

MIND MAP ACTIVITY FOR CO-ORDINATING TEACHERS

Mind mapping was developed as an easy way for generating ideas by association. In order to create a mind map, you usually start in the middle of the page with the central theme and from that point you work outward in all directions to create a growing diagram composed of keywords, phrases, concepts, facts and figures.

The way in which we propose you use the mind map idea to help you in your work on the Green Schools programme is by tapping into what your colleagues are doing already in their classroom that might be related to the theme you are currently working on.

During a staff meeting you should give a brief outline of the Green Schools theme, hand out post it notes so that your colleagues can write what they plan to work on throughout the year in their class that could tie in with the theme. These can be stuck up around the theme explanation – this creates a very simple and quick mind map that will ensure whole school participation, make everyone in the school aware what theme you're addressing this year, will tie in with what is happening already and may provide a platform for other classes to show off the work they are doing in the classroom.

This activity might give you enough of an idea as to how you can tie in with what is happening in the school already but it can also be a start to an expanded mind map that you can develop with your Green-Schools Committee.

Creating an expanded version of your initial mind map with your Green-Schools Committee:

- 1) Place the theme in the centre of a page, overhead projector or whiteboard. You may find it easier to place your page on the side, in landscape orientation, which is easier for drawing purposes.
- 2) Use lines, arrows, speech bubbles, branches and different colours as ways of showing the connection between the theme and what your colleagues are doing with their classes already
- 3) This should be a quick activity and you should write and/or draw quickly without too many pauses. You want the children's minds to flow easily and chances are the first ideas you come up with are probably the best. It is important in the initial stages of mind mapping to consider every possibility, even those you may not use or seem too ambitious.
- 4) Choose different colours to symbolise different things e.g. you may choose green for something you must incorporate in your Green-Schools work, blue for other good ideas, and red for the things you need to research, check with your colleagues or principal or simply think they might be too ambitious. Often mind maps can be beautiful to look at as well as being very informative so you might even consider putting the 'finished' product on your notice board, it is bound to attract loads of attention which is exactly what you are after!
- 5) Leave some space on your page. The reason for this is that you, or better still, other pupils and teachers in the school, can continue to add to your diagram over a period of time. If A4 sized paper is too small, you may like to use A3.

MIND MAP EXAMPLE:

