

### Some ideas for discussion:-

Although it may take a while to embed the listening skills with pupils in order for discussion to be an effective Teaching and Learning tool, in the long run it has huge advantages.

#### Getting started- embedding listening skills:-

- Chinese whispers
- Sharing and reporting back information in pairs-students can sit back to back

#### Getting Started- sharing success criteria or learning outcomes with students:-

- Gives the activity a clear focus
- Students can assess their progress @ the end (AFL)
- Depending on your learning outcomes the structure of the discussion will vary

#### Enabling the less verbal/confident students:-

- Giving each student 'speaking tokens' will ensure all students have a say and the more confident students will be less able to dominate discussion
- Passing a ball- students chooses who will speak next by passing the ball/object to them
- Think time-allowing all students to express their initial thoughts (even in different languages) in writing may develop the confidence in more shy students and enables teachers to check understanding at a later date.
- Allotting students roles such as note taker, captain/chair, reporter (back to class)
- Students can keep a log with their initial thoughts, comments they found interesting through the discussion, how their views changed etc. Again, this allows the less confident to record their views which the teacher can assess. It also means there is a record of the work from which students can revise or self evaluate.

#### Evaluating their discussion skills:-

- Students could complete a graph or 'feely gauge/spectrum' to determine how well they contributed and listened. These can be cross referenced with others in their pair/group.
- Students can complete questionnaires on their performance-(examples available in SEAL resources)
- Students can be allotted role of observing and feeding back either within a group or as a class if set out in a horseshoe shape.
- Traffic light cards or De Bosis questioning can be used to evaluate what they have learnt/achieved against learning outcomes.