

Blue Sky to support students to engage with learning in the physically distanced classroom and to engage with learning from home



This strategy is a means of kick starting a student's imagination and compels students to provide a variety of options or ideas.

Blue Sky in the physically distanced classroom

- Students are set a problem which they discuss.
- Students are encouraged to give answers and be as creative as they can be.
- Students write their answers on their individual white board or interactive white board on their shared learning space.
- Teacher collates the responses.
- All answers are discussed and eliminated until a solid few remain.
- These answers will form the basis of a more detailed discussion to arrive at a solution to the question.

Blue Sky while engaging with learning from home

- Students are set a problem which they discuss in groups using Breakout rooms.
- Students are encouraged to be as creative as they can be, the sky is the limit.
- After 4-5mins of discussion in the Breakout rooms, the whole class are brought back together, and the answers are all placed on a table on the shared white board.
- All answers are discussed and eliminated until a solid few remain.
- These answers will form the basis of a more detailed discussion to arrive at a solution to the question.

Differentiation

- Highlight that students should not be afraid to give wrong answers, as these may trigger an answer from someone else.
- A recording can be made available to students who may not be in class.

*The Blue Sky strategy can be used to support Teaching, Learning and Assessment in *all* subjects as well as the Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs) and the Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)

Key Skills

- Communicating
- Managing information and thinking
- Managing myself
- Being literate
- Being creative
- Working with others

Assessment

- Assessment for understanding by listening to student responses

Inclusion of all Learners

- Pitch activities at different levels - consider challenge for all
- Post key words and ideas as scaffolds and focus
- Provide flexibility in how students can share their answers - write, draw, colour, say (e.g. non-verbal/visual learner/EAL student)
- Colour code the collated responses to aid classification/grouping
- Individual, group and whole class work.
- Students can chart an action plan (text, images, graphical structure) to resolve the problem discussed.

Resources

- Individual white boards
- One to one digital devices with internet connection



Further Information

https://jct.ie/wholeschool/classroom_strategies

[L1LPs/L2LPs](#)

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