SUPPORTING PUPIL INDEPENDENCE THROUGH QUESTIONING



Using questions to support metacognitive regulation:

- Metacognitive regulation involves pupils planning, monitoring, and evaluating their learning. This process supports independent learning behaviours.
- This tool is designed to support teachers by providing questions that encourage pupils to think metacognitively about their learning.
- These questions can be used across subjects and school phases.
- Teachers and teaching assistants could ask pupils these questions directly, or model them aloud, during opportunities such as a think aloud.
- Helping pupils to plan, monitor and evaluate their learning to support independence features in the EEF's guidance report on Metacognition and self-regulation.



eef.li/metacognition

1. Planning (start of the task):

- Have you seen a task like this before?
- What prior knowledge do you have that might help?
- What is your plan / goal?
- What strategies will you use?
- What resources will you need?
- How will you stay focussed and motivated during the task?
- Are there any bits that you might find tricky—what will you do if you get stuck?



3. Evaluating (after the task):

- Did you achieve your goal?
- How did your plan help—did you have to adapt it?
- How well did your strategies work?
- Did you stay motivated and on task—what helped?
- Do you need more/less support next time?
- What will you do differently next time?
- What have you learned about yourself and your learning?

2. Monitoring (during the task):

- How are you sticking to your plan?
- Is the strategy you have chosen working or do you need to try something else?
- Have we used any strategies in the past that might help you here?
- Do you have everything you need?
- Could you check in with your partner to see how you are getting on?
- How are you staying focussed and sticking to the plan?