

QUESSIE Newsletter July 2017

Dear **QUESSIE** Member

Those who do not question....

In my experience, every now and again you come across students who are reluctant to ask questions to clarify meaning. These are often the quieter children who may be easily intimidated by the more extroverted and/or confident personalities in the room. The absence of questioning from students can have significant impacts on their understanding and subsequently, academic success.

Ensuring everyone has a voice in your classroom takes work (some days more than others) but is a must. So how do you make this happen?

Speaking to your students about the value of questioning is important, as is your role modelling of these behaviours with school stakeholders. Asking a teaching colleague a question (in the vicinity of the children) to assist your understanding is powerful for your students to witness. Learning that takes place in real life contexts (as always) adds value for the students.

You may need to support those students lacking questioning confidence with extra scaffolding, for example “good question” cards. Positive teacher and peer reinforcement for these students plays a significant role in emphasizing these desirable work skills.

Games that use questioning are useful to assist all students develop their enquiry skills. An example of a simple questioning game is “Who, What or Where am I?” where students have a set number of questions to guess the other student’s answer. Students soon realise that all questions are not created equal!

It is worth remembering that effective questioning skills don’t come easily to all. Activities that develop and/or strengthen these skills are a worthwhile investment of time for all students.

Until next month, best wishes

SBoland

Sheldon Boland
QUESSIE Director



www.uessie.com

info@uessie.com

www.linkedin.com/in/sheldonjboland

