

Action research project 1

Assessment & Feedback

Context

“Done well, feedback can support pupil progress, build learning, address misunderstandings, and thereby close the gap between where a pupil is and where the teacher wants them to be. This process is a crucial component of high-quality teaching, which has never been more important as schools look to recover their pupils’ learning in the wake of the pandemic.

“However, large amounts of time are spent providing pupils with feedback, perhaps not always productively.”

Becky Francis CEO Education Endowment Foundation

Throughout the Covid 19 pandemic, schools across all of our participating European countries shifted their modes of delivery, making new modes of feedback and assessment necessary. In many cases, digital technology has been key to these new ways of working. This action research project is an exploration of how technology can help with giving and receiving effective feedback.

Definitions

What is feedback?

Feedback is information given to the learner or teacher about the learner's performance relative to learning goals or outcomes. It should aim towards (and be capable of producing) improvement in students' learning.

This feedback can be verbal or written, or can be given through tests or via digital technology.

What is peer feedback?

Peer feedback is a practice where feedback is given by one student to another. Peer feedback provides students opportunities to learn from each other. ... Peer feedback can be in the form of corrections, opinions, suggestions, or ideas to each other.

What is an action research or case study approach?

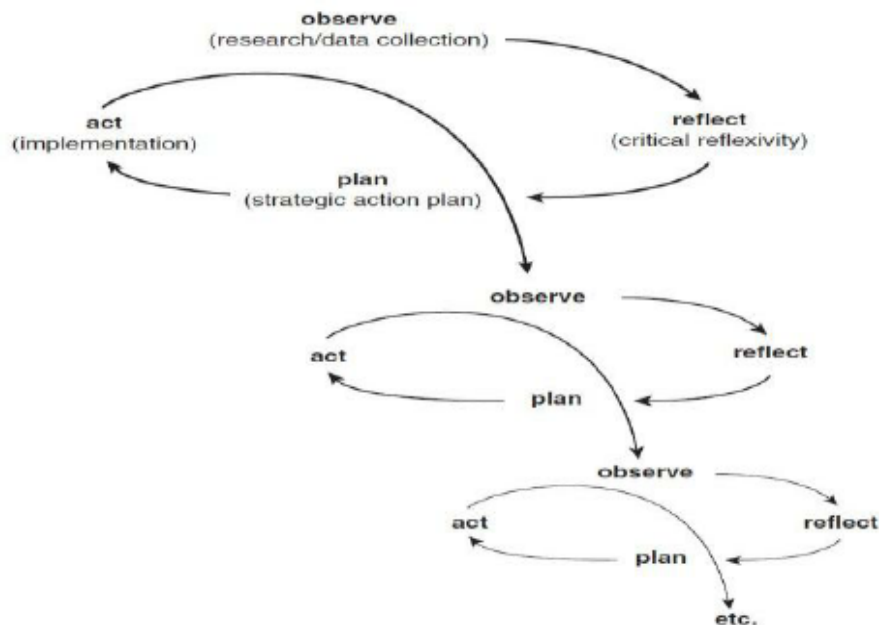
Action research is a method of enquiry often used by educators as a way to research and investigate their own practice.

The process involves several steps:

1. Identify the problem
2. Devise and implement a plan (this is the 'action')

3. Observe the impact of the action
4. Reflect and perhaps adapt the approach

Action research is not a linear process, and often involves several cycles of action and observation.



Activity in school

1. Choose an issue or questions you would like to explore in your school. For example:
 - a. How can student-teacher feedback and dialogue be supported by technology? How is it different from traditional verbal or written feedback? What opportunities can it offer?
 - b. How do we check on students' ongoing understanding and misconceptions when they are learning online e.g. from home?
 - c. What examples do we have of teachers supporting children's engagement with their peers through student to student feedback using technology? How can technology support a community of inquiry between students?
 - d. How can teachers provide feedback to each other to develop their reflective practice?
2. Plan what activities teachers and students will do.
3. Agree what technology will you use
4. Decide what information you will collect
 - E.g children's work, teacher observations of children, interviews with children and teachers, teacher reflections and records of discussions
5. Decide how you measure impact. Measurement should be tangible and shareable.

Action Research Model

Key question - how do you know what difference has been made?

Example research model

ISSUE - Use the information available (e.g. school level data, teacher or pupil views, observations) to develop a clear understanding of the issue you wish to explore. Identify the current situation.

OUTCOMES - Define the short, medium and long term outcomes that you aim to achieve in the project. What difference are you hoping to see?

OUTPUTS - Define the activities you will use to meet the outcomes.

INPUTS - Identify the time and resources that you will need to carry out your project.

Presenting findings and reflections

Think about how you will tell the story/share findings of your action research project at our next meeting in Denmark.

The mode of sharing may differ between participants depending on the questions explored and the technology used.

Further questions?

Please do get in touch with your coordinator as soon as possible if you are unsure about anything. Our next planned meeting is in February in Denmark. Hopefully we will all see each other then!