

## TITLE:

Music for inclusion and integration

## KEY CONCEPTS:

Integration, music and art, transition, collaboration, self-expression, shared understanding, 'mash-up'

## NARRATIVE OVERVIEW:

*Music is a common language. As immigration and other demographic changes increase the diversity in classrooms, there is a requirement to find new ways in which learners can participate in activities that bring them together and break down barriers. Technology can assist in this process creating large-scale collaborations which provide rich shared experiences.*

Pablo is a language teacher who has a group of new second-language students that he would like to progress to the core curriculum. He knows that difficulties with language and making social connections can be barriers to integration within the school and wider community.

To address this, Pablo and the music teacher plan a collaborative music project. They use the expertise of the local music community (including undergraduates studying music and community groups) to develop a project that will help integrate the learners with the school and wider community through an artistic performance. Core subject teachers are involved in the project to help strengthen their relationships with the new students.

Pablo works with teachers and musicians to guide integrated groups of students to create musical and/or video performances. Individually or in small groups, students produce loops, clips, samples, or rhythms. The sound clips and samples are edited and mixed together by the students to create 'mash-up' compositions. The mash-ups are broadcast throughout the school and local community and potentially lead to live performances.

Importantly, students' skills and connections developed within the project continue beyond the initial composition. Links made with community groups are further developed to support students' integration and transition into the wider community.

## TREND/S

### Demographics shifts owing to immigration

While the European Union's overall population is projected to increase slightly between 2005 and 2030, the bulk of that increase will come from net immigration. As a consequence, inclusion (of minorities, immigrants, but also with those with special needs and disabilities) is being recognised as a political priority in many countries.

## VISION (ASPIRATIONS & AIMS)

- to support integration and inclusion through music
- to raise students self-esteem, language and music skills
- to create relationships within the school and with the local community
- to support life transitions of learners who are often excluded

## ENVIRONMENT

- most work organised within schools
- 'cool' space or gallery space – could be a classroom or a 'hub' within the school where musical activity happens
- flexible spaces – could be at home, at university, community group
- performance venues or spaces

## PEOPLE & ROLES

- learners work collaboratively with fellow students and musicians
- teachers and other staff support and guide students through the process of creating a mash up, as well as furthering connections within the community
- teachers gain deeper insight into students' lives and skills.
- music students, community groups, local choirs, local and international musicians in university – as experts

## INTERACTIONS (INCL. PEDAGOGIES)

- music students to motivate and teach music
- teacher coordinating different musical elements
- 'music factory' to facilitate inclusion and integration within school community
- facilitate integration and support transition
- individual voices brought together (as in 'Virtual Choir' - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7o7BrlbaDs>)

## ACTIVITIES

- create and edit musical 'mash-up' performances and videos – individual or small group pieces into a larger composition
- connect students to musical groups and resources within the wider community through and beyond the composition and performance

## RESOURCES (INCL. TECHNOLOGIES)

- high-quality recording equipment (could also use low-quality recording like cell phones)
- music and video editing
- musical instruments
- musicians and musical 'experts'
- digital resources for inspiration
- internet radio, local radio, spaces to broadcast performances and host live performances