

Castle Hill Infant School

“A Thinking School”



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At Castle Hill Infant School thinking skills lie at the heart of effective learning.

All members of our school share a common commitment to giving regular careful thought to how children learn best. This involves all pupils and staff learning to think reflectively, critically and creatively and for Teachers to employ these skills and techniques in the planning of our new integrated curriculum.

The staff of Castle Hill School use a range of tools to support children's learning including thinking hats, thinking maps, habits of mind and heuristics.

De Bono's 6 Thinking Hats



Facts



Positive



Emotional



Creative



Be aware



Organising

Early in the 1980s Dr. Edward de Bono invented the Six Thinking Hats method which offers a framework for thinking. It requires pupils and teachers to extend their way of thinking about a topic by wearing a range of different 'thinking' hats.

The six hats represent six types of thinking. At Castle Hill Infant School pupils learn to reflect on their thinking and to recognise that different thinking is required in different learning situations.

Habits of mind

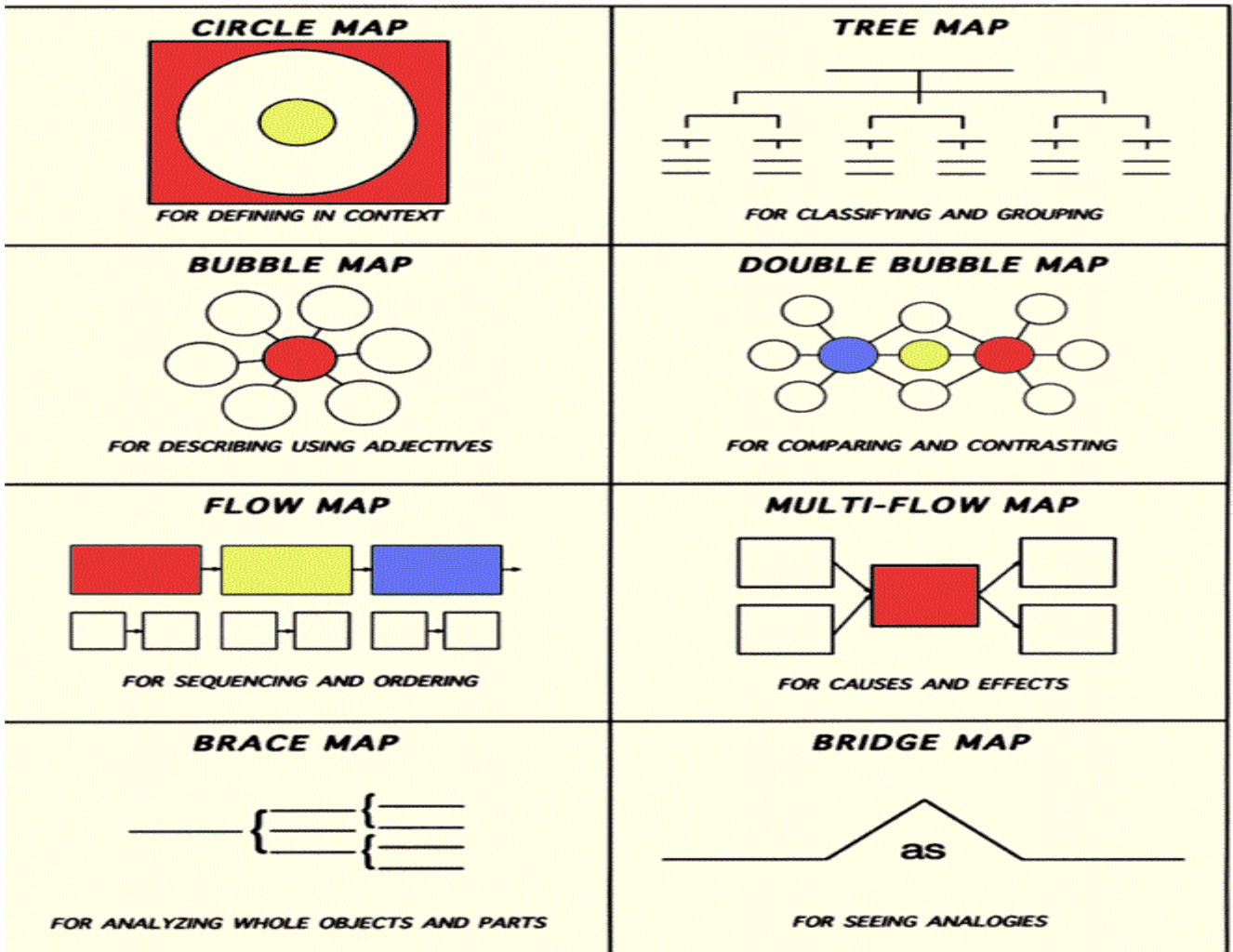
"Habits of Mind are the characteristics of what intelligent people do when they are confronted with problems, the resolutions of which are not immediately apparent." Art Costa.



The seven Habits of Mind that we focus on at Castle Hill Infants School are:

- Communicate clearly
- Use what you know
- Think about your thinking
- Persisting
- Creativity
- Striving for accuracy
- Work well as a team

Thinking maps

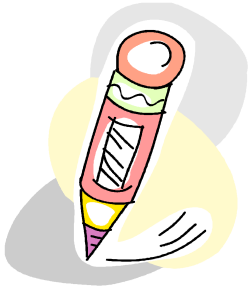


Thinking Maps are a set of 8 visual maps used to teach universal thinking processes. Devised originally by Dr David Hyerle, they offer a common visual thinking language. At Castle Hill Infant School we use them for the explicit teaching of thinking skills which can be transferred into all curriculum areas.

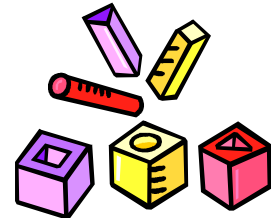
Heuristics

Heuristics encourages children to use logic to solve a problem.

At Castle Hill Infant School we use heuristics to encourage children to think about the strategies they can use to solve a problem. These include to;



- draw a picture
- make a model
- act it the problem



- use equipment
- jot things down
- look for patterns
- make a table
- use real life objects
- list all the possibilities

