

## Step 7

# Pupils Select a Strand

At this stage, the pupils should be beginning to select and use the cards independently. However, they may not yet be ready to identify the specific Thinking Cards that will help them most with an activity.

Encourage them to identify which strand or strands relate most closely to their task or problem:

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

When they can do this, they are on the way to being able to identify what to do when they are stuck.

## Step 8

# Pupils Choose a Card

Pupils might appear to be ready to choose a card for themselves very early in their use of Thinking Cards. However, it takes some time and experience for them to be able to match a card to their needs.

Get your class used to handling the cards in a structured way first; **then** you can allow them to sort through a lot of cards. Pupils will be ready to pick a card for themselves when they appreciate that **their** way of solving a problem will be different to that of others in the class.

Pupils need to be familiar with this way of working in order to make an informed choice about which card to use. This in itself is a form of thinking skill – recognising the nature of a problem and sifting through cards to find prompts that will help. Discriminating use of the cards by pupils shows that they are becoming more effective thinkers.