

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING INTENT

Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question/problem or challenge. As a result, students develop deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills.

INTENT

- At Pathways School we use PBL to support our ambitious and evidence-based curriculum and allow our classroom approach to be student-centred with opportunities for all students to develop and learn key skills. Students at Pathways are given a voice and choice. They can choose an avenue of inquiry which interests them and develop in-depth understanding of academic knowledge and skills. This choice helps develop pupils' engagement and self-motivation towards learning. It enables them to become independent learners and build on 21st century skills such as collaboration, critical thinking and communication. Skills which are vital for future life and employment.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Each Project is carefully planned around a driving question which is open ended and objective. It is posed to the students at the start of the Project and helps to focus the student's inquiries by engaging and initiate curiosity. It captures and communicates the purpose of the Project in a succinct question.
- Assessment is progressive throughout the term and consists of Project rubrics, based on SOLO taxonomy. They are coherently planned and sequenced to ensure that all students are stretched and challenged within their own abilities. Students select the level they are working at in discussion with their teacher, allowing for individualised feedback for every student. A Project Overview is designed for all Projects encompassing the following cross curricular areas; Real world experience and events, physical, mathematical, human and social, rights respecting and student voice, SMSC and British values, technology, linguistics, science, employability and Gatsby Principles, character development and aesthetics and creativity.
- Technology and creativity are core to all projects and each student has a personal computer they work on. Each Project incorporates opportunities for students to develop their maths and literacy skills and regular opportunities for reflection are provided. Students choose how they present their final Project, options include presentations, making a video, models, posters, written articles, producing a song/piece of music or designing a campaign. The inquiry-based learning approach of PBL allows careers and SMSC to be interwoven into each Project in a very relevant real-world way. Examples of this include visits by professionals to explain their job role to students and trips to local organisations such as the Farnham Community Allotment.

IMPACT

- All of our students have been out of education for at least 6 months and have high anxiety around School and learning because of this. They all have different gaps in their learning and knowledge and are likely to all transition to different settings from Pathways School. Project based learning gives the flexibility to address these gaps with individual students as well as allowing them to develop a sense of autonomy and purpose by following their interests and delving deeper into learning. Students are required to present their finished Project engages students and enables them to develop their self-confidence, remain active and communicate with their peers. This then prepares them for the next stage of education or training.