School-based professional development for interactive teaching with technology: lessons learned from initiatives in UK and Africa





### Underpinning principles for school-based PD



#### Teacher professional development: Meta-analyses

 Overall large effect size (0.62) for professional development – ranked 19/138 factors influencing student achievement by Hattie (2009)

But:



Typically, TPD has taken the form of short-term training designed and delivered by trainers who have not based this training on specific knowledge of what is happening in their trainees' classrooms and for which there is little or no classroom followup. (Schwille and Dembélé, 2007, p.33)

# Contemporary models of professional learning

- Ongoing, school-based, community of practice model active, experiential learning with/from peers/mentors, classroom implementation
- cycles of reflective practice and critical inquiry
- aligned with curricula and policy
- external stimuli/input? explicitly underpinned by theory
- builds on existing practices and knowledge
- integrates subject knowledge, pedagogy & tool use
- concerns, needs, realities, constraints of teachers, school environment, community and policy makers are taken into account

# Contemporary models of professional learning



Teachers are construed as professionals, capable of reflecting on, critiquing and developing their practice, with appropriate support (Hennessy, 2014; Schweisfurth, 2011); teacher agency, leadership and confidence are developed.

Borko et al., 2010; Cordingley et al, 2003; Guskey, 2002; Hassler et al., forthcoming; Hennessy, Warwick & Mercer, 2011; Hill et al., 2013; King, 2014; OECD, 2011; Timperley, 2007; Twining et al., 2013; Wayne et al., 2008; Wells, 2007; Westbrook et al., 2013; Yoon et al., 2007



Professional development resource for dialogic teaching with technology









#### What is educational dialogue? Exploring difference

- A difference between two or more perspectives opens up a dialogic space
- Dialogue is negotiating new meanings in the gap arising between those voices
- So multiple viewpoints can co-exist



(Bahktin 1986; Wegerif 2007)

#### What does dialogic-teaching-and-learning (Vygotsky 1978) involve?

More than just 'talk':

- teachers and learners respectfully commenting and cumulatively building on each other's ideas
- reasoning; generating, justifying, critically evaluating & synthesising diverse ideas
- posing open questions & speculating
- taking extended turns
- sustaining dialogue across lessons

(Alexander, 2008; Mercer & Howe, 2012; Mercer and Littleton, 2007; Mortimer and Scott, 2003; Rojas-Drummond et al., 2010; Wells, 1999)



#### Potential of the interactive display

*"We think with and through artefacts"* 

(Säljö, 1995**)** 



Digital artefacts created by learners and teachers support co-construction by making reasoning and differences between perspectives more explicit while understanding develops:

Artefacts are annotated, revisited or critically analysed, negotiated and modified – in conjunction with talk (Hennessy, 2011)

### Technology as a cultural resource within a 'dialogic classroom space'

The dialogic teacher creates a supportive climate of respect, mutual trust, support for risk taking and trialling of tentative ideas:

a 'conjecturing atmosphere' (Mason 1988)

Teacher invites and elaborates students' contributions using digital artefacts as prompts, recording devices etc.



#### **Professional development resource**



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#### Dialogue (audit) table

Using the IWB to support the development of dialogue in the primary classroor	
In my classroom, we	You will see us
<ul> <li>✓ respect, trust and listen to each other</li> <li>✓ take risks and experiment by trying out new teaching approaches</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓ sharing, discussing, commenting on and exploring our views and ideas</li> <li>✓ asking each other questions</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>✓ encourage children to be responsible for their own learning</li> <li>✓ use good subject knowledge and awareness of our children's needs to help us use children's contributions to advance the dialogue taking place</li> <li>✓ support children in a range of ways to enable them to share their views and ideas</li> <li>✓ value talk in our lessons and plan for it to</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>showing that we consider other people's views</li> <li>sometimes trying to reach a shared understanding by building on what people say</li> <li>giving feedback and responding in a helpful way; being a 'critical friend'</li> <li>realising what we need or would like to learn and doing something about it!</li> <li>using what we already know to help us</li> </ul>
take place ✓ are willing to sometimes change our minds ✓ continue a dialogue over time, from lesson to lesson ✓ use a wide range of IWB features and resources to stimulate, enhance and record generate of aur logging	<ul> <li>reasoning and trinking aloud</li> <li>telling each other what we have learnt when we have been thinking by ourselves</li> <li>using classroom resources, including the IWB, in different ways to help us in our learning</li> <li>saying why we agree or disagree with an idea</li> </ul>

# What role can the technology play?







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#### Square of truth or magic box/ window: The moon of truth A lunar eclipse The moon appears happens when the to change shape Earth stops the light because it is from the sun sometimes in the reaching parts of the shadow of the Earth moon We always see the The moon is a same side of the secondary moon; this means it source of light doesn't rotate on its own axis



## **PD** Impact project





#### **Impact Project**

- 10 PD workshops: 2 per school cluster (70 teachers in 14 primary & secondary schools); co-led by 'ambassadors'
- Teachers trialled new approaches in between (2-10 weeks)

http://dialogueiwb.educ.cam.ac.uk/evaluate/

#### **Impact Project**

#### Workshop 1:

auditing own practice, viewing & discussing video examples, exploring online 'Resource Bank', lesson planning



#### Workshop 2:

sharing, reflecting, feeding back on materials developed; viewing further examples; planning for further development and whole school approach

#### **Collecting evidence for impact**



#### **Findings 1**

- > Baseline levels of understanding of dialogue proved low
  - only 19% initially showed medium or strong understanding of dialogic teaching (giving concrete examples)
  - Only 13% demonstrated medium or strong understanding of dialogic teaching with the IWB; 93% used it mainly for display
- Post-participation interviews (corroborated by posters, Workshop 2 presentations, flipcharts, observations) showed a clear shift towards stronger understanding

# Teachers' understanding of dialogic teaching at Workshops 1 vs 2



#### Shift in participants' views of dialogue

'A more layered approach than just classroom talk'; 'giving pupils independence, letting them be their own learners'; being 'much more pupil-led'; 'thinking about how you structure what you're saying, so there's not just one answer'.

It's all about students building a deeper understanding through interrogating each other's talk. (Science teacher)

Where [before] I thought ...maybe dialogue [was] perhaps open questions rather than closed questions, and perhaps the way I speak, I've now realised it's all about students building on each other's thoughts... so that they can contrast their ideas, compare their own ideas ... and build on each other's. (Maths teacher)

#### Findings 2

- Genuine shift from IWB as presentation tool towards increased understanding of possibilities of tool in supporting a dialogic approach...
- ...self-reports validated through capturing concrete examples of using the IWB dialogically: 140 files of material contributed to our website.

#### **Findings 3**

- Dialogue about dialogue: both teachers and ambassadors experienced a dialogic approach to their own professional learning – correlated with dialogicality (cf. Hardman et al 2015)
- Participants felt they were learners and co-creators of knowledge

Science lesson observation: Pupils dragging and dropping statements about solubility





#### **Science lesson: Solubility**

Creating conditions for dialogue

effective dialogue top tips for group discussions

- everyone in the group should try to take part
- we all respect each other's ideas
- everyone can give reasons to support their ideas
- · everyone can accept that other people may hold a different viewpoint
- everyone can discuss different ideas and views before taking a decision
- the group shares information
- the group tries to reach agreement

Teacher created supportive ethos for dialogue through...

 Open task: groups designed experiment using given resources, posed own Qs



#### > Encouraging children to build on each other's ideas:

Class decided which variables to keep constant (e.g. water quantity) and which to count/measure, made predictions



# Encouraging students to articulate and justify their points of view:

- A boy argued that sand cannot dissolve "because the beach is there". Teacher highlighted to the class his link to real life experience
- Whole class interactive IWB activity designed using our template: "tortoise of truth"





#### Findings 3: Ambassadors' Roles

- Ambassadors had pivotal role as both champions and coordinators: organising, ensuring cascading, school ownership of programme and widening impact within cluster
- Experienced their own PD from co-leading and co-designing the workshops:
  - developing leadership roles and greater awareness of adult learning processes
  - collegiate sharing and enrichment
  - developing a framework for dialogue

#### Findings 3: Ambassadors & Clusters

Clusters achieved critical mass and local sharing

But cross-fertilisation remains challenging under teachers' current working conditions. Logistical challenges:

- pressures of time and other commitments
- coordinating activities across schools in larger clusters; most participants came from host schools
- careful attention to timing of workshops in school year and school day – to maximise attendance.
   (Twilight or regular lunchtime sessions as preferred)

#### **Findings 3: Sustainability**

#### Follow-up actions:

- cross-curriculum activities and whole school PD and policies, eg "encouraging dialogic teaching" and "setting expectations of trust"
- sharing new practices and resources with incoming teachers and at regional TeachMeets
- introducing dialogic teaching supported by IWB as student teachers' weekly targets
- > integrating it as criterion for an outstanding lesson

#### **Future**

- Extended measurement of impact, further workshops, more time in between
  - No counterexamples is encouraging though
- Enhance materials for ambassadors for more autonomous model
- Other technologies: many schools are introducing tablets and other mobile devices; future development could explicitly encompass these new technologies
- more technical support may be beneficial



#### PD in developing contexts

Similar principles of teacher professionalism & leadership:



Rather than trying to "plug gaps" in teacher knowledge, programmes ideally empower teachers to become reflective practitioners, able to identify gaps in their own knowledge and skill, and to acquire these as needed (*Hardman et al., 2011*)

Research into PD in sub-Saharan Africa at University of Cambridge (Hennessy & Hassler)...



# MESSAGES



for designing, structuring, sustaining & scaling PD





"Seeing": making pedagogy – thinking & practice – visible (cf. Hattie, 2009); linking observed events to broader principles of teaching and learning



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#### **Sustaining & scaling**



- Design for this at start
- Materials open & available for re-use in variety of formats for ITE & PD; OER support lifelong learning
- Meaningful certification; career progression
- > Conditions for teacher learning: whole school programme
- Conditions for learning: school leadership support and involvement (?) is important; support not just for attendance, but shared leadership for learning and shared accountability

#### Scaling

- A degree of cascading is inevitable; the real test of programmes may lie in their ability to be run by others (Wayne et al., 2008; Hill et al., 2013).
- light cascade for facilitator induction (+ ongoing, decreasing facilitator support)
- "upward cascade" of materials: focus on what T does, augmented by built-in facilitator notes, in turn augmented with materials for "key PDLs" (coaches; "master trainers") on how to run PD for facilitators
- Dialogic workshops: PDLs need to develop active learning / dialogic approaches before they can model them

#### **Tensions in sustaining & scaling**

**Prescription vs. bottom-up development** (reinvent wheel): semi-structured guidance

Sustain vs. scale! PD leadership as schoolbased, sustainable & locally contextualised vs. need for ongoing support – semi-supported model offering workshop materials only?

Fidelity vs dilution: explicit workshop plans, clear, built-in facilitator guidance + ongoing support



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