

Student Voice and Co-construction

At Brockhill the value of co construction of learning is encouraged by SMT and explored whenever the learning context is appropriate. We recognise the link between teaching and learning. Teaching does not always result in learning. We recognise that learners have a view about their experiences in learning environments and that we will be much the richer for listening to them.

The elective groups formed as part of National School of Creativity, are action research groups which allow us to deepen our understanding of the characteristics of co-construction at its best. Our research is being used with the student voice group to unlock information which will help us to use co-construction even more effectively..

The DFES innovation unit has released the following information surrounding co-construction of learning which offers an insight into the value of working **WITH** students. This stance appropriately sums up the reasons why we are continuing to develop and explore this work.

“Students' views...are important not only because they offer an insight into the real experiences of students in a school or college, but also because being part of shaping the institutions in which you learn is a vital first step in taking responsibility for the work that you will do there.”

“...when children are given the opportunity to exercise their own voice and develop their own learning environment they often flourish and find a voice of their own. For such opportunities to arise requires trust on behalf of teachers/educators in their children and a re-evaluation of the relationship between teacher and pupil. Technology may provide a means for the development of self-directed learning but it is crucial that it is underpinned by a cultural shift from conceptions of school relationships being not between teachers and pupils but between educators and learners capable of exercising their own voice responsibly.”

Shelagh Wright, Hannah Lownsborough and Chris Perry, 'Designing Learner Environments: The virtual and the real - can technology help students shape their learning environment?' from *Personalisation and Digital Technologies*, 2005.