



School Project Case Study: Cornwall (Mounts Bay)

“The unit supports the transition for pupils moving between primary and secondary schools.”

Coral Pepper – Victoria County History Cornwall.

- Education and Skills Manager – Aretha George, England’s Past for Everyone.
- Education Coordinator – Coral Pepper, Victoria County History Cornwall.
- Education Consultant – Claire White, Sense of Place, Cornwall County Council.
- Historian and Research Advisor - Jo Mattingly, England’s Past for Everyone.
- Sara Davey, Head Teacher, Mounts Bay School.

Overview

The Cornwall (Mounts Bay) school project was produced in collaboration with Sense of Place, Cornwall County Council. The educational material, created by Claire White and Heather White, Sense of Place, examined the many ‘comings and goings’ that have taken place during the life of two Cornish fishing communities – Newlyn and Mousehole. The material encourages a range of cross-curricular and creative activities both inside and outside the classroom. The educational material was developed for Key Stage 2 – 3 transition, and was based on the academic research of Dr Jo Mattingly (for the EPE paperback *Cornwall and the Coast: Newlyn and Mousehole*). The project was piloted with 30 Year 7 pupils (ages 11 – 12) at Mounts Bay School between January and April 2007, as well as feeder primary schools.

Project planning

Considering the various contributors involved with this project, it was felt that the planning was handled fairly successfully. Aretha George and Coral Pepper maintained good communication with Sense of Place and other contributors. The project kept to the schedule of the School Project Planner. The research and writing of the educational material was completed by the end of 2006, and the project was piloted during the school spring term (January – April 2007). Project planning could have been improved to initially include copyright permission of the Sense of Place material for EPE; this created delays for EPE use of the material.

Project delivery

Although the Head Teacher of Mounts Bay School, Sara Davey, was keen for the school to be involved in the project, other members of the school staff were less positive. Sense of Place found a lack of cooperation from teachers in drawing-up and trialling the material at the school. This, coupled with a weak communication, meant the problem was not made known to Aretha George and Coral Pepper until too late in the project – thereby hindering its implementation. Despite this setback, there has been subsequent interest in the educational material from other schools in the area.

Key recommendations for the future

Cornwall EPE/VCH was unique in coordinating two school projects. Many of the recommendations in this evaluation report apply to both.

- EPE/VCH to be more involved when out-sourcing the production and trialling of educational material. The creation of educational material through a partner organisation, even organisations with successful track records, should require key milestones to be set out by EPE/VCH in the planning stage. The contracts should also clearly state the remit of EPE/VCH and its partner organisations.
- The Education Consultant on the project to be based at or familiar with the schools taking part. While the Cornwall (Religious Sites) project benefited from Education Consultant John Welham working as an AST teacher, Claire White unfortunately didn't have the necessary support from the school to plan and trial the materials.
- Avoidance of a top-down approach. Although the Head Teacher was keen on the project, other teachers proved more resistant. Again, someone working within the school would have helped tackle these issues as and when they arose.
- Should any problem become apparent on a project, either with the school or partner organisations, EPE/VCH should impress its position as project leader and senior client in making sure the project continues smoothly and that objectives are met.
- The Education Coordinator to be the main point of contact between EPE/VCH national and the project contributors. With this project, Coral Pepper found herself bypassed by contributors who instead took their grievances to EPE/VCH national. A clearer line of communication is necessary.
- As with the Religious Sites project, the post-delivery period to be managed better. Evaluation feedback from all relevant parties (teachers, pupils,

coordinators and consultants) should be better collated by both the Education Coordinator/Consultant and the Education and Skills Manager for future reference.

Project Expenses

Penlee House professional fees	3,283.73
Education Consultant fees	1,600.00
Total	£4,883.73

*This figure does not include the fees and travel expenses for Cornwall EPE Education Coordinator Coral Pepper, who worked on both Cornwall projects. Her costs are listed separately below.

Education Coordinator fees	1,700.00
Education Coordinator travel and expenses	338.96
Total	£2,038.96

This case study and evaluation is based on EPE documents, copies of correspondence and evaluation feedback. The scope of this evaluation reflects the evaluation material available.

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