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Lancashire no. 11/025
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Award granted: Innovative Practice
Project title: 'The international "Peace" project'

Project summary
At Moor End Community Primary School we have been seeking to develop links with the community and the wider world. Following a trip to Canada by the Headteacher last year, where links were established between our school and Goodfellows Public School in Barrie near Toronto, we recognised an opportunity for Y6 work across the continents using a virtual classroom environment. Another school in Sierra Leone was also involved.

The book "A Little Peace" was used as a starting point for discussion and development of the children’s ideas and images of peace.

Using Moor End's constantly improving ICT resources and expertise, we planned to use the project to develop many curricular areas too. As the project had a book as a starting point, the links with literacy, speaking and listening, reading and developing writing were strong. The project also involved geography, e.g. the expansion of the children's knowledge of other cultures, and aspects of PSHE, e.g. the peace theme.

We used the ‘Taking it Global’ web site and the safe, password protected environment enabled the children to upload photos and captions based on the theme of ‘peace’ around us. The ICT club proved very popular with children queuing up to join.

The results are shared images and written work about concepts of peace between Goodfellows and Moor End via the virtual classroom.

The project is ongoing as the possibilities of video making and online chats are planned.

This project is an example of community cohesion.
### Specific aspect of practice to be accredited?
The development and sharing of the children's concepts of peace and the international sharing of this understanding

### Aspect of Every Child Matters addressed:

- [x] Be healthy  
- [ ] Stay Safe  
- [x] Enjoy and achieve  
- [ ] Make a positive contribution  
- [x] Achieve economic well-being  

### What were you hoping to achieve?

- Enhanced opportunities for speaking and listening.
- Development of the children's empathy.
- Development of the children's ability to express their feelings in writing.
- Expansion of Moor End children's knowledge of the culture and ethos of other children.
- Utilisation of the recently developed ICT capacity of the school.

### How did you identify the need for this practice?

- Moor End is an improving school and has been judged "Good" in all aspects (OFSTED 2007) and aspires to continue to develop innovative practice. We were a Hub School for Creative Partnerships and now have Silver Artsmark status.
- The Headteacher had visited a school in Barrie, near Toronto and both schools were keen to establish links to support their curricula.
- Moor End is a school needing to look outwards as the major focus, as its improvement has mainly focussed within the school.
- Linking with schools in Canada and Sierra Leone, via internet, would challenge and lead to improvements in the ICT curriculum of the school.
- Moor End pupils needed the opportunity to utilise ICT skills in a real life context.
- The ICT club are always searching for unique projects.
- PEACE project linked well with our work building on Healthy School status.
- ICT subject leader knowledge of how ICT is utilised in different countries could be expended.
- Data indicates writing is an area for focus.
- We recognised the benefits of working within a partnership on ICT issues and are committed to extending learning through effective partnerships with others.

### What did you do?

- October 2007- visit by Mrs Jackson to Goodfellows Public School in Barrie. Head of Goodfellows and Moor End had discussion about possible links and kept in touch by email.
- December 2007 - details of project possibilities were discussed via email between the 2 headteachers.
- January 2008 - ICT subject leaders in Canada and Oswaldtwistle became involved and a virtual link project seemed most feasible. Discussion of the possible project took place by email and using SKYPE.
- Canada ICT subject leader assessed the ICT capacity of the school in Sierra
• Each group in each country read the book "A Little Peace" by Barbara Kerley and discussed the images in the book and how they relate to their own school environment.
• Photographs were then taken and posted with captions in the virtual classroom we had set up (we used the "Taking It Global" website).
• Summer 2008 the children involved in the project saw the results on the web and were given the ICT knowledge to enable them to share this work with friends and family.

Which members of the establishment and/or wider community have been involved and what was their role?

- Heads involved in planning of the project.
- Subject leaders developed the concept and implemented it.
- The leadership and management of the project, by Mrs Wildeman, spanned 3 continents and used the latest technologies.
- Governors and the wider school community are aware of this work through verbal information and via a display of the project outcomes so far.

How has the practice been modified or improved during development?

Project started as photos in the virtual classroom but was modified and the video club at Goodfellows will put the work on video.
The project has developed from purely ICT to one in with literacy, geographical and pastoral aspects.

What has been the impact of the project on pupils’ learning, achievement or enjoyment and how has this been measured?

- Pupils involved and the audience they reached are now aware of the capacity of ICT in a global context.
- The ICT club was well attended and very popular during the project.
- Members of Moor End ICT club learnt that ICT could be used to support learning and be a fun, constructive and interesting activity.
- Very competent ICT users learnt the breadth of use of the web.
- Many staff understand the importance of ICT in extending learning opportunities and how this might be achieved.

What are the next stages in the development process?

We are awaiting Goodfellows’ video and photos from Sierra Leone to be posted in the virtual classroom.
Pupils will then be encouraged to write stories and compare and contrast the photos from the different countries.
We will then disseminate the whole project outcomes to the school community and stakeholders.
We will develop the international links established through the project, ideas have already been suggested.
What aspects of this practice may be useful for other establishments to consider?

There are schools internationally who would welcome links and could enhance their global curriculum.

Any other comments:
We embraced the opportunity for a unique project based on the particular circumstances that presented themselves to Moor End. We hope to further develop our practices using this partnership and others.