



**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2009**

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## **Unique radio podcasting platform for schools launches across the UK, backed by the national radio industry**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009: Unique radio podcasting platform 'Radio in Schools' launches nationally on **Monday 2nd March**, supported by the UK's largest commercial radio network, Global Radio.

Radio in Schools is a podcasting portal that promotes speaking, listening and creativity across the Curriculum and beyond. It offers schools, teachers and pupils a safe platform to showcase their work, space to store files and strong links to the professional radio industry. Schools can showcase the best podcasts to their local community on their own Radio in Schools home page and link these directly to their school website. The service also encourages parental partnership by allowing users to easily create podcasts at home.

In a worldwide first, the initiative allows schools to create, edit and upload audio online through the easy to use Virtual Studio; there is no need to download and install software and no technical knowledge is required.

### **Melissa Thom, Managing Director of Radio in Schools comments:**

"Radio in Schools aims to improve the speaking and listening skills of young people through the innovative use of radio and ICT across the curriculum. The Virtual Studio is totally unique; it's very easy to use and we've developed it to make the whole process of making podcasts simple and non-technical. Strong links with Global Radio, the Heart network and the professional radio industry really motivate pupils to produce work that has a real chance of ending up on their local radio station. By providing real and engaging learning opportunities, Radio in Schools empowers schools, teachers and parents to produce content they are really proud of'.

### **Jane Carter, Senior Primary Lecturer at the University of the West of England says:**

"Radio in Schools is a pioneering, exciting and dynamic project that seeks to address the fundamental educational issues that affect Literacy teaching in schools today. The service enables children to explore their own areas of interest and provide them with a platform for the discussion of current concerns. Meeting the demands of the curriculum through challenging, relevant and engaging means is right at the heart of the design and use of Radio in Schools. It is a flexible tool that allows the teacher and learner to explore their own creativity through its use."

Radio in Schools is supported by Global Radio and will roll out across the Heart network this year.

### **Luis Clark, Group Programme Director for Heart said:**

"The Heart network is proud to be supporting Radio in Schools. It's a fantastic service that gives schools, children and young people the opportunity to get their voice heard and safely

share their views with the local community. Heart wants to support communities and encourage our next generation of listeners. Radio in Schools helps to make this a reality”.

The service provides exclusive links to the radio industry including radio resources, top tips, guides and podcasts from some of the country’s most respected radio presenters. Competitions linked to local radio stations, visits to local schools and radio station tours are all planned across the country. Radio in Schools is also supported by the National Literacy Trust.

**Fiona Lewis, Head of Communications at the NLT comments:**

“Speaking and listening is the foundation of literacy but is too often overlooked. This is despite studies showing that speaking and listening is the literacy skill most used in the world of work. Without vital literacy skills, children’s opportunities will be limited throughout adult life. Projects like Radio in Schools could help more children to gain the skills they need to fulfil their potential.”

Radio in Schools has already run a successful pilot across Bristol with over 30% of local schools now signed up to the service. Two Mile Hill Primary School have been running the project since October 2008.

**Jill Marsh, Head Teacher said:**

“Radio in Schools is a really useful tool because it gives the children a real reason to go back to a piece of writing and keep editing and improving it. The website and the Virtual Studio are simplicity itself, and the children really do feel like they are working in radio. Having a safe platform to showcase the children’s work to parents and friends of the school is fantastic. Radio in Schools is a key tool in raising standards in reading and writing, and if this doesn’t help us to raise standards with some of our boys, I don’t know what will”.

Schools can sign up now for a free 30 day trial of the service at [www.radioinschools.co.uk](http://www.radioinschools.co.uk). For more information, contact Radio in Schools on 0117 9005388 or email [info@radioinschools.co.uk](mailto:info@radioinschools.co.uk)

**Photo attachments:**

- Pupils from Cotham Secondary School, Bristol (Eloise Savill, Grace Benson and Elisha Walters) with Radio in Schools Director, Melissa Thom
- Radio in Schools Virtual Studio Screen Shot

Visuals/interviews available on request.

Full results of the pilot study evaluation available on request.

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editors**

- Radio in Schools is an independent, not for profit organisation For more details go to [www.radioinschools.co.uk](http://www.radioinschools.co.uk), call Melissa Thom on 0117 9005388 / 07765 240764 or email: [Melissa@radioinschools.co.uk](mailto:Melissa@radioinschools.co.uk)
- Radio in Schools has been produced in partnership with Global Radio and the Heart Network and media agency Nomos Media [www.nomosmedia.com](http://www.nomosmedia.com), utilising their unique AudioEnable™ technology: For more information for to <http://www.nomosmedia.com/technology.html>
- Radio in Schools is supported by The National Literacy Trust, The University of the West of England, The Children’s Online Protection Centre, The South West Grid for Learning and TLT solicitors.