The 'Environment' refers to all the powerful knowledge and vocabulary that the subject teacher wants the pupils to learn. The 'Environment' also contains external information which may be physical (a teacher moving around the room), visual (images or text on the board), or auditory (the teacher's voice). It also contains internal information such as examanxiety, excitement about an after-school activity, or concern about a friend.

Prior to the subject teacher delivering their lessons a long-term curriculum plan is produced by the Curriculum Leader. The long-term plan outlines all the topics a pupil will learn. Once the long-term plan is in place the Curriculum Leader will collaborate with their subject teachers to create

medium term plans for each topic to be

taught. This involves identifying the

powerful knowledge and vocabulary that

they want the pupils to learn.

2

ENVIRONMENT

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

FORGOTTEN

To overcome the limitations of the working memory and help pupils learn the 'Connect' requires pupils to recall, from their long-term memory, prior knowledge from a past lesson or topic that will be relevant to the new knowledge being taught in the current lesson. By recalling relevant prior knowledge from the long-term memory, it frees up the working memory for new knowledge because the new knowledge can stick to the prior knowledge and create strong mental schemas for pupils. When pupils recall with ease the long-term memory has been changed which means learning has occurred.

For powerful knowledge from the 'Environment' to move into the long-term memory, it must first be attended to and processed in a meaningful way by our working memory. Unfortunately, the working memory has a limited capacity and can become overloaded by the vast amount of knowledge that needs to pass from the 'Environment' to the long-term memory.

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