

Visible Learning at Dalkeith High School

What is Visible Learning?

“Visible Learning is teachers seeing learning through the eyes of their students, and students seeing themselves as their own teachers.” (Professor John Hattie)

At Dalkeith High School, we are committed to ensuring that all of our staff have a sound understanding of **what works best** in education. We use this understanding to support all of our young people to **achieve and attain** at the highest possible level.

The visible learning approach is informed by clear, **evidence based research**.

Schools that embrace the principles behind visible learning approaches have the following features:

- There is a shared **‘language of learning’** between teachers and learners e.g. we understand what makes a good learner, what progress looks like in different subjects, and how to set targets
- Teachers **assess the impact** of the different strategies they are using and make changes when they identify more effective ways of supporting learners’ progress
- **Regular feedback** is given from the teacher to the learner, learners give feedback to each other, and to the class teacher
- Teaching staff are **passionate** about doing their best for the young people they are working with, and **inspire interest** both in their subject and learning as a whole
- The **systems and processes** in the school support all the above, and everyone in the school community is encouraged to be a **leader in learning**

What is a visible learner?

Visible learners are **‘assessment capable’**; that is to say, they understand how to approach learning and how to share their progress. Visible learners:

- Demonstrate **positive dispositions** towards learning (Responsible, Resourceful, Resilient, Reflective)
- Understand that **mistakes are part of the learning process**
- Know how to learn, with **strategies** to use when they face challenges
- Seek, receive and act on **feedback**
- Explain and understand **their progress** (Where am I in my learning? Where am I going? How will I get there?)
- **Collaborate**; learning with and from others

What does this look like in our classrooms?

- Assessments are not just something that happen at the end of a topic or unit of work; teachers continually make assessment judgements based on what learners **make, say, do and write** in class

- Feedback on learning is focused on **comments to support progress**, not just on a mark or percentage
- Regular **learner conversations** ensure that there is a shared understanding of standards and to support **target setting**
- Learners are encouraged to have a **growth mindset** and know that practising skills leads to progress
- There are opportunities for **collaborative and active learning**
- Teachers seek out information about **what works and what does not**

Our school *Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy*, which is based on the principles behind visible learning, is available on our website: <http://dalkeith.mgfl.net>

How can I support my child to be a visible learner?

Young people often need to be encouraged to talk about their learning. Rather than 'How was school?' it can be helpful to make questions more specific. For example:

- What was the best part of today? Why do you enjoy learning in that subject/ with that teacher?
- Was there anything you found difficult today? What did you do when you were stuck?
- Would you say you're getting better at Maths/ Art/ PE? Why/ why not?
- What's coming up that you're looking forward to? What will you need to do to prepare for that?

How will my child's progress be shared?

All young people in S1-S6 receive tracking reports twice per year. With the exception of the first S1 report, all of these have targets for learning that pupils have generated themselves, with the support of their class teacher. These can provide a rich source of discussion about learning. Further to this, our Parents'/Carers' Meetings provide an opportunity for one to one conversations with subject specialists. We encourage young people to attend these along with parents/carers where possible and to take a full part in discussions about their progress and next steps.

Our *Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting Guide*, which is based on the principles behind visible learning, is available on our website: <http://dalkeith.mgfl.net>

If you would like to know more about the ideas behind the visible learning approach, you may find the following websites useful:

<https://visible-learning.org>

<http://visiblelearningplus.com>

<http://mindsetonline.com>

<http://www.jamesnottingham.co.uk/learning-pit>

