

kar2ouche case study



By Mr P Thomas, Head teacher, St. Bartholomew's Church Of England Primary School, Wolverhampton

Kar2ouche is a very impressive piece of software. It has a number of strengths:

1. ITS VERSATILITY:

Kar2ouche can be used across a wide range of age and ability groups. The children are able to use Kar2ouche with varying degrees of sophistication. In my Year 4 project I gave the children a 15 minute introduction to its main features and was very impressed by the way in which they were able to explore and develop its features on their own. This class included a number of less able and some extremely capable children, and all of them achieved high levels of success. The Year 6 group gave the impression that they had been using all their lives!

Kar2ouche has great depth to it and I know I have only scratched the surface in the small projects I have been doing – its potential is enormous.

2. ITS DIRECT LINKS TO MANY OF THE UNITS IN THE QCA SCHEME OF WORK FOR ICT.

Many Primary school teachers still lack confidence in teaching the QCA Units. Kar2ouche is extremely helpful in giving teachers an original approach to basic skills such text work, editing, graphics work, identifying audiences, sequencing and developing longer term projects that build on a progression of skills. The teachers working along side me loved using Kar2ouche and as one teacher said to me, "This is the best ICT work I have ever done with children."

3. ITS STRONG LITERACY LINKS

A major national issue for Primary schools is the development of writing. How do we motivate boys to write? Kar2ouche could be a real asset in this respect. When immersed in developing their storyboards the children are genuinely excited and motivated about writing. One Year 6 boy (a very reluctant writer) constantly nags me in the computer suite to read and re-read his storyboards (he never wants to show me his writing in classroom literacy lessons) as he is so keen to make it sound right. When at the end of a Kar2ouche session I congratulated the class on producing some excellent writing, Ben protested that "It wasn't a writing lesson, those lessons are boring – this was fun."

4. THE CHILDREN LOVE IT!

As Head Teacher I am not always able to keep to my timetable and I sadly had to miss a Kar2ouche lesson a couple of weeks ago due to staff shortages. A Mother collared me in the playground – "Jessica was very upset last night because she missed her computer lesson – she never stops talking about this thing she doing with monsters and aliens and looks forward to it all week. I hope you're not going to let her down again."

The children simply love it:

"I love these lessons because you can make book covers that really look like book covers."
Eleanor Aged 11.

"I want to be a story writer when I grow up and this is really helping me." Alice Aged 11.

"I'm really glad our class was picked for these lessons." David Aged 10.

"I think it is a fantastic program because it teaches you how to design a comic." Hollie Aged 11

"It's real good fun – you can make people look really strange and weird." Harundee Aged 11

"It is a totally fab program and I really enjoyed it." Geeta Aged 11

"It was a very interesting and I enjoyed in many ways and I thought it would appeal to all ages."
Lucy Aged 9

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