

OPENING

THE

PRIMARY CLASSROOM

John Raven with Jill Johnstone and Timothy Varley



inventing • researching • finding • discovering • anticipating • suggesting • reading • participating • recording • testing • re-discriminating • persisting • questioning • uncovering • suspecting • confirming • hypothesising • checking • deriving • abstracting • diagramming • formalising • intuiting • queuing • cooperating • absorbing • using • striving • recognising • clarifying • ordering • arranging • classifying • describing • categorising • trusting • ensuring • securing • procuring • purchasing • locating • asking • telling • empowering • congratulating • flattering • balancing • revealing • uncovering • thinking • perceiving • drawing • deciding • participating • mastering • informing • acting • participating • helping • reflecting • recalling • initiating • communicating • defending • answering • soothing •

Drawing on a research study in a number of schools, the main objective of *Opening the Primary Classroom* is to portray the work of several teachers who were effectively pursuing the wider objectives of general education through environmentally-based project-work. The authors discuss the considerable benefits of this work, and identify also the (sometimes surprising) barriers to wider implementation of such important educational activity and the steps required to overcome them.

In addition they outline the management strategies needed if staff are to engage in the demanding innovatory activities needed to promote the growth of competencies urgently needed in modern society.

Because the book makes explicit the competencies to be fostered in general education, identifies strategies to promote their development and describes ways in which such qualities can be assessed, it is relevant also to those involved in personal, social and vocational development at secondary or college level.

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