

Final Bursary Report

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Kells and Connor Primary School Ballymena, County Antrim Professional Development Activity.

1. The professional activity undertaken related to a short study visit and training in a Public Primary Schools in Western Sydney. Working alongside principals and teachers involved in developing Numeracy ,ICT learning initiatives and attending a principal's conference on Boys' Education. All issues were directly related to goals in our own school development plan.

2. Outcomes

Able to now inject aspects of all three points below into classroom practice and whole school initiatives .During my study visit:

- I was able to receive training and obtain information on the Numeracy Programme and become familiar in the use of the materials and teaching techniques.
- Able to receive training in the use of software built into the school network which carried pupil folders, teaching materials and whole school communications and library research materials.
- Attended a full day conference organized by Dept Education New South Wales on Boys' Education in Primary School.

3. Pupil Experiences

Pupils in my own school will:

- be targeted when they display lower levels of attainment in number .They will receive short teaching sessions using techniques and material sourced in Australian programme.
- be able to develop the school website and intranet site for research and additional learning beyond school hours. Based on 'Eduweb 'template.
- Benefit from staff awareness of learning needs and stimuli which fully engage boys in their learning.

4. Evaluation of Professional Development Activity.

- Improvement in maths scores for selected group before and after teaching Numeracy programme. This will commence in Sept 2006 and final evaluation in June 2007.
- Teaching materials will be developed for school website and school intranet based on the Eduweb template .Hits on site and frequency of use will be monitored. The materials will be developed with ICT coordinator and become integral part of goals for ICT in School Development Plan.
- Professional development of all staff in school will focus on training materials and research findings from Ian Lilico Conference. PRSD targets will involve developing these strategies in the classroom.

5. Dissemination of materials to teachers, Education Board Advisors, other principals and RTU. Already presentation of materials have been made to teachers in my own school and planned further examination and training in the use of strategies is planned for Sept 2006.

I have given a presentation of my findings to the local Primary Principals Association during May. Within the last week I have meet with a representative of RTU and shared materials relevant to school leadership and school improvement. Advisors in NEELB will be given summary of work in Summer Term and access to teaching materials.

6. The chance to be back in schools which I had taught in previously has been a great boost to my professional development. Unlike the teaching exchange programme, the chance to work shadow teachers and principals in the schools was a great opportunity. Attending the principal's conference was an excellent chance to get update guidance on classroom strategies from the latest research. The short visit has been good to reestablish and cement links between pupils and staff in the schools. These links will continue to develop as we further disseminate information via email and websites.

7. After trailing the aspects of Numeracy, ICT, boy's education strategies I will further disseminate findings to my Education Board Representatives and local principal groups. An evaluation of the work in school will be presented to my governors in May 2007. A plan visit from a small group of Australian principals has been scheduled for Sept/Oct. I hope to host the group and introduce them during day visits to local schools, Board members and RTU advisors.