

## Culture of Learning

### ACTION RESEARCH – ICELAND (May 2018)

#### Introduction / Context

The aims of the Study Visit to Iceland were:

1. Showcase **best practice**.
2. Develop knowledge, understanding of digital competency skills in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Aslandsskoli is well known for its Involvement in sports - i.e. **wellbeing** can be used to develop a 'CoL'.
3. Understand the main factors that contribute to supporting schools to develop capability to improve digital competency skills and parental engagement/wellbeing.
4. Develop a global approach to education provision to meet the needs of students to understand the challenges of living in an increasingly globalised world where **technology** is constantly advancing.

Personally I was interested in technology being used by teachers in Aslandsskoli.

1. What kind of modern technology is used by teachers?
2. Influence of modern technology on teaching.
3. What are the ways of using interactive boards/tablets/interactive exercises during lessons?
4. Do new technologies help or hinder the teaching process?

During the study Visit in Iceland I found out that in November 2014 the town council made a decision to give the school tablets. In January 2015 head teachers got iPads, in March 60 teachers got iPads and in September 2015, 314 students got iPads. Teachers were tasked with bringing on board parents to the idea that the use of iPads is the future in teaching and learning.

#### Research Rationale / Question

1. What are the key differences in teaching style when delivering classes in other countries?
2. How students can use modern technology to improve their process of learning?
3. How teachers should use modern technology to improve the teaching experience?
4. What to do to improve teachers knowledge of ICT?

#### Research Design / Plan

I chose two groups of 8 students and delivered additional classes to them. The classes were for students who had difficulties in maths and in the classes students learnt and improved their maths skills. During lessons we used all kinds of ICT tools – such as interactive white boards, smartphones and there are many websites that provided interactive teaching tools and exercises to aid teaching and learning.

#### Data Collection Method/s

- Observing improvements of students participating in the additional classes.
- Constant monitoring their grades on the regular classes.

## Findings / Analysis

Students who did more exercises improved their skills. They were able to better visualise mathematical problems by using interactive boards and aided them to focus on their weak points. Using different tools such LearningApps, Kahoot, HotPotatoes, GeoGebra, Multibooks (books with interactive exercises) they were able to learn in different ways.

- Students who participated in these classes picked up the knowledge faster and could understand mathematical problems better
- Students had opportunity to practice more and improve on their weak points in different ways
- Learning was more enjoyable and fun
- Using smartphones during exercise (we do not have tablets) increases ability to work on their own and makes the individual learning more intuitive

## Next Steps / Points for Action in your Setting

- Creating awareness among teachers that ICT is very important nowadays and I would encourage them to utilize it.
- Teachers should create more exercises using interactive methods.
- Teachers should attend training which shows the best usage of ICT within the classroom.
- Participate in Erasmus+ projects and sign up for international ICT courses organized by schools in European countries to get wider knowledge and be able to share it with other teachers.

*I wrote an application and our project was accepted by National Agency and I and 3 other teachers from my school will participate in the ICT training in Spain, UK and Malta. After those training teachers will be able pass on the skills to their colleagues in the school.*

- Participate in a government program to develop school infrastructure and the competence of students and teachers in the field of information and communication technology for 2017-2019 - "**Active board**"

*I wrote the application and our school won the project and received financial support from the government program "**Active board**" to the amount of 17 500 PLN.*

*Our school received:*

- 2 interactive boards with an ultra-short-focal projector
- 2 sound systems

*Two classrooms at the school were equipped with new equipment.*

*Teachers and students now have comfortable working conditions at classes which will contribute to improving the learning outcomes.*

- Convince Head Teacher to buy tablets.
- Train teachers how to use tablets during lessons.
- Start using tablets in the process of learning.



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