THE STAFFROOM
RIOP Edition
St Cyres School's Teaching and Learning Newsletter
October 2026

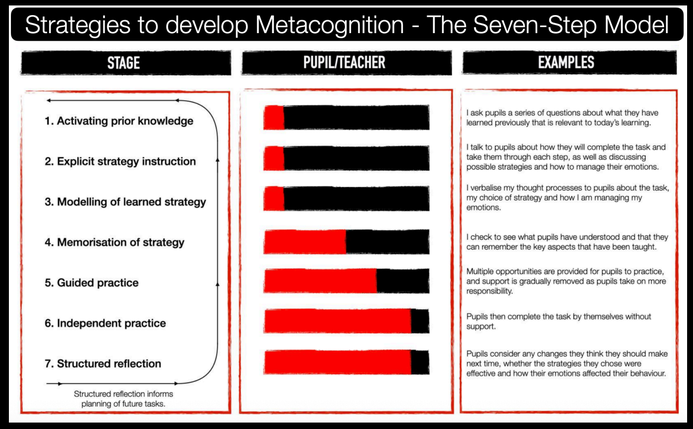
# The Spotlight

## The National Mission (Breaking Down Barriers)




**Simon Morris**

# The Model




The Seven-Step Metacognition Model will help reduce the impact of poverty at St Cyres by ensuring that all pupils are explicitly taught how to learn effectively, regardless of their background or prior experiences. By activating prior knowledge, modelling strategies, providing guided practice and encouraging structured reflection, teachers can equip pupils with the skills to approach challenges confidently and independently. This consistent approach reduces reliance on support that may not be available outside school, helping to address inequalities in learning opportunities. Pupils develop greater self-belief, resilience and independence, enabling them to make sustained progress, overcome barriers to learning and achieve their full potential. **Click here for more in our Teaching and Learning Handbook**

# Cornel Cymraeg

Shwmae Su'mae Day celebrates the Welsh language and encourages everyone to use Welsh greetings such as "Shwmae" and "Su'mae" in their everyday lives. It was a great opportunity for our school community to celebrate our Welsh culture and show our pride in the language. Watch the video below to see how we celebrated!



Lleihau Effaith Tlodi - Reducing Impact of Poverty

Torri lawr rhwystrau - Breaking down barriers

Strategaethau darllen - Reading strategies

Datblygu metawybyddiaeth - Developing metacognition

# The Technique

**Reading Strategies: Reducing the Impact of Poverty**

At St Cyres School, we recognise that reading is fundamental to academic success and that differences in reading experiences can contribute to the attainment gap associated with poverty. By explicitly teaching effective reading strategies, we aim to ensure every pupil can access the curriculum and fulfil their potential. Our approach promotes a strong reading culture through shared reading, short, purposeful reading sessions and targeted support. Teachers use their knowledge of individual pupils to adapt activities, maintain engagement and support struggling readers.

Regular questioning, spot-checking and concise, positive feedback help identify misconceptions, reinforce progress and build confidence. These strategies ensure difficulties are addressed early, before they become barriers to learning.Through a consistent, whole-school commitment to reading, we aim to reduce the impact of poverty, strengthen literacy skills and provide every pupil with greater opportunities to succeed, regardless of background. **Click here for more in our Teaching and Learning Handbook**

# iPad in the Classroom

St Cyres School is proud to celebrate a decade as an Apple Distinguished School. Over the past ten years, our digital ecosystem has transformed learning, fostering creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking across our community.
To maintain this momentum and support your professional growth, we encourage all staff to explore The Apple Teacher Programme. This free, self-paced learning platform offers practical classroom resources, interactive skills guides, and badged recognition for iPad and Mac.

At St Cyres the use of iPads helps to reduce the impact of poverty by ensuring that all pupils have access to digital learning tools and resources, regardless of their background. By providing opportunities to develop essential digital skills and engage with learning in a variety of ways, we help to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment where every pupil can thrive.

Log into the Apple Teacher Learning Centre today to enhance your digital confidence and help us inspire the next decade of innovative learning. **Click here to access the Apple Teacher Learning Centre.**