

**PRIMARY INNOVATION PROJECT:
ACTION RESEARCH (PIPAR)
2002 - 2004**

- PIPAR is a national project funded by the DfES run by Oxford Brookes, involving 18 schools nationally.
- Some schools are in Excellence in Cities and a number are Beacon Schools for work with gifted and talented pupils.
- Outcomes: case studies of effective practice plus action research projects demonstrating how teacher research can be used to enhance provision beyond the initial structural aspects.

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ACTION RESEARCH PIPAR**

Background

1. PIPAR is a national project funded by the DfES.
2. The schools involved are found in a wide geographical area, from Manchester Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Birmingham, and London to Kent.
3. Some of the schools are involved in the Excellence in Cities initiative (EiC) and a number are Beacon Schools for the work with gifted and talented pupils.
4. The PIPAR project was conceived as a mechanism for providing case studies of 14 successful examples of primary school practice. To draw out common elements and to highlight similarities and differences in order to provide templates for other schools looking to develop their practice.
5. A second aspect of the project was to allow the schools to recognise the qualities that had led to effective provision.
6. A third element was then to select one aspect for further development in a systematic way (through action research).
7. Outcome of the project: we would expect case studies of effective practice plus action research projects demonstrating how teacher research can be used to enhance provision beyond the initial structural aspects.

Case Studies

The purpose is to describe models of effective practice in primary schools, to draw out common elements and to highlight similarities and differences in order to provide templates for other schools looking to develop their practice.

Action Research projects

The purpose is to enhance the teachers' practice still further by developing innovative projects and exploring systematically their potential for enhancing provision. These will be in particular curriculum areas based on choices made by schools. Children from reception to Year 6 are involved in this research. The topics under investigation include:

- Core curriculum
- Creative arts
- Independent learning
- Creative and Critical Thinking
- Metacognition

Examples of research questions:

- How do G&T children develop metacognition through the use of reflective diaries?
- How can strategies for independent learning be used to challenge G&T children when teaching topic work?

- How does ICT extend and challenge G&T children in core curriculum studies?
- How can we enhance the curriculum for talented artists to allow them to achieve their full potential?

The aim is to produce a book/booklet with an introductory chapter describing the projects selected and any similarities within them. The chapter would consider the effectiveness of action research as a tool for improving provision and its staff development potential. Other chapters would be the provided by schools describing their individual action research projects.

