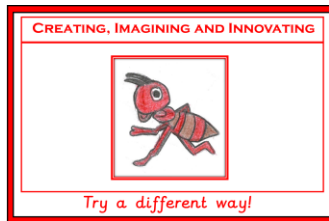


# Habits of Mind

## Creating, Imagining and Innovating



Motto: Creativity is inventing, experimenting, taking risks, making mistakes and having fun.

### What does it mean?

Generating new and novel ideas. Thinking in original ways. Being creative, imaginative and inventive. Trying unique solutions. Taking a good idea and making it great. Seeing the potential in an idea and turning it into something special.

### When should you use it?

Whenever the opportunity to think differently arises. When problem solving, when designing, when creating, when you are asked to use your imagination, whenever you have the chance to show a little of what makes you a unique individual.

### Strategies to help

- Train your mind to think differently. Consider how everyday things can be improved or used in a different way. For example –can you think of 30 uses for a coat hanger?
- Keep a journal of your ideas –let your imagination run wild!
- Begin by listing the obvious solutions or options. Now consider all the other options, generate as many options as you can, combine ideas to create more. Review the list of options and identify the ones that are most intriguing. Use the ideas generated to consider new possibilities and new solutions.
- Ask yourself creative questions like: What would it be like if . . .? How would it be different if . . . ? Suppose that . . .?What would change if . . .?

### Questions to consider

1. How can you transform a good idea into a truly unique idea?
2. What inspires you? What do you find exciting? That is your starting point, now innovate.
3. What habits of thinking have you developed? Identify the habits that are limiting your creativity and make changes.
4. Reflect on the thinking that results in your best ideas, this is the key to repeating it.
5. How will you evaluate the benefits of your idea?