**The Language of Photography**

# Top tips- getting started

**Systems and management**

**Cameras**

We recommend visiting a major retailer (e.g.PC World/ Curry’s) and discussing your needs with them. If you are buying a few they should do a deal, especially if you say you are working with children. Most compact cameras around the £60-£80 mark will be perfectly adequate (Ideally over 700 million pixels ) Also consider a good size screen, simple buttons, and picture icons rather than word instructions. Looking at the PC world website there are some great offers in the sale. The better quality the camera the better the results will be.

**Preparation**

Ensure camera always available and in a central location and accessible to the children.

Make sure you keep camera battery charged. (Maybe charge routinely at the end of day and overnight)

Empty memory cards regularly to ensure there is available space.

Make sure the lead to connect camera to pc is available and stored in safe place.

**File size**

Shoot at largest image size for highest quality. (You may not get so many images on a disk but if we want to use them in an exhibition they must be highest resolution possible.

Set camera to AWB (automatic white balance)

**Downloading images**

Download images as soon as possible after shooting to prevent deletion or corruption of files, and to free space on memory card.

**Filing and retrieval**

Create a folder per project and within this create Sub folders dated and named. If each child has a folder with their name , you can easily drop their photos in this, or even the children can do this themselves.

If a child has taken a series of photographs you should download them all, and then edit/delete with the child. The images you think are most interesting or best, may be different for them. However it is important that you delete any which do not have meaning to the child or you can end up with an unmanageable amount of images.

**Printing images**

For optimal images print at 300dpi (dots per inch)

Preferably use photo quality paper for best results

Print images as thumbnails if there are many for children/adult review discussion.

Ensure you have a good working printer. (It will not do justice to the childs photos if the print quality is poor

**To view in Picture Manager**

Picture manager is included in Microsoft office and provides a very quick and easy way to view a folder of images on your computer.

First ensure all the images in the file are orientated (portrait/landscape) correctly. When you open the file, and click on a picture, picture manager should appear at the top. Then **View as slide show**

**Powerpoint**

Open powerpoint programme

Choose slide format with picture icon

Insert picture (or insert a whole file by going to ‘insert’ then ‘Pictures from file’ and then select the pictures you want.

Click on picture

Click compress

Choose screen resolution.

This will reduce the size of the images in the powerpoint file and make it easier to run, copy, download.

**The camera as a creative tool**

The digital camera and simple software like Adobe Elements or Photoshop, allow children to be playful with imagery, to transform themselves, to appear and disappear.

The digital darkroom can bring a special kind of magic into the classroom.

‘Little circles.’

***Related images here.***