



## Northern Grid / BECTA Video conferencing Project

### Background:

<b>Name of school</b>	Bailey Green Primary School
<b>Location,</b>	North Tyneside - Killingworth
<b>Size</b>	364 Children 14 Teaching Staff 8 Support
<b>Type,</b>	Primary
<b>Other participants,</b>	ICT Coordinators and Head Teachers from LEA
<b>Equipment</b>	Tandberg End Point
<b>Context</b>	The North Tyneside ICT Conference is an opportunity to showcase work / good practice from Primary and Secondary schools within the authority.

### 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.

*It was difficult to move the equipment without the help of Infrastructure and our engineers.*

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: Global Leap**

**Who?** Global Leap - Holy Cross Primary School

**Where?** National - London

**How contacted?** Global Leap - Mike Griffiths

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

**Other schools or other institutions.** We used a local primary school who had no prior experience of such equipment to demonstrate to the coordinators and head teachers how easy VC'ing can be.

### **What you did:**

**Curriculum focus.** NA - Understanding Video Conferencing

**Actual VC Activity.**

The founder of Global Leap - Mike Griffiths introduced himself to the children and visitors before extolling the wonders of this technology. He encouraged the children to answer and ask questions and interacted with other web - camera around the UK.

**Aims and objectives of the conference(s).**

To demonstrate how VC works and how easy it can be.

**What the teacher / other educational colleagues did**

As above

**What the pupils did:**

**Preparation:** None



**During the VC:** Children stayed in their seats for the main part of the session and were asked to stand up to answer or ask a question. This helped the teacher facilitate the session.

**After VC:** After the children left the room Mike discussed with the delegates his perceived benefits of VC.

### **Evidence of Activity:**

A condition of Global Leap is that we do not record the session itself. However, we were sent after the VC a copy of a PowerPoint from the RO answering further questions from the children

### **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  
Has been used by all ages

#### **Negatives:**

Testing equipment can be time consuming  
Organising VC's can also take time

**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.**

"Excellent use of modern technology"

"How secure is it?"

"How much does it cost to do things properly?"

**Staff -** Paul Rickeard - Y6 Teacher / SMT  
Mark Robson - Head Engineer North Tyneside LEA

**Pupils -** Y4 Children - 30