



## **CHANGING PLACES**

**INVOLVING SCHOOLS IN THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION  
OF CASTLEFORD, AIREDALE & FRYSTON  
Pilot Project at Oyster Park Junior School**

### **Geography & Creativity**

#### **PILOT PROJECT OYSTER PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL**

This project grew out of my involvement with community regeneration and was one of two key projects undertaken during 2004–5 that involved primary schools in Castleford, Airedale and Fyston with the regeneration of their communities. Involvement with the project was triggered by the Channel 4 TV production team who were filming the changes happening in the Castleford district.

What is described and evaluated here is the first phase of a pilot project aimed at making geographical learning more creative for a class of children. The project was set up with the support of Adele Poppleton, Senior Development Worker for Arts & Cultural Services, who was able to provide additional money to fund an artist to work with the pilot school later on in the school year.

To support the development of new ways of thinking about their geography curriculum, schools were offered five days of hands-on advisory teacher support from me during the first phase of the project. Schools from Castleford, Airedale and Fyston were invited to show their interest by completing a one sided pro-forma. The chosen school, Oyster Park Junior, was selected by the Castleford Regeneration Education Steering Group in consultation with Adele Poppleton and myself.

This report is mainly my personal view of what happened during our phase of developing new teaching and learning activities and an accompanying scheme of work for environmental geography. I could not have produced it without the very active support of class teacher and geography co-ordinator Marie Stevens, the help of classroom assistant Miss Kirby nor without the enthusiastic involvement of the children from Class 4.

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