St Luke's Case Study

Pilot using SQA Deskspace E-portfolio

Description of project

To pilot SQA Deskspace in two areas (S3 xl , S5 college group) and to explore opportunities for development and use across the four capacities of *Curriculum for Excellence* and the recognition of wider achievement.

Rational for course / programme

To develop opportunities for learners to engage in the portfolio process to recognise and record their achievements within the context of *Curriculum for Excellence*.

Partnership details (if appropriate – eg linking with local groups or colleges)

S3 : Linking with Young Persons Services as appropriate to the delivery of   the xl course
S5 : Linking with colleges and the Careers Service to support the transition from school to work/college

Delivery approaches and how Deskspace was used

Deskspace is being used to capture and record achievements, evaluations of work including feedback and feed forward and the reflections of learners in S3 xl during designated class time. Pupils collate work for assessment and plan their personal development, moving towards a more flexible approach to qualifications and assessment.

Challenges

The main challenges were around access to equipment/ICT and resources and inducting staff and learners (though learners were quick to grasp the portfolio concept and suggest expansion in terms of how we were using Deskspace).

Relationship of Deskspace to generic skills, Core Skills or Curriculum for Excellence capacities (ie does / could it support or hinder any of the following):

The focus with the S5 group is in supporting the transition from school to work/college and therefore Deskspace helps pupils recognise and record their achievements both in school and at college. It allows them to reflect on and consequently develop their employability. In addition the portfolio system is contributing to the More Choices More Chances strategy in place within the school/authority.

The focus with the S3 xl group is to record their progress through the SQA personal development units under the headings of the four capacities of *Curriculum for Excellence* and to encourage learners to seek opportunities for recognising and recording their achievements both in terms of the specific course they are following and the potential for cross-curricular working.
The use of Deskspace with both groups also supports further aspects of Core Skills including numeracy and literacy and *Curriculum for Excellence* skills for learning,

skills for work and skills for life.

Evaluation of Deskspace

There is huge potential here in terms of both *Curriculum for Excellence* (especially for cross-curricular project working) and for recognising wider achievement.

Future plans for Deskspace (if available)

To develop existing practice towards opening up learning for all, extending e-portfolios for all, including a focus on establishing e-portfolios during the transition from primary.

Advice to new users of Deskspace

To include and consult with learners throughout the process as they have the potential to generate ideas, suggest links with other subjects/departments and therefore develop their own role in recognising wider achievement.
To consider co-operative teaching to deliver ongoing training and support to learners.
To extend training to all school based staff to raise awareness of the potential of Deskspace.
To involve parents and partners throughout the process, identifying areas of strengths and potential supports which could be offered.

Quote(s)

'The e-portfolio helps me organise myself better. This way I don't lose anything which could evidence my progress.' – Amy Kennedy

'Pebblepad keeps a record of my achievements and the comments of others in my group and my teacher. This way I can always look back and remind myself of what others have said and see what I need to do to improve.' – Lauren Davidson

'At first I didn't really like using Deskspace – I'd had a few problems logging on so this put me off. Once these were fixed my confidence improved and now I look forward to using Pebblepad.' – Nicole Davidson

Quote(s)

'The potential for the development of Deskspace and e-portfolios is immeasurable. The introduction of *Curriculum for Excellence* and the focus on recognising (wider) achievement challenges teachers and learners to develop a new way of thinking and Deskspace helps meet this challenge in an exciting and innovative way.' – Clare Creighton (PT Pupil Support)

Quote(s)

'Deskspace is proving to be a valuable tool in supporting pupils to record their achievements, class work and assessments. It allows them to reflect on their progress and plan for improvement along with their teacher. This is a real step forward for pupils and staff opening up learning and learning together.' – Patricia Scott (Head Teacher)