



# HELPING YOUR CHILD BECOME A CONFIDENT THINKER

## UNDERSTANDING OUR THINKING MOVES



### WHAT IS METACOGNITION?

At Onchan School, we want every child to become a confident, independent learner. A big part of this is helping them think about their thinking—this is called metacognition.

Metacognition is being aware of how you learn and think, and using that awareness to improve your learning.

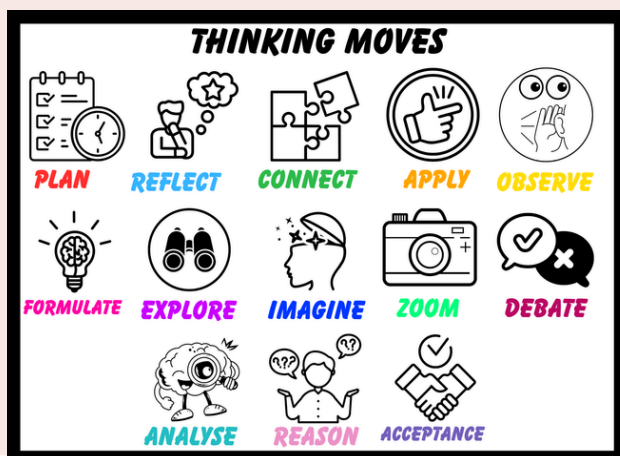
Children who develop metacognition can plan, monitor, and adjust their own learning without always needing help. Research that shows teaching metacognitive skills can improve learning outcomes by up to 8 months' progress in primary school children (Education Endowment Foundation). This is because children learn to manage their thinking, solve problems more effectively, and become more confident in their abilities.

### WHAT ARE THE THINKING MOVES?

To help children develop these important skills, we are using a simple but powerful system called Thinking Moves.

We have identified 13 different thinking processes, each represented by an action and symbol to make them easy to remember. Each Thinking Move also comes with a set of words that mean similar things, helping children build a strong vocabulary around thinking.

You can see all of these Thinking Moves in the picture below. We use these regularly in lessons to help children become aware of how they are thinking, not just what they are thinking.



Thinking Moves don't just help in schoolwork—they also develop children's ability to think clearly and creatively in everyday life. We encourage you to ask your child about their Thinking Moves and look at the attached chart together. Talking about these moves at home helps reinforce these valuable skills.

### WHY AND HOW DO WE USE THE THINKING MOVES?

We believe Thinking Moves are an accessible, practical tool to help children:

- Understand and manage their own thinking (metacognition)
- Become more independent and confident learners
- Focus on learning how to think, instead of just what to think

As we work towards a more student-centered approach to learning, Thinking Moves help children take charge of their own learning journey.

We are introducing these Thinking Moves during assemblies and throughout the school. Additionally, we recognise their use in practice with our 'I applied a Thinking Move' stickers.

In the classroom, teachers incorporate Thinking Moves through targeted questions and activities that stimulate children's thinking. This approach encourages students to think deeply and independently, helping them to:

- Solve problems more effectively
- Reflect on their learning
- Make meaningful connections between ideas

