

FIS

The Film in School Project (FIS), sponsored by the Department of Education and Science, the Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dún Laoghaire, the Film Institute of Ireland, Blackrock Education Centre and AIB Bank, is coming to an end in June 2003.

The Film Project for Primary Schools, was set up to explore Film as a medium through which children's creativity could be expressed, and to give primary school children the opportunity to discover aspects of the film-making process. It linked elements of the Primary School Curriculum, particularly Language, Drama, the Arts, History and Social, Personal and



Health Education, and with film-making and pupils and teachers with film-education professionals in the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology and the Film Institute of Ireland. The children spent time learning about how films are made, how storyboards are drawn up, scriptwriting, filming as well as viewing and responding to film. Reaction was enthusiastic from both teachers and pupils - children loved the project "because it makes learning fun" and teachers witnessed some children "come alive" through working with film.

The Minister for Education and Science hosted an exhibition of some of the films produced by the schools involved. Speaking at the event Mr Noel Dempsey, TD, said: "I believe that FÍS has demonstrated that working with film can add considerable value to the



educational and life experiences of our children by opening up a wide range of new learning possibilities. Our understanding of children's engagement in the learning process has been furthered as a result of this project and I salute all the partners that have been involved in making this project such a success".

For more information on this project visit the website: www.iadt.ie/fis/index.html

Dissolving Boundaries

The Dissolving Boundaries project is designed to support schools in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to engage in collaborative curricular projects using computer and video conferencing.

The aims of the project are to integrate technology into curricular work, to produce educationally valuable collaborative work and to promote mutual understanding on both sides of the Irish border. One of the long-term aims of Dissolving Boundaries is to encourage schools to develop sustainability in their use of ICT after the end of the project.

The initial phase was from 1999-2001 and this was extended to August 2002 with the support of the Department of Education in Northern Ireland and the Department of Education and Science in the Republic of Ireland. This Phase involved 52 schools in the project, 16 primary schools and 10 post primary schools from each side of the border.

The second phase started in September 2002 with the recruitment of a further cohort of 60 schools, 30 primary schools, 20 post primary schools and 10 special schools from each side of the border. The Phase 1 schools are still supported by the project, but are no longer funded.

Teachers from these schools meet at cross-border conferences at Maynooth and Belfast. Training for teachers includes the use of computer conferencing, video conferencing, digital camera, web page design and PowerPoint. Pupils work on inter-schools projects covering many areas of the curriculum. Video conferencing is used for communication between schools. Videophones have been supplied to all schools in the project.

For more information on the project visit the website at www.dissolvingboundaries.org.

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Items for inclusion in the CESI Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, CESI newsletter c/o Blackrock Education Centre, Kill Ave, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.