

St Joseph's School and College



Sector relevance: Special schools and specialist schools and colleges; FE colleges.

Key Words: Enterprise education; work related learning; project work; learner voice; school councils; filming.

Summary: St. Joseph's Specialist School and College uses the Enterprise theme to tie together its 14 - 19 curriculum and value the role of learner voice in all aspects of the school. The school has used the medium of film to display this work for the benefit of the learners themselves, their families and other interested stakeholders.

About St. Joseph's Specialist School and College:

St Joseph's Specialist School and College caters for learners from 5 to 19 and from 19 -25 in its supported living site, Springvale. The school's specialism is Communication and Interaction. The learners typically have Severe Learning Difficulties and/or Autistic Spectrum Difficulties although the school also caters for other learners with a wide range of other learning issues. The school has a significant number of residential learners, and has excellent on-site Therapy provision closely integrated with the other teams. The school is a Catholic School and its very special ethos promotes the inherent value and uniqueness of all learners; focussing on what they can do, as opposed to what they can't.

The Projects:

1. **Enterprise as a Curriculum Theme:** although enterprise runs across the school as a whole it is most apparent post-14 where it provides the core theme to unify the curriculum and drive the work we do to facilitate independence skills for our young people and young adults. The film and powerpoint show how this works in practice across the school as a whole and includes film of the school presenting at the Schools Network National Conference in Birmingham in November 2011.
2. **Learner Voice:** linked to our work on promoting independence through enterprise runs our commitment to learner voice in the school as a whole. We decided that the best way to show this was by the learners themselves making a film about their own involvement in the school and our aspiration to move beyond a tokenistic approach to learner voice and our commitment to make it real. In this section you will see: a film about the film (ie how the learners made it ; and the film itself).

In order to access these resources visitors to the Excellence Gateway will need to access our [website](#) and look at the Curriculum section for LSIS Projects.

The Impact: both these projects have impacted in a positive way on the learners by allowing them to reflect on the excellent work they are doing with their teachers and see the value which the school confers on their enterprise, involvement and 'voice'. It has impacted on staff by highlighting the importance of visual media as a way of displaying outstanding work.

One learner said:

“This was one of the best things I’ve ever done as I could see I was good at these things. “

One teacher said :

“This work has really boosted our learners’ self-esteem and engagement and is assessment for learning in action! “

Our enterprise teacher said :

“My class have gained in confidence from this work and developed their independence skills and ability to present to an outside audience. “