. These inquiry skills provide the foundation for future independent learning.

In the Primary Learning Centre authentic experiences are posed that stimulate inquiry across six transdisciplinary units. Students identify their prior knowledge and what they want to discover. This helps them to pose questions and to explore tensions arising; these direct their learning.

The community members are a rich resource. Students use them to make connections, provide explanations, find solutions, enrich meaning and learn from their expertise. These are collated and presented in a variety of ways. Teachers work collaboratively as learners to model life-long learning.

Inquiry Process:

Igniting the flame

- Introduce provocations: inquiry boxes and/or bags, stories, objects, thinking, sharing ideas, experimenting, resources, excursions

Wondering

- Establish prior knowledge
- Model wondering
- Unpack the central idea, concepts and related concepts
- Formulate questions and pose problems

Exploring

- Individual and collaborative explorations
- Learning experiences that challenge children's thinking, understanding and problem solving
- Experimenting with materials and resources
- Playing to deepen understanding
- Research through learning engagements and other sources
- Formative assessments that establish directions – following students' leads and interests and providing feedback
- Guided by lines of inquiry and personal inquiry

Going deeper

- Gathering and analysing
- Extending new found knowledge

Drawing conclusions

- Summative assessments documenting children's growth in knowledge and understanding
- Sharing and presenting multiple perspectives

Reflecting and taking action

- Celebrate children's action throughout the unit: action wall, photos, videos, portfolios, home learning, personal learning/inquiry, demonstrating intrinsic motivation

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