

## Using CLIL to tackle transition issues

Lead institution: University of Worcester

Primary and secondary schools in Worcestershire and Warwickshire have been working together to help achieve a successful transition in language learning for pupils. Four secondary schools each teamed up with a partner primary to form mini-clusters as part of the LinkedUp project entitled 'Using CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) to tackle transition issues: developing capacity within the partnership'. The project, which was led by two senior lecturers in Initial Teacher Training at the University of Worcester Isabelle Schaefer, involved school teachers in acting as mentors for trainee language teachers at the university.

Isabelle, who ran the scheme together with Heather Crabtree, also of the University of Worcester, said: "CLIL is all about integrating language and content. Every year, we ask primary and secondary trainee teachers at the university to plan and teach a lesson collaboratively through the medium of a modern language. CLIL has a positive impact on pupils' achievements, making language learning relevant. It is motivating for pupils and teachers alike."

### Positive impact on pupils' learning and self-esteem

The project began in June 2010 with one training session at the University of Worcester for teachers from eight of the primary and secondary schools involved in the project. The CLIL-trained mentors then helped the trainee teachers to plan CLIL lessons over the course of the project.

Around 30 pupils were involved from each school, with each mini-cluster choosing a theme around which several lessons were developed for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. Themes included a project on tolerance at Baxter College in Kidderminster, Worcestershire; roles and responsibilities at Alcester High School in Warwickshire; and bullying at Foley Park Primary school in Kidderminster, all taught in French.

Isabelle concluded: "The project has gone really well. It has had a positive impact on pupils' learning and self-esteem, and also their motivation. We have made a range of materials available on the LinkedUp website, including lesson plans and some PowerPoint presentations which teachers have created."

"We have also shared three video clips of teachers talking about the impact of the project on pupils and the skills that the pupils have developed. Pupils' evaluations were very positive. The teacher at Baxter College was so inspired by the work she did with her Year 7 pupils that she is planning to develop a Science module in the Summer Term."



You can download resources from this project by visiting the LinkedUp resource finder, including lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and video clips.

[www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/resources/2463](http://www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/resources/2463)

## Professional development for teachers

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