

Inspire European Innovation Group (IEIG) Erasmus + project report. June 2020

The project got off to a great start in 2020!

Mobility 2 January 2020

In January 19 members of staff including class teachers, SMT and Teaching Assistants from 8 consortium member schools attended a one week course entitled: **Enhancing Teaching and Learning through effective use of Teaching Assistants and Support Staff in Malaga Spain.**

The course was designed to help staff develop a clear understanding of strategies to support learner's independence and metacognition. Specifically, the course addressed: understanding the role of teaching assistants and support staff to be fully prepared for effective questioning and feedback techniques to develop pupils' independent learning skills, build resilience and manage their own learning. It included visits to local schools and centres of cultural interest.

Evaluations.

Feedback during the week and after the course has been very positive
The following example of feedback captures the overall evaluations and demonstrates the links with the overall aims of the project:

What will you take back to school to share with your colleagues? How does this relate to the main focus of the IEIG project?

- “Ensuring that Teaching Assistants are being deployed effectively enough in the classroom to support children to become independent and more collaborative learners, by utilising scaffolding strategies that allow children to take the lead.
- I will implement the EEF ‘TA recommendations’ framework with the Teaching Assistant in my class so that we both understand the steps which must be taken to ensure children are making significant progress.
- I will introduce new apps such as ‘Triptico’ and ‘Comic Life’ and give demonstrations to colleagues how to use them effectively.
- I will make use of strategies for effective speaking and listening amongst students, such as the ‘multi-link’ strategy during group talk and the hand signals to express whether children agree or disagree with their peers during class discussions.
- I will incorporate strategies to continue to promote growth mind-set thinking from my students, setting them ‘mini-goals’ and using feedback in a way that praises the process, not the product. “

All practical arrangements for travel, pre course meeting and follow up were well organised and we were able to cope with last minute emergencies such as colleagues having to pull out at the last minute due to personal issues, find a replacement and reorganise travel etc with help and support from the partner schools. So far, so good!

Reported impact in school

Termly IEIG leads meeting have been planned into the project timeline to evaluate the impact in schools. The Leads meeting planned for March 25th was postponed due to Covid 19 , the next meeting is planned for July 2nd when each school will be asked to feedback on the response from the individual participants and indicate the impact of actions that have taken place to date/ are planned as a result of each mobility.

All schools are required to report on the project through their school website/ newsletter / social media.

A brief report proforma will be sent out to each school Lead prior to the meeting in July.

The Project during Covid 19 .

Mobilities 3 and 4 to Italy and Sweden were due to take place in March and April 2020 but have been postponed due to the pandemic. All future dates for courses are also under review.

In May 2020, following discussions with the British Council, Lorraine, Ali and LEAP, the course provider, we decided the best course of action for our partner schools would be to apply to Erasmus +for a 12 month extension to the project and this was granted so we now have until May 2022 to complete the project.

As a result of the extension we have suspended any work on the project until we have clarity and assurance that travel can take place, school visits are reinstated and colleagues can participate in safety.

We have incurred minimal expenses for the postponed courses which are covered as essential costs under the Erasmus + 'force majeure' scheme.

M Tulley 9th June 2020