

## **How can questioning be used to achieve target understanding?**

**Key words:** *Target understanding, effective questioning (method, type and response).*

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### **Abstract:**

The issues concerning the implementation of questioning to achieve target understanding were investigated. The research focused on two distinct levels: Firstly the issues surrounding pre-service teachers' implementation of questioning for understanding and secondly the response from pupils to different types and methods of questioning. The on going investigation represents the first action cycle of Action Research and the data collection utilised both qualitative and quantitative methods - a phenomenological approach and a questionnaire and video analysis respectively. The subjects in the first instance were 25 pre-service teachers studying a one year Post Graduate Certificate in Secondary Physical Education. All students were requested to keep a reflective journal of their thoughts, feelings, ideas and progress during their school placements. They were required to complete two video analyses of their teaching, one at the start of their placement, and one at the finish. Every lesson was evaluated in terms of pupil achievement of learning outcomes and one lesson per day was evaluated in terms of the pre-service teachers own achievement against the Teacher Training Agency (TTA) Standards for the award of Qualified Teacher Status. Targets/goals were then set for themselves and pupils.

In the second instance the pre-service teachers were required to interview 3 pupils from the classes they were teaching to gain further insight into the effectiveness of the types and methods of questioning. Before the implementation a series of workshops were conducted

exploring methods and strategies of teaching and learning including questioning. 6 pre-service teachers were interviewed using a semi-structured technique prior to and post their teaching placement.

The Action cycle, which was completed in December 2002, was after the deadline for abstracts. Results will be presented at the conference.