

ETWINNING INCLUSION WORKSHOP

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

5-7 OCTOBER 2017

On 5 October 2017, a group of seven UK teachers travelled to Bratislava to attend a professional development workshop for primary and pre-primary teachers from across Europe on the theme of 'school inclusion'.

During the three day workshop, teachers were given the opportunity to share best practice, network with other eTwinning teachers and establish high quality eTwinning projects on the theme of inclusion.



TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

This term, I was lucky enough to have my application for a professional development workshop in Bratislava, Slovakia, chosen from many other applicants. Along with six other teachers from the United Kingdom, I took part in the three day workshop focusing on Inclusion, joining many other European teachers.

The workshop involved lectures from Slovakian teachers working with SEN children and gifted and talented pupils; the lectures then inspired a professional dialogue between European colleagues about inclusive opportunities within our educational settings. The experience and knowledge shared was both enlightening and highly beneficial to me professionally and it will inevitably impact greatly on my teaching practice.

Through participating in the eTwinning project, our school will be able to:

- enrich learning and motivation of pupils and staff
- access high quality professional development and ready-made resources
- raise standards across the whole school community
- gain recognition for our commitment through eTwinning awards and the International School Award
- Search for an Erasmus+ partner to carry out projects with and apply for mobility funding.

With over 500,000 registered educators across Europe, joining the European online community for schools has been an amazing opportunity. We look forward to beginning our journey with projects and opportunities through eTwinning.

Stephenie Lloyd- Green
St Bede's Catholic Junior School, Widnes

I found the recent eTwinning professional development workshop in Bratislava to be an invaluable experience. The conference was incredibly well organised and delivered a breadth of expertise from psychologists, sociologists and teachers on the theme of inclusion. For me, the most impactful workshop was hosted by Slovakian teacher Katarina Hvizdova and explored using eTwinning with gifted and talented children. Her examples of projects by ten year old pupils were inspiring, demonstrating the heights children are able to reach using ICT when they are provided with exciting, motivating opportunities.



A personal highlight for me was enjoying the final evening meal with other workshop attendees. To be surrounded by over 100 educators from 24 countries across Europe, and to have friendships develop from different cultures, languages and backgrounds is testament to the common ground we all find in our passion for teaching and wanting to introduce our pupils to a wider global vision than our own countries' educational experiences.

Suzi Finlay
Moneyrea Primary School, Moneyreagh

Attending the eTwinning professional development workshop in Bratislava opened up a new world to me- I didn't know it was possible to create so many links with teachers all over Europe. Being able to exchange expertise and good practice with teachers from different countries was a once in a lifetime experience.

What I liked the most about the workshop is the range of people that I met because now I have big plans for my eTwinning journey and projects that I'm going to develop with these new partners, with thanks to eTwinning.

Pame Muñoz Cabrera
Victoria College, Belfast

If you would like to apply to attend an eTwinning professional development workshop, visit [our website](#) for a full list of current national and European opportunities.