

# **ASK European Innovation Group (AEIG) Erasmus + project report. December 2019**

## **What is the AEIG project?**

Following a successful bid for Erasmus + Key Action 1 funding for a 2 year project from September 2019 – July 2021, 150 members of staff from 10 partner schools will take part in fully funded international CPD courses facilitated by the training provider LEAP (Language Education and Partnerships).

The AEIG group was formed in October 2018 and objectives were agreed as a result of the priorities identified during whole school reviews carried out by ASK.

The project aims to provide its partners with the opportunity to come together and work on enhancing practice across all schools in the consortium through addressing shared objectives across 3 main strategic pathways:

P1: Leadership of teaching and learning: Develop the leadership skills of all staff through leadership development opportunities and support networks facilitating sharing and evaluation of good practice.

P2 Pedagogy : Developing staff competences in teaching and learning through the experience and observation of practice and training in other countries.

P3: Internationalisation of learning :Support curriculum development and encourage collaboration, exchange and sharing of practice with peers locally and in Europe.

## **Who is leading and developing the project?**

Ali Buttress and Mary Tulley on behalf of ASK coordinate this project. They are responsible for managing the budget, booking all travel, collating all required documentation and reports to The British Council / Erasmus + using their online mobility tool and completing a final report at the end of the project.

Each partner school has nominated an AEIG Lead who is responsible for developing and coordinating the project in their own school,

disseminating information about the impact of the project to their colleagues, parents and carers and governing bodies and for reporting back to the AEIG group, sharing action plans and ideas.

Each member of staff attending the different courses is also responsible for developing an action plan to bring back to the school to share.

ASK and the AEIG Leads agreed clear agreed protocols for positive, professional engagement in the project, which were shared at the pre course meeting.

### **Who is providing the training for the project?**

The courses selected are structured courses provided by LEAP who as a training provider is an experienced organisation, recognised for high quality training events abroad. LEAP has worked with many local schools and is well known by the coordinators as a well-established and reliable provider. We have worked with many schools who have attended their training and have seen the positive impact such courses have had on schools, staff and pupils. All of their courses focus on developing teaching and learning across a range of subject areas in order to improve and enhance the curriculum, which is in line with the aims of our project.

For further descriptions of the course and the timescale of the project please see the attached AEIG Course description sheet.

### **Who are the partner schools?**

The 10 member schools are:

Higham Ferrers Nursery & Infant School
Mawley Primary School
Hartwell Primary School
St Brendans Catholic Primary Scvhool
Wollaston Primary School
Our Ladys of Walsingham
The Abbey Primary School
St Edwards Catholic Primary School
Standens Barn Primary School
Bridgewater Primary School

## **What has happened to date?**

### ***Mobility 1. Italy November 2019***

Each training course is referred to as mobility and the first group of 18 members of staff (SMT, CTs and TAs) from 7 partner schools recently spent a week in Bologna looking at '**Creative approaches in early years and pre-school education.**'

At the pre course meeting most colleagues described themselves as excited if a little nervous to be leaving their families and their classes and for many this was the first time they had travelled alone for many years. During the course each member of staff was required to complete a daily reflective diary on the key learning points of the day and detail how they would develop this on their return to school. The AEIG Leads used this to report back at our termly meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Key points of the feedback are:

- Excellent organisation for travel and pre course information and support during the mobility from ASK
- High quality training course with a clear focus on professional development
- Informative cultural and shared learning experiences with useful and practical visits to a range of settings
- Strong collaborative networks between partner schools are developing
- Colleagues feel refreshed, motivated, excited and rejuvenated
- Confidence boost on a professional and personal level
- The project has created a 'buzz' throughout the school, several changes have already been introduced to improve the learning environment and implement routines for developing independence and responsibility in the children
- Action plans have been developed and shared in some cases though some schools were waiting for the second group to attend the same course in March 2020 before finalising action plans

## **How has information about the project been shared?**

St Edwards have created a blog:

<https://stedwardserasmus.wixsite.com/website>

Other schools have reported on the course through their Facebook pages.

Mawsley PS have created a newsletter (see attached document).

## **What do we need to improve about the project? What are we doing about it?**

*Reflective evaluations vary in quality.*

Some colleagues listed descriptions of activities without reflecting on how this experience will impact on their practice. M Tulley raised this with the AEIG Leads at the feedback meeting and several colleagues have revisited and improved their evaluations since. M Tulley will make this more explicit at the next Pre Course meeting in January.

*Dissemination of information varies from school to school.*

Leads have now shared their different approaches such as Blogs/newsletters etc and M Tulley will follow up with individual schools and at the feedback meeting planned for March 2020.

*Feedback on the quality of service provided by Moulton Mini bus service for transfers from Northampton to Heathrow Airport was very poor. We have now booked Poynters for the January mobility to Malaga.*

M Tulley December 2019