

"VALUES IN SCHOOL LIFE AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS"



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An Outline of Our Project

Abstract

*The **Values in School Life and School Celebrations eTwinning project** develops democratic citizenship through curricular and extracurricular activities to help students to explore issues of intercultural education. The partner schools' contributions are discussed through e-mail, chat and forum and inserted in a collaborative web site for the exchange of good practice.*

Project Description

Realizing the necessity of values education nowadays and the role of the teachers as models and promoters to a value oriented education, its implementation in the school curriculum and the school everyday life, we developed the "Values in School Life and School Celebrations" eTwinning project.

Our strategies for teaching values education include: educating the whole person by focusing on student knowledge, behaviour and feeling; choosing contents that honor and reward values examples, and encouraging reflection on values content; using quotes, literature and everyday situations; communicating clearly, consistently, sincerely, with high expectation for all students; developing student skills in maintaining self-respect, and resolving conflicts in non-violent ways; being a good role model through positive personal example; using and requiring respectful language; having students work together cooperatively in heterogeneous groups; and encouraging student involvement in community service.

Our project can be implemented by all students, teachers and staff of our schools because of its cross curricular idea approached by different teaching techniques and attitudes. Our main targets were the project to be adapted to the young age of our students and to be transferable and sustainable. As the result of our cooperation a web page is created in the form of a data a bank of tested teaching materials accessible on the internet by any educator worldwide, ready to be used when teaching.

The activities take the form of proposal and comprehension of texts, pictures, films, situations, art paintings, reflective dialogue, creative writing; organisation of exhibitions and displays, proposal of actions to be taken, on line exercises and games (free for everyone to use), on line exhibition of values drawings, etc.

“The Values in School life and School Celebrations” project keeps also in mind the full participation of S.E.N students, who are expected to perform activities according to their abilities and skills.

Pupils work in teams in each school and along with the students from the twinned school will discuss and decide about the content and form of the ICT tools they are going to use. The children are the real protagonists of the products of the project: pictures, photos, drawings, sounds, texts... They will be all the time supported by teachers who will help them to develop abilities to use a wide range of multimedia tools which at the same time will match their manual and perceptive abilities.

Some of the pedagogical innovations of the project consist of:

- Joint simultaneous activities performed by the students and teachers of the twinned schools and targeting at a common result.
- Communication through information technology: emails, chat web pages, help students to share their ideas, findings, reflections, thoughts, pictures, videos, sound archives thus minimizing the actual kilometrical distance between the two schools and producing a common end project as if they were working side by side in the same school.
- Our eTwinning **Action Plan** has proved to be an excellent pedagogical tool for our partnership. It focus on several key educational values, one every month. From October to June. Students work on these values and implement school activities, creative productions, reflections, celebrations and actions in the community, and exchange them via web site, e-mail, and other electronic means. This Action Plan helps a systematic development of our project around the values in school activities and celebrations. Whenever possible, school celebrations will be connected to European or international celebrations to promote a wider awareness of this dimension among students, teachers, parents and local communities of our partnership.

- Promotion of European languages: besides English the mother tongues of the students Spanish and Greek are encouraged to be used.
- Transferability: A 100% transferable project with multiple benefits to the students who can look for specific things in the webpage or can wander in the webpage by themselves. It encourages students to take more responsibility for their own learning and gives students, educators and parents, immediate access to information.
- The project offers its participants opportunities to cooperate and use all available ICT tools when working with children. Children supported by their teachers will be able to use multimedia sources of information (e-books), search for information on the net and use digital equipment (digital camera, scanner) in order to document, duplicate, process information and edit their work on the internet.

Digital resources

- Products: Website, Power point presentations, , online games, online tests and exercises, digital video, digital photos, teaching material, online dictionary, on line virtual museum.
- Software: ICT and broadband Internet connection, web and digital cameras, tools of creating educational material (Word, Power point, Excel, FrontPage, Macromedia Dreamweaver, ShockwavePayer, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat),
- Tools of communication: (Internet publishing, email, forum, chat, video conference, virtual platform, webquest. We use etwinning space as well as Netmeeting, MSN messenger and Skype.

The project won awards both in the Greek and Spanish national eTwinning projects contests.

Dissemination of the project

Besides the online **dissemination** of the project (through internet), the project is advertised at the Greek schools network <http://etwinning.sch.gr/index.php?pubId=1&issueId=3§ionId=18&articleId=246>, and showed by the Greek NSS officials and the eTwinning promoters in all the eTwinning workshops in Greece, as

an example of good practice. In edition students and teachers visited the Archbishop of Athens and the Mayor of Martos in order to disseminate the project to the Greek and Spanish community.

All the produced material is being edited and published in the twinspace and on the webpage of the project which is uploaded on the Greek School Network server purposefully (and connected with the all the available search engines) in order to be sustainable and available to educators, students and anyone interested after the end of the eTwinning action as well.

All ideas concerning the project are welcome. Both participants and non-participants of the project (parents, NGOs etc) will be able to present their opinions, own ideas and prepared teaching materials in order to share them on the Internet, etc.

Links

<http://users.att.sch.gr/rmfrentzou>

<http://twinspace.etwinning.net/launcher.cfm?lang=en&cid=101>

Our eTwinning Action Plan

MONTH	VALUES EDUCATION	International celebration
October	Responsibility and Study	
November	Respect / Children's Rights	20th Nov.
December	Love	Christmas
January	Peace and Non Violence	30th Jan.
February	Solidarity and Equal Rights	8th March
March	The Spring Day of Europe	21st March
April	Health	7th April
May	Europe	9th May
June	Environment	5th June

Some examples (selectively)

Visit of the blind children



Greece



Spain

Studying our towns: Visit to the Acropolis (Greece) and to Martos (Spain)



Greece



Spain

Greek Dances in Greece and in Spain



Greece



Spain

International School Day of Peace and Non-violence



Spain



Greece

Spring Day in Europe



Greece



Spain

Europe Day Celebration



Spain



Greece