

Dr Rebecca Jones

'Embedding Information skills into the Year 9 PSHE/Citizenship curriculum: integrating learning styles with research.'

Theme: Embedding and enriching

The aim was to design a series of lessons that provided pupils with an opportunity to apply their information literacy skills to a research task and deliver their findings to their peer group using a specific learning style.

The project aimed to:

Enable pupils to practise and develop their Information Literacy skills.

Enable pupils to learn about different Learning Styles.

Cover a range of relevant topics within a four week period.

Encourage different ways of presenting information.

To critically assess other group's presentations.

Objectives & Rationale:

A four week research project based on researching topics specified by the Citizenship syllabus was set up. This meant that a range of topics could be covered within a limited time period.

Each group had to answer key questions and present their findings.

Each group used the CHAMPS learning styles software and presented their research in an allocated "style."

Method:

The Librarian gave a pre-project presentation to the year group on Independent Learning.

Pupils were informally observed by staff (Active learning).

Pupils undertook peer assessment and, in conjunction with the teacher, gave oral feedback.

Analysis:

The quality of the presentations was good, although some of the learning styles were problematic.

The project required pupils to use some higher order skills as they needed to understand the information they had found.

Pupils seemed to enjoy the research topics and the questions provided focus.

Conclusions:

Working within PSHE is a useful way of embedding skills for a whole year group.

The project required pupils to complete all the stages of the Independent Learning cycle and really engage with the information.

Introducing learning styles provided a fun element.

Future considerations:

Introduce a reflective element in relation to the skills that have been used.

Need to ensure that learning styles are highlighted in other areas of the curriculum.

Consider the optimum timing of the sessions.