

Statement from Mrs Ellen Muir re Engross Theatre

In terms of the Curriculum for Excellence, Engross Theatre makes a massive contribution which impacts on all areas of Pilrig Park School.

“The Curriculum for Excellence is all about building up coherent learning packages through developing partnerships with colleges, employers and all other agencies”.

Engross Theatre is an important partner agency for Pilrig Park School. They help us to prepare our pupils to take their place in modern society by building up “coherent learning packages”, embracing the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence.

They plan with the 4 capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence in mind and deliver in an inter-disciplinary fashion e.g. Engross Theatre delivers across all learning areas. There are links across the school e.g. Health & Wellbeing → Personal & Social Education → Social Subjects → Individual Pupil Planning and every other department in school.

The productions are not “topic related”, but put emphasis on teamwork in terms of joined up work e.g. workshops with Archaeology Scotland which is very motivational and interactive. This inter-disciplinary work impacts on teaching subjects across all the areas e.g. Literacy, Scottish History, P.S.E. etc. This team building approach boosts self esteem, leading to Confident Individuals.

Everything Engross Theatre does is very interactive and not dependant on pupil ability, therefore pupils readily become Effective Contributors. In fact we have noticed over the course of several productions/workshops that some pupils on the Autistic Spectrum or those who have been reluctant to join in discussions have blossomed at the interactive approach.

In terms of “Assessment is for Learning”, the impact is very important. As the production unfolds, pupils can be assessed by becoming Effective Contributors and Successful Learners. The impact is that it allows pupils to “marry up” key points of the play to key points in classroom lessons in school e.g. play on “Bullying” theme linked by pupils to Pilrig Park School Bully Code.

There is also an impact on pupils’ Individual Targets – careful listening, following instructions and answering, and working as part of a team.

Engross Theatre is a hugely important partner for Pilrig Park School. Through the sheer joy, fun and excitement of Engross Theatre’s thoughtful productions, pupils and staff can attain the objectives set out in the principles of the Curriculum for Excellence. They also give staff the opportunity to engage in Continuous Professional Development.

12 April 2011