

## Where is your school with problem solving?

	Daily	Weekly	Termly	Never
Is problem solving a feature of every maths lesson?				
Are there opportunities and sufficient time for independent problem solving?				
Do the students have the confidence to take risks when solving problems?				
Do the students have a clear idea of which generic strategies they can apply to problems?				
Are the students taught to recognise when a strategy may not be the most efficient? <i>Are there opportunities for the students to discuss different approaches and which worked better?</i>				
Can the students talk about the problems in a mathematical and meaningful way using correct vocabulary?				
Do students set their own problems or ask their own questions?				
Are the problems of a suitable variety? <i>I.e. puzzles as well as problems and word problems.</i> <i>Problems of a practical and visual nature.</i>				
Is there a consistent approach to solving problems?				
Can you find evidence of problem solving in the student's work?				
Are all areas of mathematics covered (shape and space as well as number problems)				
Is there evidence of progression across the school? <i>Do the students move away from the naïve methods of act it out and guess and check towards a more logical guess and improve using tables to look for patterns?</i>				

### Observable problem solving strategies

	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1	Reception
Risk taking							
Act it out							
Draw it out							
Use equipment							
Draw a diagram							
Make a list							
Trial and improvement							
Draw a table							
Work backwards							
Thinking							