

Article for practical research

What did you do your research project on?

When our group was given the research task, we firstly brainstormed all of our ideas, we struggled at first with this but then we thought with such a big school and learning system, why not base it on that and in the end our chosen topic was 'The National Curriculum V St Helens'.

Why do you think it was important to research this subject?

Our group thought that it would be important to research this topic because we thought that people would be interested in knowing how St Helens is different and goes that little bit further than other schools.

How did you do the research?

For our research we split into two groups. One of our groups used the internet as their main source looking at the National Curriculum website and opinions about the national curriculum from different sources.

Our other group decided to go around to teachers to find out about the curriculum that St Helens followed and what they thought about it, by carrying out different interviews with different people such as Mrs Landsman, Deputy Head of Middle School. We also talked about our own individual opinions.

What did you find?

Our research was mainly based on individual and personal opinions on what we thought about the topic we had chosen rather than basing our interviews on a whole group of people and getting simple answers. Our results ended up in a lot of debate and disagreement, not just among us but with teachers as well as different sources on the internet.

So what?

Our group thought that it was a rather challenging subject to cover as you have to consider the different opinions. We found out, after looking at a wide range of sources that many people agreed that the National Curriculum shouldn't be followed entirely as it doesn't let students learn a wider range of subjects. After looking at the results of our topic we recommend that the next action would be to try and get different schools or the government to widen the range of subjects that are taught following the National Curriculum, making a big difference to people by letting them learn more and widening their knowledge.

What did you learn?

Our group agreed that being given the research task was a challenging task because you had a lot of subjects to choose from, yet we all ended up using new skills such as thinking about how to approach something topics differently and always keeping our options open. All of us found this difficult as we didn't know where to start, yet we also learnt new skills such as managing our time wisely. If we had the chance to do this again, we agreed that it would be better if we worked as one team rather than split up into groups. We thought that the point of the research was to try and make us think outside the box and go that extra bit further, rather than only doing what we are told. If we had the chance to research again then we thought we would learn the National Curriculum in further detail. Overall it has been a great experience.

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