Bonython Brief: Effective pedagogical practices

We recognise that *highly effective teaching is key to improving student learning* (ACER). At Bonython, we strive to create successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens who are engaged and challenged through our approach to inquiry learning.

Kath Murdoch says *"teachers who understand the power of inquiry know that there is indeed an art to the pedagogy that drives it... Inquiry is a dynamic and interactive process involving questions, experimenting, analyzing, reflecting and acting… These practices are not simply a handy tool kit of strategies, they capture a way of being as a teacher and as a learner. Inquiry is a stance, not a subject or program."* **(Murdoch, 2019)**

Each ACT school develops and implements a pedagogical framework to ensure high quality, evidence-based teaching practices focused on success for every student. The ACT Public Schools Pedagogical Framework states that a school's pedagogical frameworks should place students at the centre with the intent of ensuring all schools are places where 'students love to learn'. At Bonython we apply the principles of inquiry learning to planning for student-centred learning and need, setting high expectations, aligning curriculum and assessment, making evidence-based decision making, and creating safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments.

Inquiry Pedagogy at Bonython is arranged under the umbrellas of *The Art of Inquiry - 10 Practices for Inquiry Teaching and Learning* (Murdoch, 2019). Educators draw on these to plan for learning, assess student growth, collaborate with teams, curate learning spaces, and select and use resources.

QUESTION - *the heart of inquiry organisations*

- **Think time / No hands up**

- **Questioning techniques (Chapter 4 Power of Inquiry)**

- **Visible questions**

COLLABORATE - *connected and committed*

- **The Planning Table**

- **Co-designing learning (promoting agency)**

- **Flexible learning spaces**

- **Connect widely with other professionals (Network)**

Question ■ Collaborate ■ Curiosity ■ Play ■ Learning Assets
Get Personal ■ Keep it Real ■ Think Big ■ Release ■ Notice

CULTIVATE CURIOSITY - *provoke, model and value curiosity*

- Wonder walls
- Curate spaces
- Spontaneous, personal & shared inquiry
- Provocations

PLAY - *tinker, explore & discover*

- Discovery Time & iTime
- Activate outdoor learning spaces
- Joyful and playful

GROW LEARNING ASSETS - *developing skills & dispositions for learning*

- Split screen learning intentions, framed as questions with look fors
- Shared language of the learning assets and GIDES
- Notice, name and explicitly build capacity
- Goal setting

GET PERSONAL - *differentiation, diversity and creativity*

- Focus groups & small group workshop
- Formative assessment
- Explore and encourage student passions & interests
- Choice and voice

KEEP IT REAL - *purpose and authenticity*

- P - 6 Inquiry planner
- Yearly inquiry audits
- Real contexts for inquiry - local, national & global
- Critical friends and experts

THINK BIG - *conceptual planning "The Bonython Worlds"*

- **Kath Murdoch inquiry cycle planning - key questions & big understandings**
- **Reflection**
- **Multiple ways to develop understandings**
- **Achievement standard tracking**

RELEASE - *embrace the unexpected and release responsibility*

- **Embrace spontaneous inquiry**
- **Student agency**
- **Take risks; mistakes are a part of learning**
- **Know the curriculum so that connections can be made**
- **A culture where trust is the norm**

NOTICE - *observe, reflect and respond*

- **Formative assessment - planning for next steps**
- **Data analysis at the planning table**
- **Tuning in to student thinking - what are they revealing to us?**
- **Agency - we help learners to notice themselves as they are learning**

Resources

National School Improvement Tool. **ACER.**

The Art of Inquiry. **K Murdoch. 2019.**

The Power of Inquiry. K Murdoch. 2015.

Bonython Brief: Systematic curriculum delivery

Pedagogical Framework for ACT Schools. 2019.