

Co-operative learning is one of many learning and teaching strategies used in school. It can be applied to any area of the curriculum as and when appropriate.

It can be used for a whole lesson or the short strategies can be interspersed throughout the day.

Co-operative learning skills and strategies are developed throughout the school, from pre-school to Primary 7.



Where can we find more information?

Please contact a member of staff if you wish to discuss any aspect of cooperative learning and we will try to help.

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Mattocks Primary School



Co-operative learning



What is Co-operative learning?

Co-operative learning is a teaching strategy in which small groups use a variety of learning activities to improve their understanding of a curricular area.

This approach focuses on individual pupil accountability, common goals and recognition of group success.

A co-operative learning task cannot be successfully completed unless each member of the group has a role to play and through that, is actively involved.



Why do we use co-operative learning?

It..

- promotes pupil learning and academic achievement
- provides a motivating context so that children are more likely to remain on task
- develops social skills and oral communication
- promotes self-esteem

How do we put this into practice?

- Groups are formed through enjoyable activities.
- Groups are presented with a task which incorporates an academic and a social goal.
- The academic goal is the learning intention e.g. to research information from a variety of sources.
- The social goal is the social skill which the children will be practising e.g. disagreeing in non-hurtful ways
- The children are given an allocated time in which to complete the task and have access to necessary resources.
- Each child in the group has a role to perform e.g. time-keeper, resource manager, quality checker, reporter
- On completion the children then take turns to report to the class and discuss their results.
- The pupils evaluate how well they have achieved their academic and social goals and identify the next steps.



How do we assess the learning?

- teacher observation of practical tasks and group discussions
- direct questioning
- formal marking and formative feedback e.g. 2 stars and a wish