

## Cooperative Learning - Kagan

Over the past two years at Chacewater School we have begun to embed an initiative called 'Kagan Cooperative Learning'.

This strategy includes tools and structures to enable children to work more effectively together in order to improve teamwork skills and raise attainment.

As a starting point, regular team building and class building activities help to nurture an environment of trust where pupils get to know, respect, value and engage productively with their teammates. In turn, other structures build knowledge, with pupils interacting with one another.

The range of structures used can help children to:

- develop their understanding of different subjects
- review or practise skills
- practice procedures, process or present information
- develop and refine a range of thinking skills, including higher level thinking skills.

Having practised and developed a range of cooperative learning tools and structures at Chacewater over the past two years, we have seen a real difference in the pupils achievement and engagement. In addition, lessons observed demonstrate a culture of improved social skills and cooperativeness, improved self-esteem, increased liking for school and learning, increased participation, and increased opportunities for children to develop leadership skills.

We regularly monitor and review the impact of 'Cooperative Learning' within the school and look to develop our skills further by undergoing addition training to increase the range of strategies available to both teachers and pupils.

Below are the key structures that we currently use in lessons, depending on the context.



**In pairs, students alternate generating brief oral responses.**

Examples:

- List adjectives to describe the character.
- Share steps of the experiment.
- Describe an event from the story.

## Timed Pair Share



In pairs, students share with a partner for a predetermined time while the partner listens. Then partners switch roles.

Examples:

- What is the key thing that you learned?
- What is one literary technique you plan to use in your writing and how will you use it?

## Round Robin



In teams, students take turns responding orally.

Examples:

- What makes a good listener?
- List objects that float?
- What clubs or societies are you a member of?
- What is one of your favourite movies?

## RallyCoach



Partners take turns, one solving a problem while the other coaches. Then partners switch roles.

- Useful for any process or procedure with a definite right/wrong.
- Solve multi-step word problems in math.
- Change each decimal into a simplified fraction.

## StandUp, HandUp, PairUp



Students stand up, put their hand up and quickly find a partner with whom to share or discuss.

This structure is perfect for class building, processing and reviewing information and energising the class.