



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 seen 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.



Video Conferencing Partners: Madame Flavourine

Who?	French Teacher
Where?	International - Normandy
How contacted?	Global Leap - Mike Griffiths

Other communication channels apart from the video conference. We contacted both Global Leap and the IWM by email prior to the conference. We also had to VC with JVCS for a QA.

Other schools or other institutions. NA

What you did:

Curriculum focus. French - Developing Speaking and Listening / Engaging with new Vocabulary for the next unit of study in the French Curric.

How the activity fits to work pupils are already doing

Our children are currently working through the North Tyneside Path Finder French Scheme of Work. As part of the scheme the children are encouraged to speak in French at every opportunity to develop clarity and a pleasing accent. To accommodate this objective we took advantage of a VC through Global Leap enabling the children to hear and see a French National.

Actual VC Activity.

Madame Flavourine and the class teacher agreed on specific vocabulary that the children would share and that they would speak in reply to her questions. The children had prepared a personal introduction about themselves, their families and their interest. They presented this at the beginning of the VC in French. Madam Flavourine was most impressed!



Aims and objectives of the conference(s).

As above

What the teacher / other educational colleagues did

As above

What the pupils did:

Preparation: Path Finder French Activities

During the VC: Children started with their introductions and then responded to questions from Madame. She introduced new vocabulary to them and explained in English what the words were and how to say them in French - emphasising accent, clarity and target sound.

After VC: Children shared the experience with their parallel classes.

Evidence of Activity:

A condition of Global Leap is that we do not record the session itself.

Use of the personal portal desktop - myclasses facility:

NA. As only one of us came to the training and the Polycom equipment has just arrived in school we have not used this facility.

Overall conclusions from the project so far:

Positives:

Highly motivational for the children.

The ability to use experts in their field.

Cross curricular - Excellent for speaking and listening / discussion

New school links

Great for SATS

Has involved our Governing Body



An opportunity that would not be possible without the VC equipment.
Has been used by all ages
Crossing Cultural and geographical boundaries

Negatives:

Testing equipment can be time consuming
Organising VC's can also take time
Year 2 children took time to adjust to talking to a camera and seeing themselves on screen. The second or so delay was also a bit confusing to begin with. However - Global Leap offer sessions to overcome this problem.
Avoid using the VC on a Friday afternoon as the amount of traffic in NT slows down the conference.

What would you do differently if starting the project now?

Have the extra equipment working in school / tried harder to sort out problems with sound.

Reactions of those involved locally and remotely.

"It's great to be able to speak to a real French person and know that they understand me!"

Y6 Child

"A great opportunity to see what is going on in English Schools - I'm impressed!"

Madam....

Staff - Paul Rickeard - Y6 Teacher / SMT
Dawn Bentley - Y6 Teacher
Liz Cowgill
Mark Robson - Head Engineer North Tyneside LEA

Pupils - Y6 - 40 Children
Y2 - 30 Children

Parents - We contact parents with our intentions for using the VC and have had tremendous support. We have also had great feedback at parents evenings for trying new technology.



Governors - Very supportive and are delighted with the facility.

Future developments:

Where do you see your VC activity going in the future?

This is totally dependent upon the funding of our Tandberg. We are delighted with the work we have done and would relish the opportunity to build this into our curriculum further. We have taken delivery of our Polycom unit but feel the whole class solution is more appropriate for our current needs.

We have been approached by the LEA to VC with another school in the Azores and we are also part way through creating a link via Comenius with a School in Ireland. This link will hopefully be developed further by a visit to County Donegal to work with the Head and Staff of the partner School.

As part of this project we have demonstrated the equipment at the North Tyneside ICT Conference to other ICT coordinators and Head Teachers. This included a VC with the National Space Centre.

Useful Links:

www.glabal-leap.com

www.jvcs.net

Further information