



Confident Communicators (formerly known as Gift of the Gabs) was created in 2003 in response to a request from a local Primary School when founder, Libby Hammond, was asked to help pupils to develop their confidence in presentation abilities. Since then Confident Communicators has continued to expand, develop and diversify and is now working with schools and communities across the UK and Internationally

Tailored to suit any age group or academic level, the Confident Communicators Programme provides the foundation for progressive levels of communication, interpersonal and social skills. Providing full resources and support for teachers, the programme enriches the curriculum by allowing teachers access to alternative classroom activities and teaching methods. Adaptable to any curriculum, Confident Communicators can be run as part of an overall teaching plan or as a stand-alone module, such as Life-Skills, Citizenship or PSHE. In individual subjects, Confident Communicators can be used to encourage participants to conduct research, work as part of a team and develop effective communication abilities through the speaking opportunities which arise as part of school life. Confident Communicators resources include:

- Programme (includes teacher resource and games resource manuals)
- Optional Workshops to engage the young people in positive communication
- Modules covering: PSHE, Citizenship, Lifeskills, Leadership, Teamwork, Integration and Interview skills.
- CPD for staff and training a lead member of staff to ensure sustainability
- Talking Triangle Poster
- Optional Competition

Confident Communicators work with individual schools as well as local education authorities.

How it works

1. When you contact us we arrange to meet – this can be with a school or local authority - to discuss the needs of the young people. The Programme can be used with a specific year group or integrated across the whole school.
2. Dates and times are agreed for delivering CPD and Workshops (if requested).
3. Lead teacher is trained under Licence for long-term sustainability and CPD takes place.
4. Baseline pupil stats are taken to measure outcomes at the end of the school year.
5. Pupils give their class talks during the year and workshops delivered on agreed dates.
6. Completion stats are taken and outcomes evaluated. All participants receive Achievement Certificates and schools can enter the optional competition.



CPD Training

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Confident Communicators ensures sustainability and long term support by establishing expertise at local level. It offers specialist CPD training to nominated individuals within schools and the community which will empower them to sustain the positive changes realised by the programme.

- Available to any interested staff
- Teaches different learning styles
- Affirming and enjoyable training sessions - builds self-confidence
- Shows how to integrate and deliver Programme material into existing curriculum requirements without adding to the teacher's workload
- Demonstrates the key behavioural models of Confident Communicators from a pupils perspective
- Teaches how to support pupil behavioural and emotional needs through positive discipline
- A CPD certificate will be issued to all participants
- CPD is available on-line

Programme – Schools

Nursery and Primary Level.

Confident Communicators provides a package for Nursery and Primary Schools which incorporates a full resource manual for teachers, along with a games manual, CPD and optional Workshops from our team. By using the Talking Triangle which highlights the need for Honesty, Respect and Good Choices, teachers can reinforce good behaviour in class and to realise the importance of Life-Long Learning. Fun games and activities can focus on Literacy & Numeracy as well as games having a specific goal that develops social and emotional aspects of learning as well as academic skills. The events culminate with an optional competition in which schools from across the local area compete.

Secondary Level

Confident Communicators provides material and activities tailored to suit every year of Secondary Education, with no restrictions on the academic abilities of the participating pupils. Workshops are of particular benefit in helping transition from primary to secondary school as well as engaging potential NEET's. In addition our material has been produced to provide modules covering PSHE, Life Skills, Citizenship amongst others. Sustainability is ensured by training a lead teacher under Licence.

Special Educational Needs.

Confident Communicators provides material tailored to allow pupils in A.S.N Schools and Departments, access to programmes and interventions not normally available, such as Business Mentors and Links, as well as preparing pupils for the challenges they may face outside of School or in Further Education.



Further Education:

A broad spectrum of material is available for further educational establishments, including interview skills classes, adult returners, More Choices More Chances, Jobseekers and anyone seeking to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. Confident Communicators helps individuals who have been distanced from employment or education by working with them to develop the confidence and core skills needed to make the transition from their current environment or circumstances

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Benefits for Pupils

Confidence for lifelong learning
Improved Presentational Skills
Improved Oral Literacy
Improved Speaking & Listening Skills
Improved Writing and Storytelling Skills.
Improved Interpersonal Skills
Appreciation for Positive Discipline
Realisation and Appreciation of Natural Talent
Better understanding of how to Positively Influence with Enthusiasm
Development of positive Self Respect and growth in their own Self Esteem.
Engagement in positive reflection, self-assessment and goal-setting as a gateway to success.

Benefits for Teachers and Tutors

Help set the ground rules for communication using the Talking Triangle
Integrates easily into any curriculum.
All materials are downloadable
Online access to teaching videos
Confident Communicators materials updated regularly.
Telephone and Technical Support provided.
Opportunity to enter class into optional competition.

Workshops (Optional)

The Confident Communicators Workshops are specialist communication courses designed to develop confidence, character and strengthen interpersonal skills as part of life-long learning. Delivered by an expert team who work *with* the school to ensure delivery of the most appropriate workshop content focused on meeting the needs of participants. Tailored to suit, but usually lasting no less than half a day, the workshops can run for classes of up to 40 pre-selected pupils, with schools retaining the ability to select groups of pupils who will most benefit from the content of the workshop.

In addition to the Workshops, activity sessions are available. Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in activities themed on encouraging the use of effective communication skills. Activities include Murder Mystery, where participants must learn how to spot body language and ask the right questions in order to solve the Crime, or Mad Inventors, in which participants have to work together in a team to come up with an invention to present to a panel of judges.

As part of social education Confident Communicators has created a Lifeskills Module* which aims to support the Personal and Social Education framework for secondary school pupils, and integrates with the national curriculum requirements for social education.

(*Designed in conjunction with Sharon McLean of Wallace Hall Academy).



A celebration of the individual and a measure of how pupils have grown in confidence and developed their presentation skills over the school year.

Enjoyable and beneficial:

- It is optional, schools can run their own competition in-house or join in the regional and national competitions
- Judging criteria is based on who engages the audience not who gives the 'best technical' presentation
- Pupils and teachers choose who they want to represent them, based on who has grown most in confidence - it is not a popularity contest
- Pupils sit on the judging panel
- Criteria for judges includes eye contact, enthusiasm and preparation (different criteria for A.S.N pupils)
- Certificates for all participants
- Prizes at inter-school level tailored to pupils and teachers requirements
- Positive publicity for the school with potential business links

Further feedback can be found on our [downloadable Impact Report](#).

Miss Laura Baird Class Teacher Stenhousemuir PS - Second year of involvement in the programme.

The programme offered a focused and well-presented approach to teaching talking and listening skills to the class. It encouraged pupils to learn independently and to use their own individual strengths in a very positive way.

There were many cross-curricular links apparent which allowed the programme to integrate into the curriculum without becoming an 'extra' or an added pressure on the timetable of the class. Perhaps most notably it tied in with the listening and talking strands of English language. Pupils' presentation skills were greatly improved and by the end of the process they had a much greater awareness of engaging with their audience and also how to listen more effectively in order to question/give feedback.

There were also links to PSC/Citizenship due to the subject matter of the talks, but also because of the development of interpersonal skills and relationships with their peers. The programme also complimented the enterprise curriculum, as pupils were required to plan and organise their own work, and make decisions on how to present their talks. I know for many pupils this developed ICT skills as they looked to the internet for research and used ICT to make visual aids and props to enhance their presentations.

The programme presented an excellent opportunity to practise and develop aspects of formative assessment which was already in operation in the class. Asking pupils to self-evaluate allowed them to become more aware of their strengths and more positive about themselves. Peer assessment required them to listen carefully and gave them a real purpose for their listening.

Every pupil participated in the class competition at the end of the programme, even pupils who had previously not been confident speakers. I was extremely impressed with the inventiveness, confidence and individuality of each presentation. I feel I learned a lot about my class as a result of the topic they chose and the way in which they presented it.

Importantly, no matter how long, how original or how topical each talk was, they were received in a very positive way by the rest of the class.



Darren Donnelly Modern Studies Teacher

Sanquhar Academy (March 2009)

Report on Involvement with Confident Communicators

I have worked with Confident Communicators in S1 and S2 to provide whole year group confidence building, active learning and positive thinking workshops.

My present S2 pupils are the first to have had the experience in S1 and S2. Whilst it was an introduction to confidence training I, and many colleagues, felt that it paved the way for the development of confidence learning in a wider way in the school.

I produced a Confident Learning unit which will be delivered to all S1/2 pupils next term. The ease with which young pupils especially are willing to contribute in a pro-active and positive way in class should be, and is now, encouraged more in Sanquhar Academy.

Partly my unit was inspired by what the children could achieve at the workshops and through exploring concepts of self awareness introduced to them in the programme.

Sanquhar Academy has given me permission to attend Confident Communicators workshops and meetings with Libby Hammond (creator) and other teachers involved, particularly Sharon Mclean of Wallacehall. It was the first whole school initiative I participated in, being new to the school and I personally found that the positive atmosphere and encouragement fostered in the group, as well as hearing the impact of confident learning on my pupils, really enthused me.

As well as remaining involved in the programme in S1/S2 I was able to collect some awards which commended the efforts of my pupils in the junior years, it was acknowledged by the region's Determined to Succeed, that Confident Communicators helped make a difference and that Sanquhar Academy was a developing and leading school in giving pupils responsibility.

Were it not for the initial involvement of Confident Communicators, then other school initiatives I have been instrumental in may not have taken place.

The S5/6 Interview Skills Group which was organised initially by Libby, had mentors from Lloyds TSB assist the group of pupils who wanted to get information as to the modern workplace and its demands. They are still heavily involved and both Libby and I are keen that this continues as the confidence of these pupils has developed with rapidity. They themselves asked if we could change the purpose of the group and they decided to pursue community and group benefit rather than their own academic and career goals.

The manner in which these senior pupils organised themselves and presented their reasoning to me, left me in no doubt that they, in completing community research they wanted to do, would do a wonderful job of it.

Page | 7 Utilising everything from body language, posture, diction and accent to survey and interview techniques, even recording and evaluating results, these senior pupils each contributed to the school and its community links.

Whilst pupils worked without structured help, and it was their own time and effort deployed, I feel that were it not for the involvement of Confident Communicators and Lloyds TSB as a catalyst and guide, then our group may not have had the huge impact which is evident.

My pupils are now involved in:

- Cross curricular work in schools, working with other pupils and teachers on shared learning outcomes.
- A more shared and sustained sense of purpose in school and community
- Links with Primary Schools and Adult Literacy Agencies
- School Council
- School Charities "Commission"
- Parents/pupils extra curricular activities

This more than ably meets the demand of even the most rigorous HMIE inspection with regard to pupil opportunities. It even excels the Citizenship pre-requisites and will, I know, be a beacon in Sanquhar Academy in introducing Curriculum for Excellence across departments.

Yet, what is more, these pupils I have mentored and supported have developed in confidence, and consequently in expectation and behaviour.

My S5/6 group were not all academically able, but all have attained above the expectations placed upon them. The programme opened the door to the opportunity that they seized. I will work with the Confident Communicators programme for I have found over two years that with effort, teaching support and determination, it enables pupils with



Pricing 2009/10

Pricing is flexible. Where schools work together in clusters, costs can be reduced. In addition, training a lead member of staff will ensure sustainability and low costs. We also look at ensuring the work we do, can be carried out within any budget restraints so please call us for a quote.

Pricing below includes staff CPD, training lead teacher, resource material, and competition entry.

Programme

Primary Schools	£50 - £1500
Licence Renewal	£50 - £250*
Secondary Schools	£900 - £2000
Licence Renewal	£750*

*Includes Licence renewal for Lead Teacher

Optional Specialist Workshops

Workshops costs include staff CPD, training lead teacher, resource material, Licence renewal and competition entry.

Half Day, One Day or Two Day	£800 - £8000
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Modules

PSHE, Citizenship, Leadership	£ Prices on application
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Trainers

Training nominated staff to deliver CPD	£250 per teacher p.a.
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CPD

Additional CPD session	£900 - £2000
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VAT, if applicable, will be charged at the appropriate rate