

## **How can looking at other pupils' work help them to learn?**

Pupils can develop new learning strategies by scrutinising the work of their peers because they gain a wider view of what is possible. Exploring other pupils' work allows pupils to see different ways of tackling the same task and, as a result, extend their own repertoire. Pupils also come to learn new and better strategies through trying to explain the strengths and weaknesses in their own work to others.

### **Your evidence**

You might like to explore the learning that takes place between pairs or small groups of pupils in one of your classes. You could monitor (or if necessary plan) a series of activities designed to help your pupils to learn from each other about for example, a particular writing genre, such as a description or a way of solving problems using algebra. You could ask them to first write a description, then share their work with each other by reading their descriptions out loud to each other and commenting on what they feel works well and what doesn't. Then you might ask them to revise their own description in the light of the comments. Alternatively, you could ask them to solve a mathematics problem individually and then compare methods with a partner. They could explore both the accuracy and efficiency of each other's methods and revise their workings as a result of the discussion. You could compare your pupils' original and revised pieces to help you see what they learned from each other. You could also ask your pupils to say what they feel they learned from each other and the challenges they noticed their partners overcoming.

### **Moving forward**

Having gained an idea of the strategies your pupils use to learn from each other, you might like to consider how you might enhance them. Would sharing your marking schemes and criteria with your pupils, and getting them to apply them to their own work be helpful? Could you share ideas with a colleague about ways of getting pupils to work effectively with each other?

### **Find out more**

You can find out more about how AfL practices help pupils learn how to learn on the TLRP Learning how to learn project website at: [www.tlrp.org/proj/phase11/phase2f.html](http://www.tlrp.org/proj/phase11/phase2f.html)

You can find out more about the potential of AfL to develop and improve pupil learning in the Rft: <http://www.tla.ac.uk/site/SiteAssets/Rft1/06RE034%20Raising%20achievement%20through%20group%20work.pdf>

You can find more further reading suggestions on the theme of assessment for learning at: <http://reflectiveteaching.co.uk/>