

'Engaging' students with education: promoting inclusivity through technology

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The Context

(social justice and inclusion)



The ENGAGE programme at the Northampton Saints Foundation works with students aged between 10-16 in alternative education provision to increase confidence and boost self esteem.



The Challenge

The current Student Passport is in paper format limiting opportunities for students to fully express their thoughts and feelings



Theoretical Framework: Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Engagement



Offer options and supports to stimulate motivation and sustained enthusiasm for learning

Representation



Present information in different ways to support access and understanding

Action & expression



Offer options and supports to all so everyone can create, learn, and share



The Solution? (digital learning)



Phase 1



Evaluation

Methods:

Participatory Action Research

Focus group of Northampton Saints

Foundation members of staff

Findings (themes):

- Technology
- Student Engagement
- Communication and Support



Theme 1: Technology

'It was a bit difficult to start with because we had to kind of learn and get used to like how we use it, what gets set-up, and what we can do on it and find ways around that technical difficulties'

'The pens did help because they like drawing and they liked, obviously, writing their own comments with the pens and stuff like that, so the pens did help basically'



Theme 2: Student Engagement

'I just thought that it would be better if they had things on it already that they, were complete like steps rather than create whatever they want themselves, cause when you give them that chance they be like, 'oh, I don't wanna do it'. But as if you had stuff on it already for them to complete, they will go 'Ohh yeah, actually that looks interesting. I'll do it.'

'There's like being as like a breath of fresh air for the kids as well as like, because when it used to come to doing the passport is like got to that stage where the kids would be moaning and not wanting to do it. But now because there's technology involved, they're just genuinely more open minded to partake.'



Theme 3: Communication and Support

'I think the communication's been quite good and quite quick, like between us, like when we've asked over the changes you've actually been quite nice and respondent. [...] It's been quite easy and open conversation. It's been nice.'



Recommendations

Structure

'Maybe like a story template. Like a very brief basic story template of like what their name is, how old they are? Like what their favourite thing to do is? their favourite colour, favourite food.'

- Getting to know me
- My family and friends
- How I am feeling
- My future



Phase 2

- Funding secured
- Refine the Student e-Passport
- Roll out the Student e-Passport to other Hubs in the franchise

Changes made...

- Structured activities
- Resources for staff
- Resources for young people
- Staff training across franchise
- Post 16 provision



Aims and Objectives

The proposed project aims to build on the work of the ENGAGE team and Phase 1 with further dissemination and engagement with the e-Passport.

The aim being to provide a range of ways for a larger group of young people to record and demonstrate their individual journey.



A sneak preview...



Phase 2



Thank you
Any questions?

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