

# Effective Primary Teaching Practice

## HEADLINES

*'Does it promote learning? If not, why are we doing it?'*

**Russell Hobby,  
General Secretary,  
NAHT**

**Effective = those things which best contribute to pupil outcomes across the curriculum**

### 1 Effective schools have strong leadership, where:

- leaders have a clear vision for the school – drawing on evidence – which is understood, owned, and implemented by all staff
- this vision drives all the decisions in the school
- regardless of the school's structure, the most senior leader in a school takes responsibility for leading teaching and learning

### 2 Effective schools prioritise the ongoing development of teachers and teaching, where:

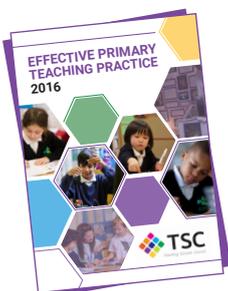
- staff development is structured around clear objectives to improve pupil outcomes; and led by evidence of effective teaching
- planning is purposeful, focused on learning with a clear objective
- teaching approaches that are backed by evidence are used and their impact is monitored
- mastery teaching approaches are properly understood and used across the curriculum for all pupils, greater depth is used to challenge the higher attaining pupils
- teachers pay attention to the detail of the approaches they use, avoiding only superficial engagement
- there are high expectations for attainment across all subjects - supported by active development of subject teaching, include teachers' understanding of subjects and how pupils learn those subjects

### 3 Effective schools make the most of all their resources, in particular

- teachers use their time on those things that make the most significant, direct difference to improving outcomes for all
- careful consideration is given to whether to use teaching assistants and what to use them for, especially the types of interventions they support
- the teaching dictates the classroom layout; classroom environments focus on pupil learning and avoid distraction
- technology is used to improve teaching – if it has a clear pedagogical purpose – rather than for the sake of using it

### 4 Effective schools make clear choices about how they organise, structure and prioritise, based on evidence. They:

- Thinking hard about whether setting or streaming helps all pupils to achieve. Being clear on the use and purpose of any homework and how it supports learning objectives. Developing a strong reception year with a structured approach to teaching and planning for focused learning rather than aimless activities
- think hard before setting and streaming and recognise that this approach may not help all pupils to achieve
- are clear about what, if any, use and purpose homework has in their school



For the full report, other posters and tools go to:

<http://tscouncil.org.uk/resources/effective-primary-teaching-practice-2016/>

Written by Dame Reena Keeble, supported by a group of teachers, heads and experts.