

Key Questions for Learner Engagement

Practice asking these three key questions of a range of learners.

What are you learning? Where are you going with your learning?

- Check for the difference between DOING and LEARNING.
- Listen for deep understanding, relevance and connections to other areas of learning, as well as to life outside school.
- Listen to hear the extent to which they understand 'why' what they are learning is important.
- Don't hesitate to probe if the first response is superficial or hasty. Talking out loud about their learning (as opposed to the activity) may be new for some learners.

How is it (your learning) going?

- Do the learners have clear criteria for success or are they reliant on the teacher to tell them how they are doing?
- Do the learners understand the criteria? Can they explain it in their own words?
- Do they have a way of self-monitoring their progress?
- Can they articulate their strengths and weaknesses related to this particular learning challenge?

Where to next?

- Does the learner have a clear picture of what to do to improve?
- What kind of feedback have they received –from their teachers and from their peers – that is helping them move forward?
- Can they describe the specific steps they will take?