

Rationale

At Dame Janet Primary Academy, we recognise the importance of promoting learners who are attentive, engaged and curious. We believe, alongside educational research, that children who are able to sustain their concentration and curiosity are able to build the knowledge and skills that will help them succeed in life.

We understand that the way that something is presented affects the way we remember, therefore, lessons which are engaging, follow different formats and which include tasks that are presented in a variety of ways, will aid the memory of the children learning at Dame Janet. With knowledge and skills embedded and secured, children will be able to apply them to variety of contexts throughout their life.

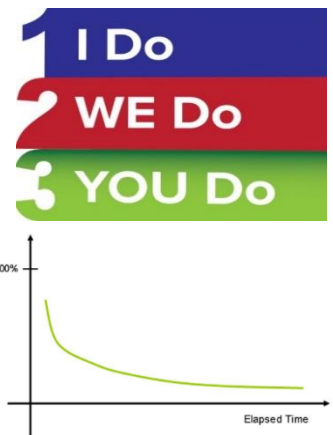


The Dame Janet Pedagogical Model:

1. Gradual release

In order to become self-regulating learners, we recognise that the methods used to impart knowledge and skills are vital for their retention. To ensure that we secure continuously good and better teaching practice, children are taught following a gradual release model. Within lessons, teachers provide a ‘do now’ task in the opening minutes of the lesson. Research shows that to interrupt the process of the ‘forgetting curve’, which hypothesizes the decline of memory retention over time, is a powerful tool to strengthen memories; at Dame Janet, we interrupt the forgetting phase of previously taught knowledge and skills by re-visiting at intervals across the school day.

The ‘I do’ phase of the gradual release model is a vital part of teacher instruction. Teachers at Dame Janet use a variety of modelling techniques and promote the importance of watching and listening in order to begin the first steps of new learning. As the learning responsibility gradually shifts from teacher to child, lessons enter the ‘we do’ phase which ensures that children are guided to rehearse new knowledge and skills before moving to the guided ‘you do’ phase where paired activities and scaffolded tasks are used. Once children are confident and ready to apply and practise new skills and knowledge, they work independently to complete learning tasks matched directly to the learning objective. We believe that the gradual release of new information encourages the children to build the stamina for learning which will see them succeed in life.



Within lessons, children will confidently and happily point you in the direction of our gradual release owls. The owls are used as a tool to help children understand the process of their learning and aid their success and independence.



2. Developing the whole child

The second key element of our pedagogical model is the emphasis on developing the whole child. Situated in an area of high social deprivation, we know the importance of providing life experiences and opportunities which promote independence and build resilience. Upon entering Dame Janet in EYFS, children are promised to complete every enrichment experience by the end of their primary years, at the end of year 6. Enrichment experiences are shared at the end of every term; all enrichment experiences have clearly defined objectives in order to develop children into young adults who are keen, active and caring members of their community.

Sample of experiences:

Experience	Objective
Build a sandcastle/ sand sculpture	To plan, adapt and think creatively.
Make a phone call	To speak clearly and confidently for a purpose.
Ride on a zip wire	To show willingness in a shared experience.
Visit the beach	To appreciate the wonder of nature.
Go on a train journey	To stay safe in the community and to understand the benefits of public transport.
Purchase something from a shop	To appreciate the value of items.
Play an instrument	To promote participation and enjoyment of music.
Design and make a meal	To develop independence and show gratitude for others.
Try indoor rock climbing	To develop confidence and skills of sequential thinking.
Order and eat in a restaurant	To develop self-esteem and confidence in public settings.
Safely light a campfire	To respect the power of fire.
Post a letter	To develop an understanding of how post reaches its destination.
Read a story to a younger child	To show compassion and an understanding of the needs of others.

As well as promoting academic success, we promote children's interests and talents both inside and outside of school; we do this by sharing and celebrating individual achievements and interests in assemblies, on displays in school and on our website and social media accounts. When children particularly shine in an area of interest, we signpost them to further opportunities such as clubs, competitions and events.

The gradual release of knowledge and skills, working alongside our development of children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, remains at the root of all we do. Confident, curious and happy learners will enter the local community well-equipped with the skills and resilience needed.



Dame Janet Primary Academy

Curriculum Pedagogy