

'Talk The Talk' – Radio Project

Background / aims :

Having identified speaking & listening as a priority in their SEF's, the idea of the radio project provided an excellent vehicle for linking the primary partnership schools and the four strands that are integral to linccs work:- Arts, Literacy, Inclusion and Transition. The intention was to create a zone website to host the 'radio' work. This work aimed to provide meaningful contexts for speaking and listening linked to different text genres and curriculum areas whilst embracing the move towards digital mediums.



What happened:

Mini disc recorders and professional microphones were purchased for each school. A range of Inset opportunities were organised and run for linccs staff. A professional radio producer introduced the scope of radio work and use of mini discs; three progressive sessions, developing skills of using the equipment were delivered at CLC; and whole staff INSET led by the Arts consultant was delivered to two primaries on creative ways to incorporate 'radio' work into the curriculum. Selected year groups focused on different 'text' types and produced adverts, live interviews (fictional and real) and diaries which were recorded and posted onto the website. Pupils experimented with sound effects to enhance their work and a collaboration with BBC staff supported the polished finished products. In one school the use of radio as a medium for 'entertainment' resulted in the school band making a live recording. Continued in class support, developing both the pupils' and teachers' skills, was provided over the duration of five terms.



Impact / outcomes:

The work produced provided lasting and concrete assessment examples of pupils' speaking and listening for the class teachers. These examples have also been shared subsequently in whole staff Inset delivered by the linccs consultants within the LA. The project was showcased as a model of good creative practice at a London Eic conference held at The Royal Festival Hall. During the process of the work staff noted the pleasure pupils experienced at hearing their own voices and the impact it had on them improving and refining the finished product, *'I felt excited by the opportunities this project offered my class.'* Yr 4 class teacher. For another member of staff the use of digital audio has become embedded into her teaching. *'The mini disc is an excellent way of capturing children's talk.'* The pupils' motivation and ability to listen and speak using an appropriate language register increased. A year 5 pupil expressed her delight at interviewing a top Olympic athlete, *'This has been the best day of my life.'* The website has continued to be used as the vehicle to share and celebrate pupils' work. Work can be listened to on www.linccs-camden.org.uk 'Talk The Talk 2004.



Considerations:

Staff need to feel confident and trained in the use of mini discs and microphone techniques. BBC Radio offers free online advice and useful information to support this training. The process and outcomes of audio work link well to the renewed frameworks.