



Case Study Evaluation

Arts Hub: Martley

Project: Migration

Abberley Primary School

Delivery Partner: Pablo Productions Ltd

Overview

This project, based on the theme of ‘Migration’, focused on children from Abberley Primary School learning about local history and diversity, through creative workshops.

They investigated their own roots and how they (and their families) came to the area, then broadened this out to explore local traditions and members of the community.

Working with a range of creative professionals enabled the children to use a variety of creative digital media tools such as podcasting, film making, green screen, animations and audio broadcasting the children researched their local history and recorded their thoughts and ideas about their local community and their place in it.

The children worked with a visual artist and sculptor to design and construct an installation carved from fallen oak from the local area. The oak statue represents their ideas about migration, identity and the local community.

The teachers and teaching assistants at Abberley Primary were given coaching and professional development in the use of creative digital media and it’s uses in the curriculum and as an out of hours activity.

Aims

- The project aimed to help children investigate their roots and find out how themselves and their family came to live in the area.
- Explore local traditions and engage members of the community.
- Develop digital media skills such as creating short films, animations and podcasts.
- Provide professional development for the staff in creative digital media.
- Learn about cultural cohesion and diversity
- Celebrate and showcase to the local community and other schools what can be achieved



“We have been able to learn all about the history of our community and about where we fit into it, I am very proud of us.” Michael aged 7

Process

There were 32 creative sessions led by artists and creative practitioners involving 56 children 16 staff, 8 artists and 112 parents and carers.

The children started by studying migratory patterns of the local bird population and thinking about how their migratory patterns compare with human behaviour. The work was done with the help of creative professionals using digital media and visual arts.

The creative engagement process was designed to accommodate all learning styles and develop confidence in the participants as well as independent learning skills that would be transferable into all learning encounters.

The children interviewed and worked with a local historian as part of their research and development of the project.

The children worked with a sculptor to design and create a permanent installation representing the project.

Children played a key role in the generation and capturing of ideas and outcomes using digital media. They had ownership of the process, participating in decision-making, planning and delivery. The project was designed as a pilot to generate awareness of the possibilities of what could be produced through the arts within other schools in the area.

The children helped organise a showcase where local community including parents , carers and grandparents came into school to share their knowledge and memories of the local area.



“ We have really enjoyed creating the artwork and seeing our designs turn into something really special.” Claire aged 8

Impact

“We have been doing a project on migration, Jim has been making a sculpture from our ideas, when it’s finished it will be a beautiful piece of art.”

Ben - Abberley pupil aged 10

“This is a culmination point of a broader project that has stretched my skills and knowledge, I have learnt a lot from the children.”

Jim Heath – Sculptor

“The project has had a positive impact on the whole community, sharing our work with parents, inspiring the children, and is sustainable in the sense that staff developed new skills that they can use every day in the classroom.”

Ann Wylie – Head Teacher, Abberley Primary School

Success

As well as helping the children to understand the concept of diversity and cultural cohesion within their community, this project had the added bonus of being intergenerational, as the children developed relationships with the older generation whilst researching their pasts.

As well as creating a short film, animations, and podcasts, the children worked with sculptor Jim Heath, coming up with ideas for a fallen oak sculpture that celebrates the natural world and their own community.

There were also a series of staff coaching sessions for teachers and T.A.'s on the use of digital tools in learning and teaching to enable them to carry on using the skills and techniques used with the children in school time and at after school clubs.

The creative work produced by the children was showcased in a celebratory event for parents and the wider community; they showcased their films, podcasts and photographs and ceremoniously unveiled their oak sculpture.

The event showed other schools in the area what could be achieved, and has encouraged them to try similar projects. The film was also shown on the Arts Extend website, www.arts-extend.com, and to local Head Teachers.

Broadheath and Martley Primaries have since become involved with Arts Extend. There are also linked projects including 'Generation Together' which looks at local farming and diversity awareness and the themes are being explored further through the Trace & Place project in Tenbury, Burford, Bayton and Lindridge schools.

The project was such a success that Abberley Primary are now looking into setting up a family learning after-school club, which will be based on the sculpture workshops idea, with the aim of continuing to bring the community together.



**“We have all learnt so much from the children and have been able to take forward new ideas and skills from witnessing their engagement and enjoyment using digital tools.”
Ann Wylie, Head Teacher**

Challenges

The project required a lot of planning and consultation and the after school work needed to be very well organised logistically due to particular challenges of a rural location (transport etc)

Martley and Abberley are predominantly white British and looking at experiences of different cultures was for some of the children a very new experience.

Helping the staff team develop confidence and a willingness to try digital creativity was challenging due to the team have experienced difficulties and challenges with what they saw as 'technical equipment'. Once the staff did engage, they very quickly developed confidence with all the digital tools.

Legacy

Abberley Primary School now use digital media as part of their everyday teaching and learning.

The school have enriched partnerships and experience of working with artists, historians and creative practitioners.

The school have a wonderful permanent installation much enjoyed by the local community as a contribution they have made to local history.

As a result of the project the school have ambition plans to take the learning from the project forward and have developed plans for a new exciting two classroom and art gallery creative learning space. They are currently awaiting a final decision on funding.



Contact Details

For further information about this project
contact Paul Hawkins, Pablo Productions

01562 638 090

Paul@pabloproductionsltd.com

