



St Peter's Primary School

SMART story

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Using the SMART document camera to promote peer assessment and collaborative learning

As befits the largest primary school in Galashiels, Scotland St Peter's uses the latest interactive technologies to enhance teaching and learning. With over 220 pupils the school has 9 classrooms each fitted with a SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard. The SMART Board and Notebook™ software have become an integral part of pedagogy at the school.

Primary 4 teacher Dorothy Coe is a keen advocate of the SMART Board using the technology to support her teaching in the classroom. Dorothy explains "An important part of my teaching philosophy is to make use of technology as an enhancement to the learning rather than as an end in itself. When I write my lesson plans, I take into account which features of the SMART Board I need such as the spotlight and screen shade features and integrate them into the lesson. The children love using the SMART Board and it does motivate them to learn more."

Integrating seamlessly with the SMART Board and Notebook software the SMART document camera, an electronic imaging tool, is the latest teaching aid to be adopted by the school. The document camera displays real-time images of any object onto the SMART Board for the whole class to see.

Promotes collaborative learning

Using Notebook software, the images can be captured via the document camera and used to create interactive lessons. Dorothy explains "The document camera is a really easy way to show images to the whole class at the same time. When we went on a "mini-beast" hunt, we could put the tiny creatures under the document camera and the whole class could see them, making identification much easier. The document camera displays objects in a bold

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Dorothy Coe, Primary Teacher



Quick facts

Location: Galashiels, Scotland

Student population: 220

Number of classrooms: 9

Technology: SMART Boards, Notebook Software, Document camera

Training: Steljes Education Development Consultants

Impact on learning:

- encourages collaborative learning
- improves learning outcomes
- promotes peer assessment.

and bright way which really captures the children's attention. The activity promoted greater participation and discussion in the classroom. It really is an excellent way to promote collaborative learning."

During a recent maths lesson Dorothy explains how she used the document camera to show everyone the processes involved in subtraction with materials. Dorothy continues "We have been learning about subtraction of 3 digit numbers with bridging. I set up Dienes materials and using the document camera, I captured various stages in the process to refer to later. When the children went on to play a game to reinforce this learning, they came up to roll the dice and move the counters according to the rules of the game so that everyone could easily see what they were doing. The document camera helped to get the class straight into the game and absorb the intended learning."

This noticeable improvement in and enthusiasm for learning was also observed in a creative writing lesson. The document camera was used to display illustrations from a book telling the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. The children were set a task to retell the story placing the events in the right order and to use vivid words to describe the characters. Using the document camera, the children worked together in a whole class activity to order and reorder the pictures easily, giving their reasons for the changes they wanted to make. Dorothy continues "We captured the final version and used it to refer to while the children worked on their own version of the story. I displayed some of the children's work using the document camera and they were quick to spot the vivid words and detail in the ones I had chosen. It has definitely helped the children to critique each other's work and made practising peer assessment much easier"

Making life easier

The document camera has made creating whole class activities for the 26 children in her class a much task easier for Dorothy as she highlights in an art lesson. The children were asked to use collage to make masks of Medusa. Dorothy used the document camera to show the whole class how to do the different stages of tearing the tissue to the right size, overlapping, gluing and so on. Before having a document camera, the class of 26 pupils would have had to stand around her table to see how to do this task. When some masks were almost finished the class looked at them via the document camera and made suggestions on how to improve them.

The document camera has helped Dorothy cut down on some of her lesson preparation time. She explains "The document camera saves me time and effort as well as helping me to improve learning outcomes. For instance, I used to type in examples from language textbook pages so that the class could work on them collaboratively. Now that I have the document camera I capture the image and use the SMART Board tools to annotate over it. "

Taking pride in their work

The document camera has had other positive influences on the pupils. "The children love to show off their work and present it to their class mates. Knowing that their work might be shown to the class on the document camera, they take even more pride in their work leading to an improvement in their presentation as well as in the quality of the work itself."

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