Case Study

Easi-Scope Wireless Microscope
EL00470

Easy-to-use handheld digital microscope ideal for all investigations. St. Michael's CE have tested the Easi-Scope Wireless Microscope. Here is what they thought.	

Background Information (Intent)

We are a large, mixed primary school of approximately 550 children. We are located in Bolton, in an area classed as 'Deprived' at the most recent census. Our children are from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and countries and we have a high percentage of EAL children (English as an Additional Language).

Our children have very limited experiences outside of school. Although we are situated close to parks and outdoor spaces, not many children use these as much as we might like.
As a teacher and science lead, I think it is of utmost importance that children explore the world around them. That they are inquisitive, ask questions and explore their surroundings. The world is a wondrous place, but it can be easy to overlook this.

As part of our science curriculum across school we study, amongst other things, rocks, habitats, plants and animals and life processes. When studying these topics, it is vital to get up close – to look and study these rocks, plants and animals in detail. Currently we do this using old and scratched magnifying glasses. This method, although not without its merits, has its limitations.

With the Easi-Scope microscope we would be able to study rocks, insects, habitats, plants and a whole host of other things, with microscopic precision and clarity. We could photograph these, save and record them as part of the children's learning.

As well as science we could use this resource to inspire our writing – creative and independent work. We will use the Easi-scope in geography when we look at types of rocks and fossils. The pictures we capture would provide amazing subjects for sketching and art in general.

Access to the Easi-scope would enhance all these lessons and really help to show children how wondrous the world around them really is. It would give them a more in depth understanding of how rocks are formed, the structure of plants, the bodies of insects and the intricacies of insect habitats.

How was the resource used? (Implementation)

When we received the Easi-scope we set about using it right away. After setting it up and spending a few minutes reading the instructions the scope was easy to use. We introduced the Easi-Scope during a staff meeting so all staff were aware of it and what it could do. We have currently used the scope across several year groups, from year 1 to 6. As an example, It has been used in year 3 science / geography to study rocks. Used in year 2 looking at plants and year 4 looking at insect habitats. An unexpected use came about in year 4 when a child asked to put his fingernail underneath it. This led to a discussion about why it had lines on it, what the nail was made of and how it grows. The Easi-scope is very portable and has been used both inside and outside the classroom.

Impact and Outcomes

The Easi-Scope had a significant impact on children's learning in that it really engaged them and brought to life the things we had only previously spoken about or seen on videos. This inspiration led to questioning and child-led learning. Their understanding of a subject was deeper. In the short time we have had the scope we have already learnt about how different types of rocks are formed, the parts of an insects' body, how insect habitats are made and even our own body – the parts and function of teeth. The Easi-scope has really made a difference in class as it has engaged the students and inspired them to want to learn more about what makes up our world.

Many Thanks to St Michael's CE for reviewing this product