



Direct instruction

Direct instruction supports learning by providing students with clear, explicit explanations. Without reinforcement, much of this knowledge fades rapidly. As Ebbinghaus's (1885) Forgetting Curve shows, up to 90% of new learning can be lost within a week if it isn't revisited.

"Direct Instruction has one of the strongest effect sizes on student learning." John Hattie (2009)

Direct instruction should give every learner clarity and confidence. When students can revisit explanations in multiple formats — such as voice, video, and annotation — they are more likely to retain and understand new concepts. By combining rehearsal, multimodal resources through the use of access on showbie as well as clear teacher explanations, instruction becomes more memorable, equitable, and effective.

Rationale for Overdale Junior School to use iPad implementation to support direct instruction

1. Combatting the Forgetting Curve

- 90% of all that we "learn" in a week is forgotten.
- Rehearsal opportunities: iPads allow students to revisit teacher explanations through recorded lessons, interactive quizzes, and annotation tools.
- Spaced repetition: Apps can schedule reminders and practice tasks, ensuring knowledge is revisited before it fades.

2. Multimodal Learning

- Voice and video: Teachers can record explanations, making them accessible anytime for students and families.
- Annotation tools: Platforms like Showbie let students highlight, comment, and interact with materials in ways that deepen understanding.
- Interactive apps: Simulations and multimedia resources make abstract concepts more concrete and memorable.

3. Equity and Accessibility

- Universal access: Digital resources ensure every learner can revisit explanations, regardless of ability or pace.
- Assistive features: Text-to-speech, translation, and adjustable displays support diverse learners, including those with additional needs.

- Family involvement: Parents can access the same explanations, helping them reinforce learning at home.

4. Teacher Efficiency and Feedback

- Streamlined workflows: Showbie reduces paperwork by digitising assignments and feedback.
- Instant feedback: Teachers can quickly annotate student work, record voice notes, or share model answers.
- Data insights: EdTech platforms track progress, helping teachers identify gaps and tailor support.

5. Preparing Students for the Future

- Digital literacy: Using iPads builds familiarity with tools students will encounter in higher education and workplaces.
- Collaboration skills: Shared documents, group projects, and peer feedback foster teamwork in a digital environment.

Evidence & Principles

The Forgetting Curve

Humans lose knowledge quickly if it isn't revisited. Repeated exposure and review are essential for long-term retention. (Ebbinghaus, 1964)



Rehearsal & Memorisation

Revisiting and practicing key ideas strengthens retention and long-term learning. Repetition, when built into instruction, improves fluency and confidence. (Hattie, 2009)

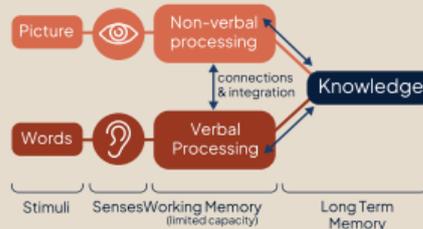
EEF Evidence - Rob Coe

High-quality teacher explanations are crucial. Clear modelling, scaffolding, and guided practice help students develop deep understanding and independence. (EEF, Coe 2015)

Dual-Coding Theory

When information is presented in both verbal and visual forms, learning is more effective. Combining teacher explanation with diagrams, annotations, or video enhances comprehension and recall. (Paivio, 1991)

Allan Paivio's Dual-Coding Theory



Digital Strategies

Consistent, Accessible Instruction

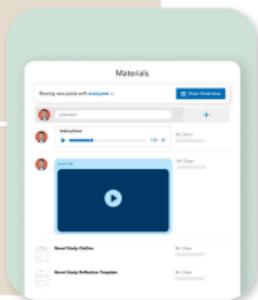
Students hear explanations from their own teacher in a familiar voice and tone. Instruction can then be revisited anytime, anywhere, helping to reduce learning loss.

Time-Saving & Efficient

Teachers record direct explanations once and reuse them across lessons, classes, or for homework support, freeing class time for personalised support and higher-order learning.

Equity & Inclusion

All students, regardless of pace, background, or ability, access the same clear instruction. Parents can also revisit explanations to better support learning at home.



Showbie makes direct instruction scalable and sustainable

- Record and share audio/video explanations directly in assignments.
- Use annotations and multimodal tools to combine teacher voice, text, and visuals.
- Create a lasting library of teacher-led resources to reinforce key learning.



1. Clarity - Personalised instruction that is always accessible.
2. Efficiency - Save time by reusing recorded explanations.
3. Equity - Ensure all learners and families can access consistent teaching.