

CPD strategies for using film to raise literacy attainment

There are 17 languages spoken at Park View Primary; 74% of pupils have English as an additional language and some are new to English. A main reason for taking part in the Into Film CPD, delivered in partnership with Leeds Young Film, was to make texts more accessible for those pupils. We've used film clips previously to support subject teaching but not to meet specific objectives; the CPD has enabled us to use film to develop language and comprehension. Our SATs results this year were great, both progress and attainment in reading and writing have improved compared with last year, which we feel has been largely as a result of integrating the Into Film strategies into our teaching.



One of these strategies involves showing a range of clips without dialogue (Pixar films are particularly good) to encourage children to interpret and respond to the images in their own way. Some respond with pictures or using sentence frames and we also encourage oral responses to develop language and vocabulary. Also useful for language development is prompting pupils to listen for and record key words, the meanings of which are then discussed in class.

Many of our pupils have few experiences of the world around them and their imagination is limited; film has helped to increase their understanding of the world and boost their imagination. We used the 'Role on the Wall' activity to compare what a character might be thinking and feeling with what they're doing externally, then applied this to a PSHE lesson about identity. Based on techniques learned in the CPD sessions, we now use film clips in a variety of ways to predict character and plot.

After the sessions I have been able to share lesson plans and post film clips and questions on Google Drive, and have enjoyed receiving feedback. Using film has undoubtedly helped to increase engagement and attainment, and we will definitely continue to integrate it into our lessons.



Some of Park View Primary School's favourite films to use as a learning tool



So what are you waiting for? Join Into Film today and explore the opportunities available. Visit www.intofilm.org now to get started.