

## SENCO HANDOUT: OBSERVATION SCHEDULE FOR QUALITY FIRST TEACHING AND DIFFERENTIATION

KEY FEATURES OF EFFECTIVE		EVIDENCE	NOTES	
QUALITY FIRST TEACHING		HOW DOES THIS MANIFEST ITSELF IN THE		
		CLASSROOM? WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS?		
•	Is the teacher clear about the learning objectives/learning outcomes?	<ul> <li>Clearly written on plans</li> <li>Clearly accessible to pupils</li> <li>Activities match objective and allow it to be met</li> <li>Pupils understand what they are learning</li> </ul>		
•	Are the learning objectives shared with the pupils in a way they can understand?	<ul> <li>Pupils can rephrase and explain why they are doing what they are doing</li> <li>Feedback to pupils and reflections refer to learning objectives</li> </ul>		
•	Are the success criteria that lie beneath the learning objectives shared or developed with the pupils?	<ul> <li>Teacher explains/models/shows the steps to success – how the pupil will meet the objective</li> <li>Language of success criteria is familiar to pupils</li> </ul>		
•	Does the teacher show/explain what 'good' work will be like i.e. are the pupils clear about the expected standards?	<ul> <li>Teacher regularly model expectations</li> <li>Teacher shares and discusses examples of other pupils' work with the class</li> <li>Pupils articulate what they need to do to improve - specifically</li> </ul>		
•	Does the teacher use questioning effectively?	Teacher asks questions to evaluate knowledge		



i.e. to find out what the pupils know and understand, to promote further learning; to prompt thinking and reflection?	<ul> <li>Teacher uses variety of techniques which ensure maximum participation</li> <li>Pupils encouraged to ask questions of the teacher</li> <li>Teacher differentiates the questioning</li> <li>Teacher asks questions throughout the lesson</li> <li>Questions are tailored to the individual pupils through knowledge of their individual needs</li> <li>Questions develop reflection and deeper understanding of concepts</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Does the feedback to the pupils focus on the learning objective?</li> <li>Does feedback make pupils aware of the achievements they have made in relation to the learning objective?</li> <li>Does the feedback provide an improvement prompt or 'closing the gap' prompt?</li> <li>Do the pupils understand/use the feedback to improve their work?</li> <li>Are pupils given time to respond to feedback?</li> <li>Is there evidence that pupils act upon the feedback to improve their work?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Feedback is understood by pupils and can be explained orally by them</li> <li>Feedback is specific</li> <li>Pupils' rates of progress and improvement through their verbal responses and written work are clear</li> <li>Learning objectives in subsequent lessons highlight that learning is moving on</li> <li>Evidence is available that feedback has been acted upon</li> <li>Pupils are motivated, on task and clear about their learning</li> <li>Pupils are able to 'help themselves' and are independent learners</li> <li>Pupils work collaboratively</li> </ul>



<ul> <li>Do activities promote active engagement?</li> <li>Are activities differentiated for all learners?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All pupils are actively engaged</li> <li>Pupils understand what they have to do</li> <li>Pupils can explain what they are doing</li> <li>Pupils enjoy learning and show intrigue and curiosity</li> </ul>			
Management of Assessment for Learning:				
<ul> <li>Are pupils involved in other ways in the assessment process e.g. self assessment, negotiating, recording, monitoring their own progress through personal targets?</li> <li>Do teachers and pupils reflect on the extent to which the learning objective has been achieved e.g. in the plenary, self-assessment?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pupils are given opportunities to discuss their work</li> <li>Pupils are provided with assessment objectives and criteria</li> <li>Pupils are able to identify next steps</li> <li>Next steps are discussed and/or recorded</li> <li>Self assessment is a regular, frequent and familiar strategy</li> <li>Language of learning objective is revisited frequently in lesson</li> <li>Plenary probes learning through quality questioning and pupil responses</li> <li>Next learning steps are discussed and/or recorded</li> </ul>			
Do teachers use what they find out from assessment to: inform their interventions in the midst of pupils' learning; adjust their planning?	<ul> <li>Teachers' planning shows clear tailoring to individual needs</li> <li>Teachers' teaching shows clear change of direction when and where necessary</li> <li>Pupils are always clearly challenged by what they are learning</li> <li>Pupils are engaged motivated and interested</li> </ul>			