Teaching and Learning in Circles: Building Community, Developing Relationships and Enhancing Learning – Mission Impossible?

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Collingwood Primary School
A RESTORATIVE SCHOOL

What's the point?
Pearson report May 2011

Primary Policy Watch
-the pupil premium ‘toolkit’
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High impact, low cost  
Low impact, low cost

High impact, high cost  
Low impact, high cost

Approaches in the top left corner were found to promote maximum benefits at low cost. Those towards the top right had high impact, but at a correspondingly high cost. Approaches in the bottom left had low impact at low cost, while those in the bottom right had low impact at high cost.
A reason to talk or a reason to listen?

Building a community that promotes learning.

In what way does our learning promote community?
When using circles virtually any topic can be incorporated, but there should always be an emphasis on the manner in which the learning takes place.

Circles can be related to course content or interpersonal

IIRP circles training
Assessment for Learning?
Basic toolkit of strategies to be used regularly throughout all year groups to promote talk for learning

- **INDIVIDUAL THINK TIME**
- **POINT BULLET THINKING AND TALKING**
- **SNAP TO...SNAP BACK**
- **TALK PARTNERS**
- **ENVOYING**
  - Developments of envoying – consider your ‘reason to listen’
  - Use them when appropriate
- **SNOWBALLING**
- **JIGSAWING**
- **RAINBOW GROUPS**
- **INFORMATION GAP**
- **MINI PRESENTATION**
  - When using these activities consider AfL possibilities through developing the listener’s ‘reason to listen’.
- **HOT SEAT**
- **LISTENING TRIANGLE**
- **ACTIVE LISTENING**
- **V.A.K.**
  - Other Strategies, along with others you already use, to support speaking, listening and learning.
- **SCAN & CHECK**
- **THOUGHT SHOWERS**
- **ROLE PLAY**

Interested? Further information? E-mail philipmccormick2000@yahoo.co.uk
Does this way of working…

• Build a sense of community?
• Build a sense of interdependence?
• Build social capital?
• Enhance and build upon other strategies used to develop a strong community?
• Enhance learning?
Where else?

• Restorative questioning for learning – developing meta cognition

What are you going to do with this?

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