

Research Proposal- Independence in Learning

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Sion Manning Cohort

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1. What are the aims of your research? What is it you would like to find out?

- To establish some benchmarks for measuring independence in learning.
- To use these benchmarks as platforms to develop independent learning.
- To use a reflective process to lift awareness of independence in learning in a large environment.

I would like to find out:

1. What people think about independent learning what they think it is and
2. How they think it can be developed.

I would also like to tie this in with data about achievement using a reflective process along the way.

2. How will your research help to improve teaching and learning and how will you evaluate this?

This research will improve teaching and learning by:

- lifting awareness of what it means to be an independent learner.
- giving teachers and students practical strategies for improving independent learning skills.
- developing a tool that will enable students, parents and teachers to measure themselves and develop their understandings of independent learning.
- giving students tangible ideas for how they can improve.

This research will be evaluated by:

- an online questionnaire for student, teachers and parents
- direct observation of students in lessons as well as in out of lesson situations
- video analysis of interviews pre and post
- using a control group to measure against

3. What are the expected outcomes or findings of the research? How will the research be helpful to your personal development and impact upon students?

- higher levels of student engagement and control over learning
- excitement of students, teachers and parents/carers
- new ideas for developing independent learning habits, skills and attitudes
- student, parent and teacher generated tools for increasing independent learning skills

4. How are you going to identify the data you are going to collect? How are you going to collect, analyse and evaluate the data? How do they link to your aims and what is known already?

- reviewing the literature relating to notions of developing independent learning and decide on domains for independence in learning
- interview a range of colleagues around the world through the use of an online survey
- interrogate school achievement data in order to establish current academic levels of groups
- online surveys for students/parents and teachers to establish current knowledge of each identified domain
- direct observation of students in and out of lessons
- video interviews pre and post

- 5. Present a timeline showing a plan for your research...**
- 6. Describe how your Research Mentor/school based mentor will support you in carrying out and building a successful research project...**
- 7. How do you propose to disseminate your research findings locally, regionally, nationally and internationally?**
 - presentations to: staff and students at my school, board of governors, LEA study support coordinators meeting,
 - emailing research write up to all who responded to initial survey
 - distribution of resources, tools and main findings through school intranet, personal web site and DfES web site