

INTERWRITE Lessons

BARKING AND DAGENHAM, LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

UNITED KINGDOM

InterWrite SchoolPad Key to Interactive Whole Class Teaching

Faced with low test scores, Barking and Dagenham, a Local Educational Authority in a disadvantaged section on London's east side, has adopted the InterWrite SchoolPad as a key component to their teaching paradigm.

Interactive Whole Class Teaching

Sheyne Lucock, General Inspector (IT), Barking and Dagenham LEA, has championed the adoption of Interactive Whole Class Teaching (ICT) methodology within the school district as a means to address poor performance on standardized tests.

Modeled after successful schools in Switzerland, ICT emphasizes teaching students up to standard through a structure curriculum and a highly interactive approach with the whole class. In this approach, classrooms are configured in a horseshoe shape so that all of the students can interact with the teacher in the front of the room as well as enable the students to better interact with each other. Material is projected on large pull-down screens in front of the class to capture students' attention. To heighten the level of interaction within the classroom, Lucock's team searched for a device to harness the dynamic content available with a computer. "We knew that we wanted to utilize the annotation software found with electronic whiteboards, but we also wanted to teach away from the whiteboard." They found that students responded well to electronic whiteboards, but that interactivity, as well

as student interest, was substantially enhanced when the students could participate from their desktop, or alternatively when the teacher could be in closer proximity to students with questions.

"The SchoolPad is the rare exception where technology supports your teaching methods rather than having your teaching methods change to support the technology."

Teach from Anywhere

The wireless InterWrite SchoolPad matched perfectly with what they were looking for. It gave the teacher the freedom to teach from anywhere in the classroom while interacting with the student, as for instance, in solving a math problem, by turning the pad over to the student.

"Integrating the SchoolPad into the classroom environment has been extremely well received by both teachers and students," notes Mr. Lucock.

A Model for Success

Mr. Lucock comments, "We have seen significant improvement in our schools since we implemented out Interactive Whole Class teaching and the InterWrite SchoolPad is a key component of our approach." The national Education Office recently recognized Barking and Dagenham's success with a letter from Prime Minister Tony Blair congratulating all the schools in the district on the progress being made.



Students at Campbell Junior School in Dagenham, East London use the SchoolPad to participate in a math lesson.



Teachers at The St. Teresa Primary School in Dagenham, East London utilize the SchoolPad to teach from anywhere in the room.

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