

INQUIRY PLANNING – Pause for thought

When considering undertaking an in-depth inquiry, it can be helpful to ask yourself a series of questions about the intended project:

What is it about?

- The subject you want to investigate
- The question you wish to answer

What is it trying to achieve?

- Predict what will happen
- Explain why something happens
- Evaluate effectiveness
- Better describe something

What is your starting point?

- What is already known
- Findings of previous research

What is your agenda?

- The context in which the inquiry will take place
- Personal or professional motivations

Why is it important?

- Significance to your practice
- Significance to others
- Gains for pupils

What resources are needed?

- Time, people, knowledge, equipment, money
- Permissions, ethical considerations

How accurate is it?

- Can it be replicated by others?
- Reliability, validity, sensitivity

How can this help others?

- Generalisation, representativeness, transferability, limitations
- Relevance to future practice