

# Case study: Oakington Manor Primary School

## Integrating watching, making, learning and teaching of film in education

Oakington Manor Primary School in Wembley is a Foundation School. Thirty per cent of the pupils at the school receive free school meals. The school is very diverse, with about 40 languages spoken among the students, and the staff representative of the same cultural diversity. The proportion of pupils speaking English, as an additional language is much higher than average and many of these pupils are at an early stage of learning English. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is much higher than the national average. The school has been graded as outstanding by Ofsted.

*“Oakington Manor Primary provides an outstanding quality of education and serves its school and local community exceptionally well...Pupils are motivated to do well because the outstanding curriculum ensures they have interesting work to do.”*

Ofsted Inspection Report, 2010

The school has been involved in CPD for using film in education and filmmaking. This case study shows how film is used across the curriculum and in an after school film club.

## Use of film in the curriculum

The school has been engaged in film literacy for some time, teaching children to read films and think about storylines. Film is viewed as a creative genre that can be used to teach children about storytelling and to spark creativity among them.

*“The curriculum provides rich opportunities to develop pupils’ creative, practical and personal talents exceptionally well. Exciting cross-curricular themes capture pupils’ interest in their work. For example, pupils in Year 5 have made a film of their local area as a part of a Geography project.”*

Ofsted Inspection Report, 2010

## Wider use of film in school

The school's film club started in October 2009, showing a wide range of films, and some of the students are now submitting regular reviews. Students are able to watch different genres that they are not familiar with, and this exposure has had a significant impact on the children's critical thinking and writing skills.

Children have been shown older films such as Laurel and Hardy comedies and silent movies. They have been given talks about how cinema started, and the role that piano accompaniment played in telling the story. Many of the children have never been exposed to films other than Hollywood mainstream movies, so these opportunities have enriched their cultural experiences. They have been encouraged to go home and tell their families what they have seen and what they thought.

## Changing pedagogic practice

The school's ICT specialist attended a three-day CPD programme provided by *Film: 21st Century Literacy*. The CPD programme provided new ideas and an opportunity to work with industry professionals and other participants from around the country. The mixing of critical, cultural and creative aspects of film in the programme was felt to be inspiring e.g. an exercise which told a story from the perspective of a simple, inanimate object such as a door.

*"The CPD was brilliant. Personally I learnt a lot, like taking simple ideas and translating them into teaching practice. Children are not passive consumers of film but are active participants in what they watch...more schools need to use this rich resource."*

ICT Specialist at Oakington Manor

## Long-term legacy and senior management team's view

The school employs ICT a lot with children, and filmmaking is a particularly important facet. The school has recently developed a new ICT suite, recording studio and 3D facilities.

*"We proudly showcase the work we are doing with 3D technology in our newly built Learning Resource Centre."*

Head Teacher at Oakington Manor

## Summary of the benefits of using film in education

- Can be integrated successfully across the curriculum
- Enhances critical thinking and writing skills
- Teaches children storytelling and creativity
- Encourages learning about different societies and cultures
- Ignites enthusiasm among teachers

## Facts and Figures

- Age range of pupils 3–11
- Number of pupils in the school roll 730
- Gender of pupils: Mixed

