

An English school's approach to using ICT in teaching about other countries and cultures and learning Spanish

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Abstract

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"There is a strong international dimension to what the school provides"

"The teaching of Spanish is outstanding"

It is now statutory for all Keystage 2 schools in England and Wales to "teach a modern foreign language in the context of other countries and cultures"[National Curriculum]

Background

2004- British Council- twinned with Madrid school

2004- awarded ICT mark [Becta]

2005-Headteacher visited Japan to look at teaching and learning with ICT

2006- twinned with schools in Avila/Mexico[Colombus project]

Onwards –various other international projects.

It is crucial to take into account children learning styles and staff's predominate teaching styles. The children at Haddon understand this and know how they learn best.

We also believe in personalised learning –the creative curriculum and that involves cross curriculum planning ,teaching and learning So it was very important that any language teaching would follow this pattern.

ICT in its fullest sense aids and can lead all aspects of learning.

So at Haddon every child has access to ICT depending on their ability and needs.

Communication is crucial in any aspect of life . If face to face is not possible then e-mail, conferencing and Skype are vital. But this is only possible if all parties have access.

We started with an initial meeting with our partners and then it carried on through e-mail.. This was carried out by the adults involved. Not all schools had access to the internet so again very dependant on personal PCs . There was great enthusiasm for projects to achieve.

Communicating with parents followed the same routine of letters, meetings and they were very accepting of Spanish being the language. Most people in the Haddon catchment area, if going on a foreign holiday, go to Spain. We were able to win them over very quickly when children learnt useful phrases.



Areas to be developed

What we do

- How we do it
- Assessment
- Evaluation
- Plans for the future