

## Case Study – Nottinghamshire LEA

### A whole school assessment process

Foxwood School has recently received Specialist Technology status.

At Foxwood School P Scales, PACE and PIVATS are currently used. They have also previously used B squared and CSARS – an ICT based package. P Scales data is submitted to Durham University annually. CSARS was found to be useful as it could easily be used for target setting but was quite complicated and relied on a good ICT capability which was not consistent within the staff at the time.

As a result of this trial, the school decided that they would like to develop their own ICT package. Liaison took place with the Authority to consider this. Foxwood was also part of the IQEA project at the time which pushed thinking forward and provided more time and funding for development. (Information attached)

Staff felt that ICT would be much simpler to use than a paperwork system and provide a vehicle for ease of comparability.

Staff have regular meetings on teaching and learning and initially worked on identifying 4 key aspects of each P Scale (similar to PIVATS 5 descriptions). The descriptions written were based on key words and specific aspects of that P Scale (these descriptions are shown on the school's software when 'clicked over').

Each description has a weighting and the package calculated when each P level is reached. A traffic light system is used to show visually if the level has been achieved:

green	- level achieved
orange	- working at that level
red	- level not achieved

The weightings are:

-	visited 0.1	}	
-	can do with help 0.2	}	one score averaged
-	can do independently 0.3	}	over each of the
-	can do well 0.4	}	4 descriptors

The final package was completed in February 2004, and is now being trialled with Year 9 students to track progress. Foxwood would be happy for other schools to also trial their materials.

The data will be input on an annual basis. Targets can easily be set in each subject though not all areas are currently covered (no ICT or English). PIVATS is currently used for English.

The programme will analyse data immediately and staff can access individual or group levels of achievement, subject data and achievement of boys and girls, pupils with an ASD or MLD.

It is anticipated the data will be collected next September and reviewed later in the year. Time can be saved as data can be manipulated quickly and cross-referenced.

School have also developed agreement trialling packs for subject areas (currently at various stages of development). Science is completed.

Teachers are currently being requested to identify key times in the school year when different assessments are carried out e.g. agreement trialling, observations collecting pupil perspective. PSHE is currently assessed at a school residential.

This planned approach across the year allows the Senior Management Team to monitor when things are happening and enables them to link staff or provide time for co-ordinators to meet, enables peer coaching etc.

Foxwood also has a partnership with a Derbyshire Special School.

PACE is currently used for baseline when students first arrive. In the junior department, this gives a pointer for targets.

PIVATS are used for English and PSHE especially for reporting at Post 16.

School has developed their own Schemes of Work linked to the NC. These Schemes of Work now address teaching and learning styles. Some assessments are now planned to link with Schemes of Work.

School would welcome:

- other schools trialling their materials
- setting up a user group
- agreement trialling across schools using their system
- setting up a review body to look at the results
- would welcome ideas/materials from the EMSEN group to trial
- some agreement trialling materials may also be available.