



Literacy from Scratch

“Literacy from Scratch” is an innovative curriculum project devised by Lawrence Williams at Brunel University, and developed in the Czech Republic by Dr Mirka Cernochova, assistant Dean of Education, Charles University in Prague. Both institutions work with local partnership schools to develop Scratch projects, together with support materials for teachers. The project is a creative response to the need for UK teachers to develop new skills in computing, but with a simultaneous focus on the development of literacy skills.

While in the UK development is focussed mainly on work in literacy, in Prague the focus is on artistic development, together with computer coding skills in both countries. Recently, these two approaches have been merged.

Since its inception, in September 2012, the project has been presented at national conferences in the UK (for Naace, ITTE, MirandaNet, National Show, and at BETT13 by Year 8 pupils from Bishop Ramsey School), at the World Conference on Computer Education 2013 in Poland (July 2013), and in Slovakia. It has also been adopted in Italy by the University of Torino, and presented in South Korea (Computational Thinking National Conference on 6th December 2013)

This project provides important support for educational Computing nationally, as prescribed in the new Programmes of Study in the UK, and also by the Czech government.

Lawrence is currently editing a new textbook for Routledge: *Introducing Computing: a Guide for Teachers*, which will include some of the work developed at Bishop Ramsey, and at one of Brunel’s Partnership Primary Schools, Swaminarayan, in Neasden.

This project is also published as a free website, created by Lawrence for teachers, at: www.literacyfromscratch.org.uk So far, files are posted in English and Czech languages, with Italian work due soon, and with somework in Gujarati planned for early in the New Year.