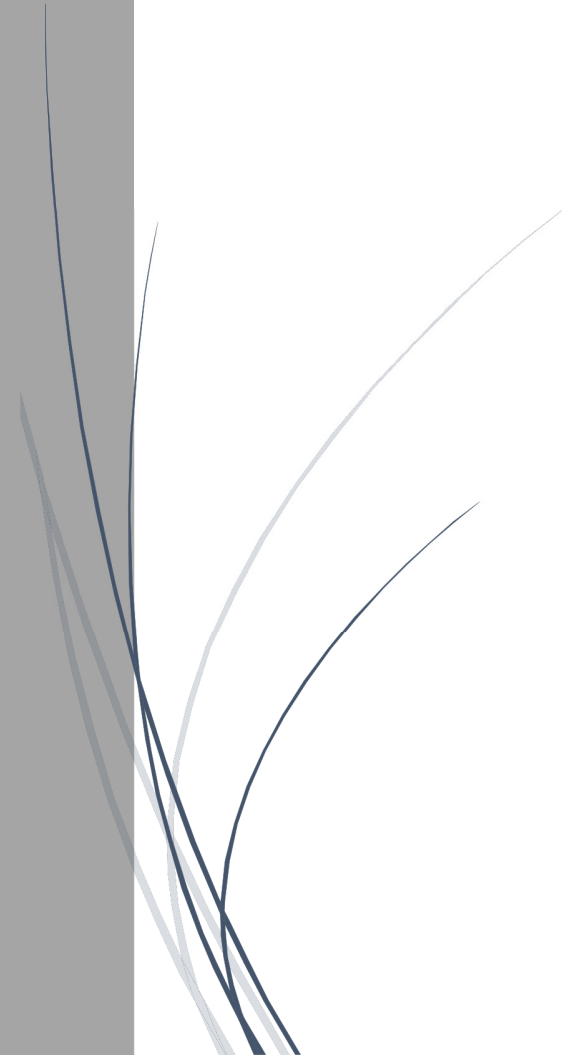




Research summary

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Introduction

This report provides the findings of an external evaluation of the Entrepreneurial Spirit Programme (ESP). The evaluation was conducted by a team from the Scottish Centre for Research in Education (SCRE) and the Department of Educational Studies within the Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow. The evaluation was undertaken between January 2004 and September 2005.

The ESP was piloted in six Scottish schools under the Scottish Executive Education Department's Future Learning and Teaching (FLaT) Programme. The ESP was devised by Mindscreen, a private company based in Leith, which specialises in developing systems that incorporate computerised behavioural and attitudinal analysis programmes. The overall ESP had two components, both informed by the results of an online psychometric profiling of pupils' characteristics and qualities:

- ❖ A nine-session course (Mindscreen Experience or Macro course) provided in three of the six pilot schools' Personal and Social Development (PSD) curriculum, that aimed to promote S2 (12-13 year old) pupils' personal development and aspirations. The Mindscreen Experience course was delivered to 360 pupils. This nine-week course was intended to be taught by teachers who were trained by Mindscreen. Ultimately, this model was only possible in two of the three schools providing the Mindscreen Experience course. This was because those originally trained were unable to teach to the course in the third school due to other commitments.

- ❖ A two-year programme (entrepreneurial spirit or micro programme) for S2 pupils whose psychometric profile identified them as possessing entrepreneurial characteristics. This programme, provided in all six pilot schools, aimed to promote pupils' entrepreneurial skills and broader personal development. In particular, it was hoped that this component of the ESP would increase the likelihood that participants would become future entrepreneurs. Participating pupils were commonly referred to as 'micro' group pupils. This component of the ESP was not compulsory; each pupil made their own choice to join or leave. Eighty-five participants were involved at the beginning of the programme with forty seven completing the full 2 year course. It was delivered outside of school premises, solely by two entrepreneurial facilitators.

Research summary



Main findings (macro PSD course)

Teachers generally believed that the Mindscreen Experience course had had a positive impact on pupils.

In particular it was seen as having:

- ❖ Promoted pupils' awareness of their strengths and helped them to consider possible options for the future
- ❖ Promoted pupils' self-confidence
- ❖ Promoted their ability to reflect and make choices based on their original Mindscreen profiles
- ❖ Promoted quieter pupils' participation in lessons and in the life of the school

Main Findings (micro programme)

There was consensus across pupils, teachers and parents concerning the positive impact of the micro programme, in terms of effective and shorter-term outcomes for micro group participants. These included:

- ❖ Improvements in self-confidence and self-esteem
- ❖ Improvement in social skills
- ❖ Improvements in presentation and communication skills
- ❖ An increase in willingness to be proactive
- ❖ Evidence of goal setting, planning, and taking forward ideas in a constructive way
- ❖ Increased status among peers
- ❖ Some pupils in one school, identified as "difficult", were making progress including increased application and motivation in lessons

Note 1

A progress report conducted by Mindscreen in 2014, 10 years after project completion, revealed: **47% lower unemployment** rates among participating pupils, compared with the 2014 UK national unemployment statistics for all young people aged 16-24. It also revealed that **18% had started their own business**, compared with the 2014 UK national business birth rate statistics of 13.7% for all eligible adults.

Note 2

SCRE was subsumed into the new Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change in the School of Education at the University of Glasgow: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/education/robertowencentre/>