

Understanding Visible Learning

Curriculum Incorporation

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Introduction:

John Hattie's "Visible Learning" is a groundbreaking educational research synthesis that analyzes over 800 meta-studies involving more than 80 million students. It identifies the most effective strategies for improving student achievement, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based teaching practices.

Visible Learning is an evidence-based approach to teaching.

At its core, the idea is simple: learning should be visible—not just to teachers, but to students themselves.

The concept encourages teachers to view learning through the eyes of their students and adapt their methods to maximize impact. It also highlights the significance of feedback, goal-setting, and differentiated instruction

Why are so many of our teachers and schools so successful? John Hattie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzwJXUieD0U>

Visible Learning: A Teacher's Guide

At its core, the idea is simple: learning should be visible—not just to teachers, but to students themselves.

This means students must know **what they are learning**, **how to go about learning it**, and **how to measure their progress** along the way. Hattie's work shifts the focus from simply delivering content to **evaluating the impact** of teaching on student achievement.

Based on a meta-analysis of millions of students and thousands of studies, Hattie introduced the concept of **effect size**—a way to identify which teaching strategies have the greatest impact on learning. His findings offer a clear message: great teaching is not just about planning activities; it's about **seeing learning through the eyes of students and helping them become their own teachers**.

The Visible Learning model places strong emphasis on:

- Setting **clear learning intentions and success criteria**
- Using **feedback and assessment** to guide progress
- Encouraging learners to take **ownership of their learning journey** and laying the Foundation:

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- Introduce the Thinking Framework – The Thinking Framework is a structured approach designed to enhance the learning process by integrating metacognition into every state of the educational journey. At its core, it serves as an instructional design toolkit that enables teachers to develop more effective learning experiences tailored to the needs of individual learners.

Teachers are not just facilitators—they are activators of learning who monitor progress, adapt instruction, and make teaching decisions based on real-time evidence of what’s working.

Key Principles of Visible Learning:

- **Clarity and Goal-Setting** – Students must understand what they’re learning and why it matters.
- **Feedback-Informed Practice** – Teachers continuously adjust instruction based on assessment evidence.
- **Student Ownership** – Learners are active participants who reflect on and take responsibility for their progress.

Visible Learning + Professional Learning Services

Put the research into practice with powerful professional learning:

Visible Learning + professional learning is not a one-day workshop or a one-size-fits-all solution to school success, the Visible Learning + School Impact Process is an evidence-based school-wide system improvement process:

1. Build a Foundation:
 - a. Engage with high-impact practices from the Visible Learning research and learn how to collect evidence of the extent to which these practices are present in your classroom.
 - b. Collect data from within your classroom for 60 days and create an action plan for your first impact cycle.
2. Enhance School Capability of High-Impact Practices
 - a. Learn to develop assessment-capable visible learners
 - b. Calculate their effect size
 - c. Embed high-impact practices in the classroom
 - d. Give and receive effective feedback
 - e. Understand the mind frames that have a high impact on student learning
 - f. Create effective assessments that help students understand their impact
3. Measure Growth:
 - a. Learn to use various assessment tools to identify key areas of improvement
 - b. Measure the actual and perceived extend to which high-impact practices are present in our classroom
 - c. Use results to help identify the key elements to focus on for professional development action plan

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4. Build School and System Capability
 - a. Ensure that growth and effective changes are embedded in your school/classroom for long-term sustainability



What makes a “visible learning” teacher?

Visible learning is dependent upon the visible learning strategies i.e. actions and attitude of the teacher. To become a visible teacher, a teacher must be active, transparent, engaging, and passionate in their own learning and teaching students. Visible teachers:

1. Continually gain professional learning and **evaluate** their own performance;
2. Consider themselves as “**change agents**”; who are responsible for the change and improved learning process in students;
3. **Reflect** upon how their practices may affect student learning outcomes;
4. Regularly **take feedback** about themselves and their ways of teaching;
5. Use **assessments** as tools for the **development** of students to learn about their teaching practices;
6. **Challenge** their students regularly and do not frequently use the express “**do your**”;
7. Ensure that their 80% of the class time is spent in **classroom talk**;
8. Build **rapport** and **trust** in students so that the students would not hesitate to ask for **help** and feel free to take **risks** with their learning

Key Strategies that significantly improve student achievement:

1. **Feedback:** providing clear, specific, and timely feedback to students enhances learning.
2. **Teacher-Student Relationships:** Build strong, positive relationships fosters trust and engagement
3. **Clear Learning Goals:** Setting explicit objectives ensures students understand what they are expected to achieve, creating a sense of purpose an direction

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4. **Formative Assessment:** Regularly assessing student's understanding during the learning process allows teachers to adjust their teaching strategies and address gaps
5. **Student Self-Assessment:** Encouraging students to reflect on their own learning helps develop metacognition and self-regulation skills
6. **Direct Instruction:** When used appropriately, direct teaching methods can be highly effective
7. **Collaborative Learning:** Students working together on tasks fosters critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills.