

## **Minutes from Erasmus Meeting at The Dales School: 23rd to 26th September 2019**

### **Project: Creative Learning in Action**

#### **Present:**

Germany: Annette Groß, Heike Schlösser, Thomas Vossmann (Janusz-Korczak-Schule)

Denmark: Karen Wikenhauser, Betina Jensen

Portugal: Madalena Cordeiro, Fernanda Cachaço, Liliana Eastro

England: Tracy Park, Emma Allison

#### **24th of September 2019**

#### **Agenda:**

- School Tour
- Presentations of the schools
- Evaluation Part 1
- Introduction of the new school building „Ashdales“

#### **1. School Tour**

By visiting the school building and ground the participants got a lot of impressions about how space can be used in a creative way, e.g. a lot of drawn games for learning counting and spelling and for movement on the court or the furnishment of a very small room as soft play area.

#### **2. Presentations of the schools**

**Agrupamento de Escolas de Vialonga:** The participants from Portugal showed a summary of their project work during two years in several subjects and with a lot of different activities. They told about the development in their school e.g. the better integration of teachers and pupils of the Inclusion Unit into the school community and the collaboration between special needs teachers and regular teachers by planning lessons in teams.

**Heinrich-Böll-Schule:** The participants from Germany introduced the development of teachers work during the last two years and especially the success of the last months, when expanding the work to the whole staff of the school was possible. They described the elements of a creative curriculum they want to implement in their school: a) Project-related collaborative work in working group(s) b) Creative meetings with all staff c) Anchoring the exhibition of educational work and programmes of activities for families in the concept of the annual school festival d) Material fund

**The Dales School:** The Dales School summarized the results of implementing a „Big Plan“ in their school, a creative meeting to hook the staff and find hooks for children to interest them for learning. They improved their culture of „sharing good practice“, they shared informations from internal and external professionals and they improved their supportive network for families. By being a member of the Teaching School Alliance they communicated through a wider network and shared good practice with other schools in England, too. Another advantage they described is that staff have been empowered to ask for support if needed and know where to go for help.

**Tarm Skole:** The participants from Tarm Skole described their work on „Weather“ and showed some films the pupils designed on themselves (Weather forecast) They told about the development of their school during the project and reported about difficulties in their

work, e.g. just a very few colleagues were engaged in the project. Nevertheless they could present first successes in working in a Team and bringing pupils together.

**Janusz-Korczak-Schule:** Janusz-Korczak-Schule introduced the structure of their project work and gave an impression about how to organize goal orientated work for the whole staff (big group). They showed some results of pupils work. Finally they described the development and the process of decision about Engagement of their school in further Erasmus projects.

### **3. Evaluation Part 1**

Evaluation work was originally orientated to the questions of the final report. It developed to an open discussion and advising situation. Schools described in a very open way their difficulties and all participants tried to give advice, support and help. Some of the questions we discussed:

- How can we succeed to motivate more colleagues for project work?
- What is necessary concerning the role of head teachers? How can we include them and get their support?

### **4. The new school**

All participants were invited to visit the new school building and see what kinds of creative learning will be possible because of planning special rooms.

## **25th of September 2019**

- **Evaluation Part 2**
- **Farewell trip to Alnwick Castle**

### **1. Evaluation Part 2**

- Orientated to the questions of the final report we discussed the impact the project have had in our schools.
- We spoke about communication ways during the project. We agreed that it would be better to have three meetings during a school year. Sometimes it was tiring to solve problems via mail or phone.
- We spoke about the lack of Blog posts since May/June. Annette reminded the colleagues that the last topic should be presented in the Blog, too.
- We made sure that all schools are at a different point of the process of implementing Erasmus Projects in their school. The beginning with a few teachers is as worthy as the work of the experienced schools who are working with the whole staff.
- We discussed ways of keeping in touch and sharing ideas in the future.

### **2. Farewell Trip to Alnwick Castle**

We spent a wonderful last afternoon in Alnwick Castle and enjoyed a farewell Dinner.

Thank you to all participants for their tremendous work and especially to Tracy for the fantastic organisation of the meeting!