



Amnuay Silpa School

What is a 'Thinking School'?

There are many definitions as to what exactly a Thinking School is. At ANS, we aim to create a school where all members give careful thought to everything that takes place. We aim to encourage both students and staff to think critically, creatively and reflectively. We aim to ensure that our curriculum is meaningful and focuses on skills and techniques and not solely on content. We aim to help are students to develop and demonstrate independent and co-operative learning skills; using a range of thinking tools and strategies. We aim to create an atmosphere where pupils experience high levels of achievement and both enjoyment and satisfaction in lifelong learning.

Why do we need to teach thinking?

At ANS we believe that by teaching thinking and encouraging pupils to think about thinking, they will become better learners. Understanding the thinking processes will enable pupils to learn faster and more effectively. Our teachers aim to support pupils in recognizing how they learn and therefore enabling them to achieve their potential. Thinking about thinking better prepares pupils for lifelong learning and the changing workplace.

How are we achieving this at ANS?

At ANS we are modifying our teaching to promote thinking. Teachers are challenging pupils through effective questioning to understand what they are learning and why. The curriculum promotes the development of skills including thinking skills, placing less focus on the coverage of content. Our classrooms enrich and encourage thinking through the range of strategies that



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are implemented in lessons and the displays used to reinforce thinking concepts. Lessons are becoming more practical and skill based with a high emphasis on thinking about a task rather than just completing it. Pupils are continually encouraged to think reflectively about what they have been doing, recognizing where they have been successful and how they can further improve.

What is our vision as a 'Thinking School'?

- **Pupils** who think for themselves, apply skills to other contexts, enjoy and are enthused by learning, know how they learn best, who can self/peer assess their learning/identify next steps
- **Teachers** committed to developing pupils' thinking skills, see themselves as coaches/facilitators to learning, create opportunities to promote thinking
- **Lessons** designed to extend learning – sharing lesson objectives (WALT), giving pupils success criteria (*Steps to Success*). keeping pupils on task, pupils asking/responding to questions. assessment for learning integrated
- **Curriculum** – not led by content but by skills, enjoyable contexts to develop thinking, assessment is integral
- **Classrooms** that promote thinking – displays, opportunities for independent thinking, pupils asking questions

Joseph Pine
Director of Thinking