




**Effective Learning Framework
For Teachers & Students**

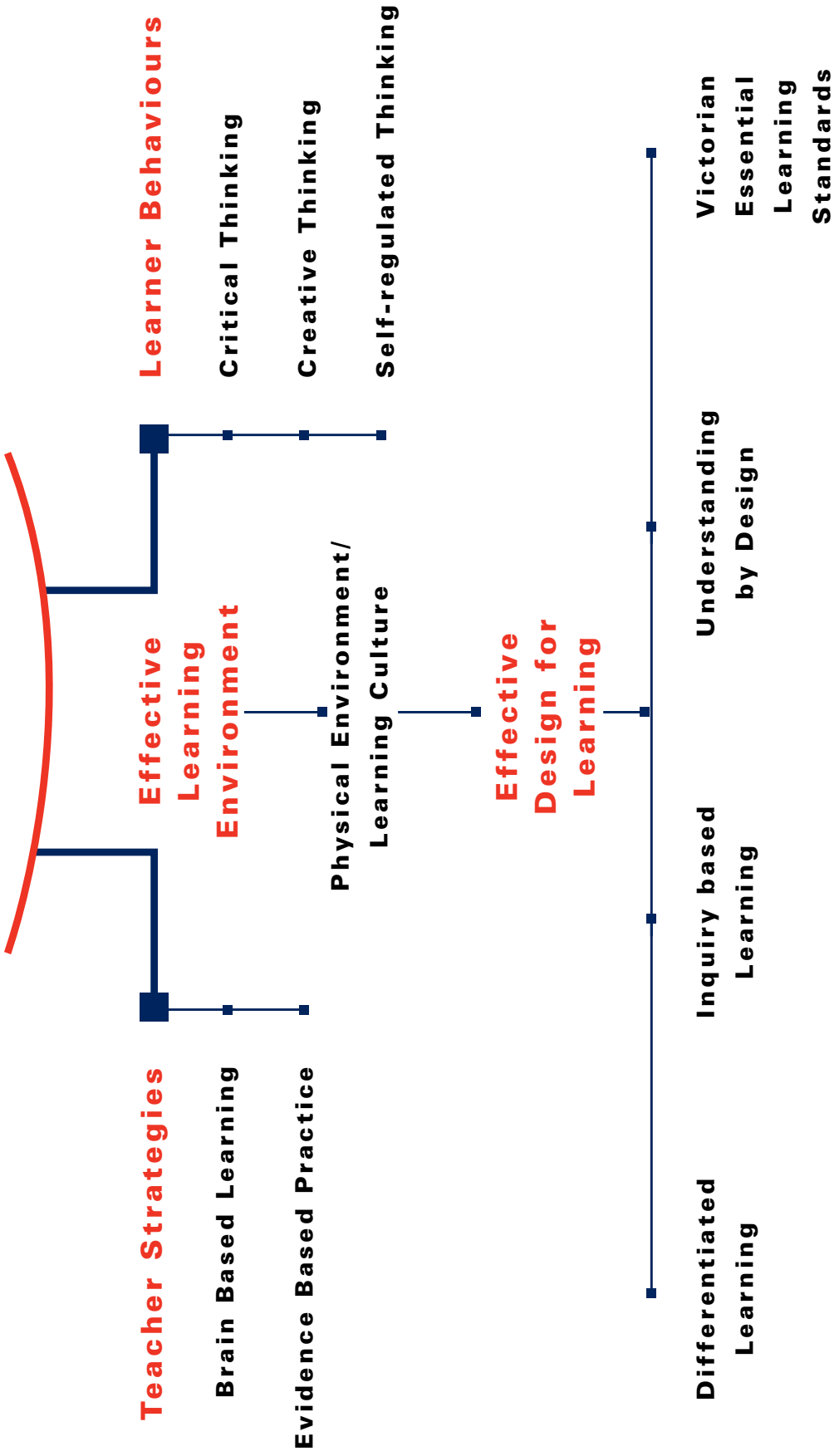


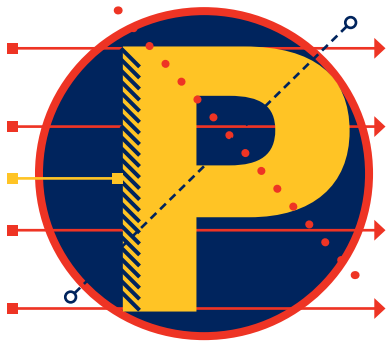


PASS
Peninsula
Academic
Skill
Set

PEAS

Effective Learning Framework For Teachers & Students





PASS – The Peninsula Academic Skill Set

A framework for effective learning

Effective Learning

In order for our students to be effective learners they need to be able to master core skills and key knowledge, develop deep understanding of concepts and ideas and acquire habits of life-long learning and inquiry. PASS is an attempt to set out the framework within which effective learning occurs at The Peninsula School. We see effective learning requiring four key elements:

- ▶ Effective learner behaviours, fostered by:
- ▶ Effective teacher strategies and:
- ▶ Effective design for learning, all supported by:
- ▶ An effective learning environment.

Effective Learner Behaviours

Effective learner behaviours enable students to become life-long independent and collaborative learners. They can conveniently be divided into three categories:

Critical Thinking

- ▶ Accuracy
- ▶ Clarity
- ▶ Open-mindedness
- ▶ Restraining impulsivity

Creative Thinking

- ▶ Perseverance
- ▶ Extending your limits
- ▶ Generating new ways of seeing

Self Regulated Thinking

- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Responding appropriately to feedback
- ▶ Self-evaluation
- ▶ Metacognition

Effective Teacher Strategies

Teachers need to foster effective learning and the development of effective learner behaviours by applying their knowledge of pedagogy and structuring instruction, inquiry and assessment. A key element of this is:

Evidence Based Practice

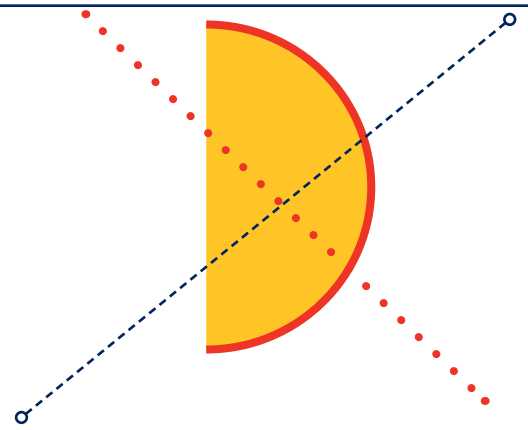
Contemporary teachers possess more data about how students learn and about the individual nature of their students than ever before. Effective teacher strategies will be based on this data, particularly including:

Brain Based Learning

The insights of cognitive neuroscience are transforming our understanding of the learning process. The work of educators such as Eric Jensen and Mel Levine provides teachers with accessible strategies to apply this research in the classroom.

Effective Design for Learning

Designing effective learning experiences is a responsibility shared by the classroom teacher and the academic faculty and leadership as a whole. Design strategies which contribute to this element of PASS are:



Victorian Essential Learning Standards

As an independent school, The Peninsula School is not committed to 'implementation' of the VELS; however they are an important part of the educational community within which we work and provide some and useful considerations for our learning design.

Differentiated Instruction

The Peninsula School is open-entry, co-educational and multi-cultural. It is important that all students are provided with the chance to learn and succeed, regardless of ability or preferred learning style. It is important, therefore, that instruction and assessment is differentiated to take into account the differences within each group of students. Tools for differentiation include:

- ▶ Bloom's Taxonomy;
- ▶ Gardner's Multiple Intelligences.

Inquiry Based Learning

It will not be enough for students and workers in the 'knowledge economy' to display a mastery of a fixed body of factual knowledge. All students need to be introduced to the principles of 'real world' inquiry and given the opportunity to put them into practice. As well as preparing students more effectively for 21st century life, inquiry learning approaches have the capacity to engage students much more thoroughly with their own learning.

Understanding by Design

As a framework for planning syllabi, particularly those with an inquiry focus, Understanding by Design provides teachers with tools and strategies to foster enduring understanding of essential concepts and ideas. It is based

on the principle of 'backwards design': instead of working 'up' from classroom activities, teachers work 'down' from desired understandings to assessment to learning activities.

Effective Learning Environment

Developing and maintaining an effective learning environment is the responsibility of the whole school culture. An effective learning environment requires:

Fostering a positive learning culture

An effective learning environment builds positive relationships through knowing and valuing each student and promotes a culture of value and respect for individuals and their communities. It fosters a respect for learning and a positive attitude towards academic endeavour.

Developing a supportive physical environment

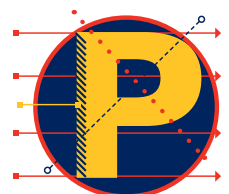
Teachers and learners need to be provided with effective physical resources, including appropriate learning spaces and the opportunity to use technologies effectively.

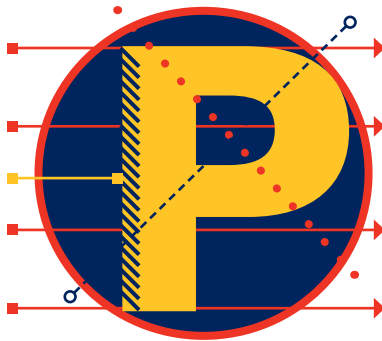
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McTighe J & Wiggins G (2004) *Understanding by Design Professional Development Workbook* (Alexandria: ASCD)

'Principles of Learning & Teaching P-12' Department of Education & Training (Victoria): <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/blueprint/fs1/polt/principles.htm>





Tell me and I will forget
Show me and I will remember
Involve me and I will understand



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