

Action! Teacher Video Case Study 2

AST Lou Harrison is a teacher with research experience who had already made a Teacher Video during the second series of Action! Teacher Video, when she proposed making another video, this time focusing on pupil voice in performance management. She subsequently described the experience as like 'Falling off a Cliff' as she opened herself up to the scrutiny of her class of 9 year-olds. Later she produced a diary that charts the journey she and her pupils made together:



Pupils recording a feedback discussion from *Falling off a Cliff*
Teacher Video from Shelthorpe Community Primary School, Loughborough

Week 1:

As the time to start filming approached, I began to feel quite apprehensive about it and wondered if I really wanted to know what the children were going to say - especially with the whole discussion being filmed from the start. I wasn't concerned about the idea of discussing, but since I realised that I didn't know what they were going to say, I also realised that it could be terrible and my career was going to disappear in tatters with all the benefits of filming for national broadcast thrown in!

Week 2:

...During this discussion we started talking about the teacher and class together as a team. The children were expressing real enthusiasm about the opportunity to discuss such things with me - saying that they felt it should be an opportunity for all children with all teachers. I definitely agree with them, and - although I wouldn't recommend the feelings from the first session to anyone - I'd definitely recommend the process as a whole as one of the most effective CPD processes I've ever engaged in.

Reflections after filming:

For some children, the routine we've developed has become so comfortable, they felt that this was the only way to do it (oval table, camera, orange letters home etc). They started to think today about different setups that might work for other teachers, other classes and other schools - circle times, targets with photos, meetings through the year etc. One of the groups within the larger group

was so converted and so confident about this, they felt that they'd like to deliver training to teachers about it.

The team ethos is the key benefit I got from this. Pupils as partners, I think. How about that for a title? Pupils as partners in the performance management review process! You can't beat a bit of alliteration, I always think...