

“Good learning starts with questions, not answers.”
- Guy Claxton (Academic and Writer)

“He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how.”
- Friedrich Nietzsche (Philosopher)

“Teaching is the art of asking questions.”
- Socrates (Philosopher)

“Most misunderstandings in the world could be avoided if people would simply take the time to ask, “What else could this mean?”
— Shannon L. Alder (Writer)

“In mathematics the art of proposing a question must be held of higher value than solving it”.
- Georg Cantor (Mathematician)

- ◆ Teachers ask up to two questions every minute, up to **400 in a day**, around 70,000 a year, or two to three million in the course of a career.
- ◆ Questioning accounts for up to a **third of all teaching time**, second only to the time devoted to explanation.
- ◆ Most questions are **answered in less than a second**. That's the average time teachers allow between posing a question and accepting an answer, throwing it to someone else, or answering it themselves.
- ◆ Research has found, however, that **increasing the wait time** improves the number and quality of the responses - **three seconds for a lower-order question** and **more than 10 seconds for a higher-order question**.

Some tips:

Using the ‘no hands up’ rule	Improves engagement and challenges all pupils to think
You are not allowed to answer this in less than 15 words’	Develops speaking and reasoning skills
Using a planned mix of ‘conscripts’ and ‘volunteers’	Enhances engagement and challenge for all
Pair rehearsal (of an answer or a question) - ‘think/pair/share’ - report what your partner said	Encourages interaction, engagement and depth from all pupils
Question porters	Engages all; challenges the most able

“It’s not the answer that enlightens, but the question.”
- Eugene Ionesco (Playwright)

‘In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.
- The important thing is not to stop questioning.’
Albert Einstein (Physicist)

“Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers.”
Voltaire (Writer and Philosopher)

“It’s better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.”
- James Thurber (Cartoonist and Writer)

“The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he’s one who asks the right questions.”
- Claude Lévi-Strauss (Anthropologist)