

# Case Study



At Blackburn Central the girls all started by being introduced to the loop pedal. This allows them to work on relatively short sections of song and build them up vertically instead of hearing the song on the horizontal which is the more usual way of working.

All groups tried laying small ideas either using rhythmic snippets or short riffs and then fitting others into the gaps or harmonising up above the first idea. Only a few girls were prepared to use their own voices on the loop pedal though some guided me and told me what to put down....which is still a step better than totally disengaged!

One girl didn't engage with this method at all and chose to work on her song horizontally, looking at rhythm and rhyme and scanning her thoughts.

2/4 girls wrote complete songs using the loop pedal method and 2 recorded the song themselves in the end.... employing harmony, and a repeated rhythmic loop underneath.

1 girl only engaged with songwriting when it was comedy...and not in the usually preferred pop style. Once she found her rhythm she made me lay down our verses of a black comedy song with 8 verses.

Generally this group were timid about using their own voices, and didn't want to record and hear back. Well done to the two who did!

At Shadsworth the groups were much braver and were very willing to record themselves and experiment. They began with the same process as at Blackburn Central... being introduced to the loop pedal.

The boys group developed a very cheeky answering back experimental track...playing with rhythms and language using the loop machine to it's fullest capacity.... they then went on to create a horror song over a beatbox riff. They wrote together and took a verse each to record themselves. Their interest was in the rhythm and rhyme in the song. In the final week they used a song they all knew and learned the harmonies to sing with each other.

The girls only felt safe using a pop song they already knew and then listened to potential harmonies added to the song. They developed this idea over the visits and by the last visit were able to sing a well known song in 3 part harmony... though a tad shaky.

They were less successful in the final stage of actually laying down a track from their experiments but I was so happy with their exploring I didn't mind!

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