

Monitoring Classroom Learning

It's not possible to observe learning. And our school systems have fallen into observing narrow versions of performance as poor proxies for learning.

But it is possible to monitor the processes we know promote effective learning in a classroom environment.

Is it: active?

Are learners invited and helped to:

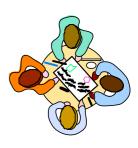
Plan their approach to any activity, review the activity, make meaning from the experience and think ahead to other situations?



collaborative?

Are learners invited and helped to:

Complete tasks which require higher-order thinking, necessitating something different from all, develop their collaborative skills through prompts and review, operate in a range of participant structures (talk partners, a variety of groups, whole class community)?





learner-driven?

Are learners invited and helped to:

View themselves as driving the learning, contribute their own questions, strategies and explanations choose their challenges, develop their criteria, and assess their progress?



learning-focused?

Are learners invited and helped to:

View themselves as learners, notice their own learning, story and discuss their own experiences of learning, share their best approaches in order to improve learning review their learning and its progress over time?



For more detail see: Watkins, C., Carnell, E. and Lodge, C (2007). *Effective Learning in Classrooms*. London, Sage. Or the series of articles from *School Leadership Today* available at http://chriswatkins.net