

Title: Intercultural stories

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Objectives

In this teaching practice the aims were to involve pupils and staff in intercultural dialogue, where they could share ideas, opinions and views on activities and issues addressed throughout the project, thus enhancing communication skills in both mother tongue and foreign languages, aiming at: a) developing a sense of European citizenship based on understanding, respect and tolerance of different cultures, human rights and democracy; b) providing greater motivation for reading and writing for both genders, through intercultural stories and activities; c) and finally providing pupils with cross-curricular learning activities that can contribute to their overall development by helping them to have an increased awareness of their own culture and language(s) and those of the other participating countries.

Methodology

There were 7 countries implicated in this project. Each country started a story set in their own country at the same time, which would then be swapped to the next country crossing all the countries. The stories had approximately 10 sentences long. Stories were written in own mother tongue and translated into English and Pupils had to research some of the places and objects mentioned in the chapters from different countries.

Conclusions

Both pupils and staff gained a greater understanding of their own and other cultures which will foster greater tolerance and respect towards any culture different to their own. Pupils and staff developed a better sense of being a European citizen. Also improved their knowledge of Europe and its specificities and also gained awareness of the importance of their mother tongue and the importance of learning new languages, especially English. Pupils developed a positive attitude to foreign languages and an interest in learning them through having an opportunity to practise these through intercultural dialogue with European peers.