



Northern Grid / BECTA Video conferencing Project

Background:

Name of school	Bailey Green Primary School
Location,	North Tyneside - Killingworth
Size	364 Children 14 Teaching Staff 8 Support
Type,	Primary
Other participants,	Governor interest in form of visit during Conf.
Equipment	Tandberg End Point
Context	Having see the benefits of VC in business and education we were keen as a school to investigate its potential through use in the curriculum. We are currently working towards a 'Creative' curriculum and felt that VC may provide us with another vehicle in working towards our goal.

What are your expectations?

We had no real expectations other than being able to talk to others in other locations.

What are the curriculum drivers for your involvement?

We were keen to support Science, literacy and History - however, we managed to further our projects to include French

Technical installation and set up:

Type of equipment used.

Tandberg Endpoint. We have been loaned this equipment for twelve months and with the support of the LEA have routed sound through an amplifier and have used a separate mic. The LEA have also secured an IP address to ensure security.

Layout and location of video conferencing area. We have and are using our equipment in a classroom. The equipment is wall mounted with a long lead for a moving mic.



During conferences we close the blinds to stop sunlight, we project the image onto a 79" IWB (Promethean) and sit the children in an auditorium style of seating.

Problems encountered and solutions developed with the above:

Procuring a static IP address was difficult as we had problems with the North Tyneside Gate Keeper. NGFL are still working on this to ensure our Polycom equipment will work. The increased levels of security still cause odd difficulties so we always let the Infrastructure team know that we are conferencing.

The speed of our Internet Connection also is greatly affected in our other classrooms. The LEA team have pushed our switches to full duplex to ensure speed. The LEA team also ensure that video data takes priority on the network when we are conferencing.

We had help from Video Nations and JVCS to make sure our connection was good. The physical installation of the equipment was done by the CT and the caretaker.

Northern grid gatekeeper registration was taken care of by NGFL.

JVCS registration, QA testing we organised this ourselves in order to VC with Global Leap.

We still currently have problem with our microphone which needs to have the echo cancel adjusted.

I feel it is important to point out that we had the full support of the Head Engineer for North Tyneside Schools and a very good contact at the Infrastructure Team within North Tyneside. I feel we may have encountered more difficulties without them.