

What digital video has to offer

Using digital video (DV) in projects and lessons offers not only a range of opportunities for pupils to develop vital skills, but also gives teachers a chance to explore innovative ways to enhance the learning experience. Clear evidence from a number of studies, such as BECTA (2002), has shown that the use of DV increases the motivation for learning and engagement levels of a wide range of learners. DV is also known to broaden access to the traditional curriculum as well as offering students a chance to work at their own pace and in their own style. DV has benefits as a motivating tool for the kinesthetic, visuo-spatial and musical learners, as well as to pupils who are verbally fluent.

The three main areas where DV is known to have an impact are learning, creativity and ICT skill.

- **Learning** There is evidence that DV increases the engagement of students with a project, which increases motivation for learning. This is evidenced in the way many pupils seem to want to spend extra time on a project, often asking to work after school hours.
- **Creativity** Students are able to develop creative skills, depending on the freedom given by teachers – for example, having the freedom to use different camera shots. The most rewarding and creative aspect of DV happens during the editing phase, such as students' sequencing experiments.
- **ICT skill** The use of digital technology in the classroom brings a rich array of ICT skill development. This starts from the point of transferring the video from the tape into an editing program, and is followed by editing, which allows students to develop a range of vital ICT skills.

Benefits for teachers	Benefits for students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages collaborative work • Helps develop strong differentiated activities • Encourages pupils to reflect • Raises self-esteem of students, for example showing good work in assemblies • Encourages the importance of editing/drafting work • Encourages different learning styles • Enables the sharing of good practice, such as showing the videos to other colleagues • Helps develop creative skills with students • Develops managed group work skills • Encourages participation from everybody in the class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops communication skills • Explores creativity skills • Develops time management skills • Encourages negotiation skills • Develops critical reflection skills • Encourages team working • Demonstrates importance of sequencing events • An opportunity to work in their preferred learning style • Encourages a sense of ownership of work • To be able to experiment without fear of failure, hence encouraging more confident risk-taking

BECTA's ICT Advice website has a wealth of information and advice. For a deeper exploration of the pedagogical value of DV, click [here](#) . The educational charity has also produced an invaluable FAQ sheet, which can be accessed [here](#) . Media Ed, the UK's media education agency, provides a 'digital video gateway' which contains a host of links covering all aspects of using DV. Click [here](#) to access the site.