

‘Effective Communication with children who have special needs’

The Dales School | Hugh Steele and Janet Simpson

About the School

The Dales is a school for primary age children who have Special Needs. All children who attend The Dales School have a Statement of Special Educational Need. These include: Autistic Spectrum Disorder; Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder; Emotional / Social Difficulties, and; a range of other complex needs including: Downs Syndrome; Cerebral Palsy, and; Epilepsy.

About the Partners

France l'école élémentaire Octave Tordo

Germany Heinrich-Böll-SchuleFrenchen | Wilhelm-Wagener-Schule Bergisch Gladbach

About the Project

People communicate to achieve their desired outcomes, consciously and unconsciously, related to emotions, opinions and responses. This project aimed to improve the ability of the teacher and child to communicate effectively.

The partners reviewed systems; processes, and existing research to aid information gathering. To support the teaching and learning of children with special needs, the project sought to draw on the strengths of the European partners in specific special education provision and inclusive practice in mainstream schools to better understand each countries approach to effective communication by and with children.

Aims of the project

This project was embedded in The Dales’ own curriculum and subjects.

For pupils:

- To communicate effectively by acquiring skills in a real situation.
- To communicate through activity and challenge e.g. Sport, Outdoor Education, Art, Music etc.
- To improve speaking, reading and writing skills.
- To learn about the different countries cultures about life as a schoolchild (pupil).
- To learn and use the new media.
- To get motivated to learn a foreign language.

For teachers

- To understand the systems and processes used in different countries and schools.
- To practice and research different methods and theories dealing with communication
- To compare and share resources and good practice.
- To develop a greater understanding of cultural differences / similarities, and the impact on effective inclusion.
- To receive ongoing professional development, including leadership development and project management.

Winner of the 2013 European Quality Label