

UniServity cLc Case Study: Blackburn with Darwen Primary Cluster



Mobile Collaborative Learning

Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority's e-Learning service has developed an exciting 'Ultra Mobile Learning Project', which is making a significant impact on when and how learners learn.

Seven primary schools are working collaboratively using the UniServity cLc (connected Learning communities) Learning Platform and ultra mobile PCs to extend learning beyond the traditional classroom walls. Learners from Year 1 to 5 have the opportunity to take the mobile PCs home to explore the benefits of collaborative learning and share their experiences with their peers and teachers using the Learning Platform blog and forum tools.



Blackburn with Darwen Primary Schools participating in the Project: Daisyfield School, Lammack School, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour School, Roe Lee Park School, St. Aidan's School, St. Stephen's School and Wensley Fold School.

Learners are benefitting from the experiences of peer mentoring, shared reflection and the opportunity to receive online support and feedback from their teachers. Facilitating anywhere anytime learning has provided children to both learn and apply new skills, knowledge and understanding, leading to better quality deep learning, higher engagement and attainment.

Katie John, senior eLearning consultant, Blackburn with Darwen LA commented, "Learners at all ages tend to display more independence from the teacher and are able to continue work at home. In addition, Year five children have far exceeded level expectations and are evaluating each other's work. Year three children are able to hyperlink audio files, and video to presentations choosing when and how to do this. They show a high level of appreciation of the needs of an audience."



Example screen shots of Blackburn with Darwen's Ultra Mobile Learning Project 2008 – 2010. Learner and Teacher discussion forums are available to all schools participating in the project. The forum entries show how a young learner is thrilled at being 'teacher' and answering questions about how to use their laptop PC's. Another entry shows how a learner wrote an online diary for their homework, using imaging software to illustrate it.

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