

A CORUÑA SHINES: EDUCATIONAL BEACONS FOR EUROPE'S FUTURE

OLA! ¡HOLA! HELLO!

We are a team of teachers from A Coruña (Galicia-Spain) eager to learn and innovate. We are willing to give the best to our students.

We are looking for a partnership to establish a communication plan. Our goal is to develop our project by exchanging information in order to acquire further competences, skills and abilities. We want to create a real IMPACT in our school by working specifically in four areas:

- inclusion,
- sustainability,
- European values
- and digital plan.

Educational centres that operate on similar grounds to ours would be an ideal partner, as this would help us to better understand our shortcomings and needs. Our desired result is educational innovation regarding people, spaces, processes and technology.

Our school is located in the 'Catro Camiños' neighbourhood, during the 20th century a peripheral area of the city of A Coruña. Nowadays a consolidated urban district, it hosts many shops, businesses and leisure activities areas. This neighbourhood attracts families looking for new job opportunities. Medical services and multidisciplinary therapy offices are also widely available. In the last years we have noticed an increase in the quantity of incoming foreign pupils and of children with functional diversity.

Since the school's building, almost one hundred years old, is officially recognised as an Asset of Cultural Interest, the law does not allow a major restructuring that would be necessary to meet our current needs. The building has large corridors, very high ceilings and large windows. In general it is not very functional and not optimal in terms of what would be best for the attending boys and girls.

There are two playgrounds, one of which is a covered patio, incidentally shared with a contiguous secondary school. Both playgrounds are surrounded by large concrete walls and their size is smaller than would be desired. All this limits their potential, so improving their possibilities is also a goal for us.

Our school has 420 pupils between the ages of three and twelve years old. It is multilingual, as working languages include Galician (Galicia's own language), Spanish (official along with Galician) and English. It is worth noting the presence of:

- Pupils from abroad: struggle to achieve academic objectives due to limited language skills, late access to the educational system or curriculum differences between Spain and their country of origin that generate curricular gap.
- Pupils with specific educational support needs: this is a significant percentage of our

school population, which implies teachers need to continuously train and keep up a high level of competence in appropriate methodologies. We work daily with pupils with autistic spectrum disorder, attention deficit disorder, high abilities, specific language disorder, etc.

The Concepción Arenal school works and collaborates in multiple projects:

- 'Observa Acción': its aim is face-to-face observation, exchange and educational training. We learn about other didactic approaches in order to be able to apply them in our school.
- We were pioneers of the 'A.N.C.A.S. Project': a plan for safe walking paths to school, with the help of the school community, neighbours and shopkeepers in the area.
- We work with several institutions: University of A Coruña, non-governmental organisations, etc.

The school has 35 teachers, most of them permanent. We have an extensive training plan in the school which covers subjects as diverse as: scientific reasoning, Galician environmental education, positive coexistence, anti-cyberbullying and inclusion. In spite of all this, it's hard for teachers to find an optimal balance between venturing into new methodologies while keeping the functional conventional ones.

This year a group of our teachers are withdrawing textbooks and working with active methodologies.

Improving the pupils' use of digital tools in the classroom, as an additional resource, is an additional goal for us.

For all the reasons above we are looking for centres that may be:

MULTICULTURAL: with the coexistence of diverse cultural realities and projecting a European citizenship, highlighting democratic values such as freedom, justice and equality.

INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE: which have, like ours, a high number of pupils with educational support needs. Experience providing well-being to their students, taking into account diversity in its broadest sense, is specially interesting.

INNOVATIVE: that practise innovative methodologies and projects that pay attention to diversity, STEM methodology and sustainable practices.

To develop our project we would like to do with our partner 5 mobilities during the next school year.

We need you to contact us as soon as possible.

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Come and meet us! Coruña is the city where nobody is a stranger!

Thank you very much for your time.