

Enhancing education with interactive learning

Dame Hannah Rogers Trust

The Dame Hannah Rogers Trust provides education, therapy, care and respite for children and young people, most of whom have complex physical disabilities and severe to profound multiple learning difficulties.

Situated on the edge of Dartmoor National Park in Devon, the Trust has a residential special school, children's home and respite centre, and also provides outreach services, family support and new adult provision and day services. Officially recognised by Ofsted as a leading provider of education and care for physically disabled children in the UK, in 2006 the charity was also listed in Ofsted's top 32 schools in the UK.

Chief Executive, Bronwen Hewitt, who is responsible for ensuring that everything is in place to deliver the best possible education and care, was so impressed with the potential of OM Interactive technologies that between August 2008 and August 2009 five interactive projection systems were installed at the Trust. They are in use in the school, adult services, children's home and in the music sensory room.



Education is themed at the Trust's schools – with a programme of nine themes running over three years and all curriculum delivery being built around them. As this case study is written the current themes are Water and Canada and the students are learning about subjects such as celebrations, the environment and entertainment using the themes as a focal point to develop ideas and activities.

The content provided with the OMi interactive projection systems is being used to link to these themes and offer an extra element to education that the students really enjoy and engage with. One of the standard templates provided with the system is Splat, where



an image has to be splatted to reveal another one underneath, and this is a firm favourite with all pupils. The water template, which provides realistic wave ripples and sounds, is also proving a good starting point for pupils to get inspiration for projects .

Headteacher Brian Carlyon said: “The education experience is enhanced through the sounds and visuals these systems bring to our activities. The students like these sessions and find the sensory room particularly enjoyable as it so easy to interact with all the elements we have in there.”

The teachers in the school have also found that the systems provide another environment to explore the themes and give them the freedom to safely introduce the pupils to new experiences. Having so much additional content that the systems provide has proven to be a real asset in enabling teachers to develop extra activities around the themes and helping the students to look at things in a different way.

Numerous studies have found that interactivity has a strong positive effect on learning in that students learn faster and have better attitudes toward learning when using interactive multimedia. The Dame Hannah Rogers Trust has definitely seen the evidence of this as Brian enthused: “We are seeing the students’ communications skills develop as they are excited and motivated by the interactive experiences.”

Looking forward, the Trust hopes to install more OMi systems and perhaps even develop a room into an interactive virtual learning environment that has three distinct themed areas to walk through. Brian believes that this will encourage the students to view the educational experience as a fun activity and also to develop understanding of the links between the themes, while giving them more control over the learning experience.

OM Interactive Ltd
1 Avebury Court
Mark Road
Hemel Hempstead
Herts. HP2 7TA
T (+44) 01442 215 555
F (+44) 01442 215 550
Education@om-interactive.com
www.om-interactive.com

But most importantly, through the use of interactive technologies, the Trust aims to provide motivating and engaging experiences that resonate with their students and embed learning in a fun and enjoyable way.