

Touch Trust in Hong Kong



Touch Trust was awarded a Connections through Culture grant by the British Council in April 2009 to develop a training initiative at Jockey Club Sarah Roe School and to continue the dialogue with the delegation representatives. Touch Trust staff Dilys Price and Charlotte Aubrey flew out to Hong Kong on the 6th November 2009 for 10 days. They ran three sessions each day in the school: a group session for PMLD, a session for children with autism and also a session for two individuals that were not yet ready for a group session due to their behavioural needs.

In each of the sessions Dilys and Charlotte saw huge improvements over the week. After just the first day each of the children became calmer and more familiar with the format of the session. One young girl who finds it difficult to follow instructions lifted her arms three times when she was asked to by Dilys and then smiled as she was praised. Another young boy with autism who never sits still or relaxes was able to lie with his partner and relax for 10 minutes by the end of the week. Staff at the school said that he would usually crawl around the school but after the Touch Trust session he walked right around the school and back to the classroom. Kit Chan (Vice principal at JCSRS) said "We saw some unexpected miracles from two PMLD students within a very short time. Students with challenging behaviour calmed down quite readily with the music and touch feeling. As a result, teachers, therapists and Education Assistants are all very keen to continue the programme.



During their trip, Dilys and Charlotte met with British Council representatives in Hong Kong and also continued the links with officials from the delegation including visiting Anna Chan at the Hong Kong academy of Performing Arts and also Elissa Yu from the United Task in Movement Education.

