

„CULTURE OF LEARNING”

REPORT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2016/2017

1. In November 2016 I was in Cardiff at a meeting of the project coordinators. The initial meeting in this group was my first opportunity to learn about details of our project connected with contents and aspects of financing of the project „Culture of learning”. During this visit, details of the next study visit (due to take place in March 2017 at Swansea and Cardiff schools) and also expectations of the project authors with regard to participants of the study visit were planned. The purpose of discussion and talks in lobby was to clarify details of another stages of the project and also specify possible changes of further practices.
2. Next in February 2017, workshops for teachers from my school took place and they were conducted by Grzegorz Mazurkiewicz. During the workshops, teachers worked in teams and their task was to piece puzzles together to create a school with values corresponding best to values of the school at which they worked. Thanks to that exercise, teachers had a chance to realise what values they prefer in their everyday work with pupils and other teachers. Teachers worked hard to conduct particular stages of the project „Culture of learning” at our school, carry on further practices and organise another stages of the project in years 2016 – 2019.
3. In March 2017 two representatives from our school paid a study visit to Wales where they had the opportunities to see how schools in Cardiff and Swansea worked. Prior to the study visit, I decided to prepare some questions which I wanted to be answered. Some questions are listed below:
 - What would I like to see at schools during this visit?
 - What is the purpose of this visit?
 - How could the study visit help me at my further work as the person responsible for school management but also as a teacher?
 - What could be changed by this visit regarding my attitude towards detailed aspects and issues of my work?
 - What permanent element of my visit could I implement in my school?

During this visit, participants familiarised themselves with work characteristics of schools in Wales and they also had a chance to exchange international experiences with their counterparts. Particular attention was paid to all the work aspects of schools in Wales which were related to our project and all the meetings (called theoretical) during workshops. Unfortunately we did not have a chance to see lessons at schools both in Swansea and Cardiff. I talked to teachers from both schools. I was particularly interested in teaching pupils with special educational needs. I also observed differences in the number of teachers who worked in one classroom. Employment of teaching assistants is interesting but we have not got them at Polish schools. A combination of nursery school, kindergarten and primary school in one complex as well as the role of parents in this system who cooperate naturally with school on regular basis seemed to be good solution. As I noticed,

schools were well-equipped with teaching aids. It was also visible that schools' interiors were decorated and arranged with artworks made by children and pupils. During my study visit I also wanted to find out, among other things, how teachers instruct pupils in methods of independent studying, how they use modern information-communication technologies, how they help pupils to foster skills outside the classroom, how individual progress of pupils is marked and development of curricula. Unfortunately I did not have the opportunity to see such practices in classroom except visiting classrooms as well as having talks with pupils and teachers. Teachers shared willingly their experiences related to work with pupils. Pupils told us about their school experiences and their plans for future. Prior to the visit I was thinking over work differences between Polish and Welsh teachers. The lack of opportunity to see a whole lesson during my visit made it impossible for me to gain a more detailed insight into the course of classes. Certainly we could see some fragments of lessons while visiting both schools. Teachers of the classes we were visiting tried to introduce themselves and present lessons at least for a while. Teachers also enabled us to talk to pupils but we did not gain full understanding of the work of teachers on account of too short visits in particular classes. It was good for us to talk to student teachers at least for a moment. To answer then the further question connected with comparison of experiences in carrying out a lesson and running schools in Wales, I did not have such opportunities to obtain answers to my questions which I posed prior to my visit. During my visit I was trying to document my visit both by taking short notes and also pictures depicting work of schools I was visiting. As a headmaster, I was also interested in various aspects of practical school management. A party for parents was an interesting moment of our visit when a headmaster of the school was handing over prizes to pupils and congratulated parents. I saw good cooperation between the headmaster and the parents of pupils attending that school.

4. In May 2017 we hosted a study visit for our counterparts of the project „Culture of learning”. For two days we were presenting them work of our school and we also showed them how a few teachers were working during lessons (we offered the lessons to counterparts of the visit). After the lesson, teachers of ZSOI no. 7 had a meeting with visitors which was a chance to exchange professional experiences.
5. From June to October 2017 we were preparing ourselves to conduct a survey among chosen pupils. Until the last moment, revisions (according to suggestions from the Welsh side) of particular questions targeted at surveyed pupils were made.
6. In October 2017, chosen pupils (48 participants) took part in the online survey.

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