

Frith Manor Primary School, Barnet



Frith Manor Primary School was originally opened as Frith Manor School in 1939. By 1970, the school had 393 pupils. Over the past 70 years, this has now changed to a Primary School that educates 734 pupils aged from 3-11 years, making it the largest Primary School in the London Borough of Barnet. In August 2002, the school suffered a catastrophe when two-thirds of the original 1930s building burnt down; this subsequently ruined the school building, offices and teaching materials. After a 4 yr building programme and a lot of effort from everybody associated with the school, it was officially reopened by the Duke of Gloucester in 2007. Frith Manor pupils now benefit from an environmentally friendly modernist building, with the latest ICT facilities, including a Promethean Interactive Board in every room.

We asked Alison Reese, Class Teacher & ICT Co-ordinator why she introduced ActivExpression to the school....

“After I witnessed ActivExpression in action at the BETT show, I realised that the students’ responses to questions could now be given back in so many more ways. The potential for pupil engagement and creativity would be greater and the feedback would give a more accurate picture of the classes’ and pupils’ understanding. I then chose LEB Partnership to procure ActivExpression due to their expertise and knowledge particularly in this field and for the collaborative approach they took to working with my school.”

Alison has been using ActivExpression with her Year 2 class, where the pupils have been using the response pads in all lessons. Alison realised that Year 2 pupils were easier to teach to text as they had not done it before. Now they have no problems texting answers, thoughts and sending them to the whiteboard. This has been of particular benefit to Alison for teaching short writing tasks and riddles, especially using the sort in order response that ActivExpression has to enable pupils to think about prioritising and sequencing – a prerequisite for the SATS short writing task. From the response, Alison can see a whole class picture of who has and who hasn’t understood the lesson, which is extremely beneficial for Assessment for Learning and personalised learning.

Recommendation:

“ActivExpression is exceptionally motivating and engaging for the pupils. Using this technology engages with their everyday environment and motivates them in lessons. The pupils have no fear of not participating or answering questions as the response is anonymous (until the teacher wants to view individual answers). Above all, ActivExpression enables every child’s opinion to be valued and everyone’s contribution to be seen.”

