

Myth 5: “If we are listening and focused in lessons, it means we know what we are doing and are set up to succeed.”

The Truth

Whilst it is true that we learn what we attend to, we have to ensure that we also understand the content and are able to recall it at a later time. Therefore, listening and focusing is not enough to ensure success, and as teachers, we must check for understanding. Checking for understanding is a process that runs throughout every lesson. Teachers use ‘show me’ activities to provide students with the opportunity to showcase what they do and do not know.

Teachers use a range of methods to check for real understanding and correct where necessary whilst requiring the student to articulate what they have learnt. The process of creating a mental summary of what has been learnt supports students in embedding the new learning in their long-term memory. It is essential that where misconceptions or gaps in learning are identified, teachers have the opportunity to put steps in place to rectify this.

What you will see in practice:

Teachers asking students to summarise the learning

Teachers asking students to answer the question ‘why?’

Teachers asking students to repeat the directions or procedures

Teachers asking students to complete a task for the class and think aloud

Teachers asking students to agree, build upon or challenge the answers given by other students

Teachers asking students to explain or defend their position

Did you know?

Studies show that questioning is proven to be the quickest and most effective way to check for understanding and serves a number of purposes, such as:

- Identifying the development of misconceptions
- Identifying gaps in understanding
- Supporting the process of moving new learning into the long term memory

Further info

Click the image below for more information.

Check for understanding

Have you
understood?



What have you
understood?

