

Problem Solving Placemat

When we are good problem solvers, what do we do to get started?

Let's use these questions to get us started.....



How can you interpret?

What are you being asked to find out, demonstrate or prove?

What information is helpful?

What information is NOT useful?

What other information would be useful?

In what ways can you model or plan?

Do you have an idea?

What could you try?

Have you done a problem like this before?

How might you start?

Can you show the problem as a picture or by using equipment?

Speak to a friend – ask them to show you what they are trying.

In what ways can you solve and check?

What process could you try?

How can you check your answer?

Is there any way you could try to solve the problem?

Do other people think that too?

Does that seem right to you?

Reasoning

In what ways can you prove your ideas?

In what ways can you communicate your thinking?

What can you infer?

In what ways can your thinking be generalised?

Understanding

What patterns/connections can you see?

Can you represent or calculate in different ways?

Fluency

What can you recall?

What maths' ideas can you choose to use?

Reflect

Would you like to change your mind and try something different?

Would you do it a different way next time?

How efficient was the way you did it?

How reasonable or realistic is your answer?



Work this way through these stages **BUT** remember that good problem solvers will often look back at the previous stages to check information and make changes.