

Step 2

Choose Which Set of Cards to Use

There are three sets of Thinking Cards, each containing 50 cards:

- 10 × Managing Information;
- 10 × Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making;
- 10 × Being Creative;
- 10 × Working with Others; and
- 10 × Self-Management.

Before you introduce the cards to your pupils, choose which of the three sets is most appropriate for them. Your choice will depend on the stage you and your pupils are at in terms of creating a 'thinking classroom'.

Set 1 uses the simplest language. Most cards have no more than five questions or statements on them. Each card attempts to lead pupils from a starting point to some kind of end point, but pupils will need teacher guidance to help them work through the stages.

Set 2 uses more complex language and targets higher-order thinking skills. Set 2 cards also aim to lead pupils from a starting point to an end point, but they provide enough scaffolding for pupils to begin to use the cards independently.

Set 3 uses slightly higher level language and focuses on higher-order thinking skills than Set 2. Unlike Set 1 and Set 2, Set 3 cards do not necessarily lead pupils in a linear way; rather, they encourage pupils to think creatively in developing their own responses. Set 3 is most suitable for pupils who have already developed some confidence in applying Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Progression of skills

All three sets of cards are available to download as part of the Think Pack at www.nicurriculum.org.uk

Schools in Northern Ireland will also have received printed packs of the following sets of Thinking Cards:

- primary schools – Set 1 and Set 2;
- post-primary schools – Set 2 and Set 3; and
- schools for pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) – Set 1, Set 2 and Set 3.

Remember, pupils will only be able to engage higher-order thinking skills once they have developed and consolidated sound foundations in the skills and capabilities. You will need to judge when your pupils are ready for the introduction of a new set of cards.

