Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to be able to offer your school the opportunity to take part in an action research project supported by The Faculty of Education, Cambridge University and The Education ICT Service. We are seeking two teachers from each of five Cambridgeshire Primary Schools who will follow a course entitled ‘Interactive Whiteboards and Learning: Action Research in the Primary Classroom’, working towards Certificates in Educational Enquiry. These will be equivalent to two of a four module Diploma programme, which itself can be used as half of a modular Masters Qualification. Involvement in this project will thus provide individual teachers with a valuable professional development opportunity, with further accreditation to Diploma and Masters available.

Research methodologies and perspectives on learning covered as part of the course will help schools to analyse and self-evaluate the impact of learning and teaching strategies on pupil attainment and motivation. Teachers will benefit from support to further develop the effective and innovative use of IWBs. This will contribute to the wider utilisation of IWBs in their schools.

The broad focus for their action research would be the impact of the use of Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs) on classroom practice and learning. The research methodology, guided by the Faculty tutors, would enable reflection on classroom behaviours, both of the teachers and the pupils, together with the collection and analysis of ‘pupil voice’ and ‘teacher voice’ contributions. Thus, teachers would be involved in collecting and reflecting upon:

a. Experiences and perspectives of pupils regarding the use of IWBs, to include:
   - views relating to how IWBs supporting learning and teaching
   - opportunities to interact with IWBs / the range of activity
   - time spent with IWBs in different ways (teacher input, group activity)
   - impact on motivation
   - case studies relating IWB use to evidence of impact on learning and attainment
b. Teaching with IWBs – experiences and perspectives of teachers, to include:
   ➢ reflecting on practice and strategies for utilisation of IWBs
   ➢ what is effective practice?
   ➢ IWBs for the promotion of collaborative activity
   ➢ resource utilisation with IWBs
   ➢ innovative practices – can we define ‘transformation’?
   ➢ evidence of impact on learning and attainment

The two phases of the course (Oct ‘05 – Mar ’06 and Apr ’06 - Dec ’06) will include:
   ➢ school-based research (supported by supervision)
   ➢ tutor led sessions (one half day meeting and four twilight gatherings)
   ➢ workplace-based enquiry monitored through the Education Portal
   ➢ 2,000 word assignments (one for each phase of the course) based on the research carried out

Course fees of £520 per teacher are fully funded by the County Council and a contribution of £230 will be made towards supply cover for each individual to attend two half-day tutor-led sessions (one for each phase of the course) and for in-school supervisions. We expect each of the five schools to offer teachers time to carry out research and complete of course tasks. A minimum of two days additional release will be required. We expect the average cost of additional supply that the school would need to cover to be about £250. However, teachers will need to be prepared to commit their own time to the successful completion of the course. Further details of course requirements can be found by searching for ‘IWB Action Research’ on the Education Portal.

Schools / teachers that are interested in applying for this exciting opportunity should be able to meet the majority of the following criteria for selection:

1. Commitment to the use of ICT to raise standards
2. In-school collaboration is facilitated to share outcomes
3. Experience of utilising IWBs for at least 12 months
4. Willingness to share the outcomes of research for the benefit of all Cambridgeshire schools – and potentially via regional/national publications and events
5. Commitment to provide release for teachers to carry out research and complete course tasks

Other factors in the selection process will be the desire to achieve a geographical mix of schools from around the county and the extent to which some have already benefited from recent ICT initiatives.

The next step: Applications, using the attached proforma, should be returned electronically to barry.dowler@cambridgeshire.gov.uk by Friday 1st July. Receipt will be confirmed by email. If you require any further information about this programme do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Dowler
Senior Manager ICT Curriculum
Education ICT Service

P Springford
Connected Learning Manager
Education ICT Service

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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In what ways do you feel that involvement in this action research project would be valuable for your school?

How do you propose to provide time to allow teachers involved in the project to share outcomes with others in the school?

**Personal Statement – Teacher 1**
(to include experience of IWBs, reasons for application)

(please feel free to attach a separate word document if necessary)

**Personal Statement – Teacher 2**
(to include experience of IWBs, reasons for application)

(please feel free to attach a separate word document if necessary)

Please give any other information that is relevant to this application:

Please send your completed application form electronically to:
[barry.dowler@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:barry.dowler@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Receipt of your application will be confirmed by return email.