

Educate Together National Forum: Swords ETNS

February 10th, 2007

Practical Approaches for Whole School Delivery of ETP

**Presentation by Gerard Kelly, Príomhoide Swords Educate
Together National School**

MACRO

1. School Climate: 8:20 am/1:10 pm/2:10 pm: GK outside
2. The atmosphere of the school: friendly/informal BUT structured!
3. Print Rich Environment/ET Rich Environment: Foyer/Hall
4. ET Noticeboard in foyer.
5. Music playing in hallway.
6. ETP planned at monthly staff meeting where ALL staff –Teachers and SNA/Secretary are present
7. ETP for next month is typed and posted on classroom walls throughout the school, including outside notice boards. This is facilitated by Maeve, ISM member.
8. New initiative: ETP Notice board/area in all classrooms: already in hallway.
9. New initiative: whole school planning of material into age-appropriate levels (Maeve coordinating)
- 10.ETP reinforced by Learning Support/Resource teachers: Alice ‘credit card’ adaptation of the Learn Together Programme.

11. Topics/Themes for ETP included in the Friday News
12. Friday News: Sent home by me every Friday on its own colour paper.
This is the backbone of school communications.
13. Weekly Assemblies – opportunity to consolidate ETP and build culture.
14. Weekly Assemblies – opportunity for ALL staff to meet – not possible with Teachers and SNAS having different breaks and supervision duties. Not to be ignored or underestimated.
15. One Whole-School Ethos focused event a year: Last Year based on the Learn Together Programme.
16. New children joining school: ALL Different ALL equal: speak another/different language fluently.
17. **Friday Call:** We call the Parents/Guardians of all children absent for three or more days each week and for whom the absence is unexplained or communicated to the school.
18. Positive Behaviour Delivery: Golden Rules/Award/Gold Cards
19. CIT: We have a Critical Incident Policy and Critical Incident Team: Principal/DP/AP/ ISM member/School Secretary/SNA/ PTA member and Board member.
20. Student Council in the pipeline
21. School Booklet for all families/visitors/patrons
22. WAY Project: Wisdom of Age and Youth Project, funded by Fingal County Council over 8 years: Swords Senior Citizens come to work with a class every week for one hour – Drama/Visual Arts/Music. Drama/Music/Visual Arts teacher paid by Fingal County Council. School community invited to shows/exhibitions etc.

23. Festival calendars and monthly adaptation of same circulated and posted throughout the school in conjunction with the ETP monthly curriculum schedule planned at the monthly staff meeting.
24. School Anthem/Reflection (Alice/Bronagh)
25. Amnesty Bracelets (Deirdre)
26. Lift-Off Programme (Maeve) – Right per week on Rights board in foyer
27. The importance of the non-verbal: shaking hands
28. School Flag
29. Friendship circle painted on the schoolyard. Same as school logo.
30. First impressions at front door: foyer displays: We come from all over the world/Home Table
31. Music in foyer
32. Organisation/Management: Clarity of Roles: Teachers/SNA/Parents/Board/PTA
33. DICE students
34. Induction Book for all new staff joining the school
35. Cards for celebration collected from office by all teachers and sent home for celebrations/bereavements etc.
36. Big magnetic clocks on white board, placed outside in advance of half days for staff meetings etc.
37. We have a Multi-Cultural Policy: we hold one ‘Ethos’, Whole-School event each year – inviting all the community in: Last year, it was the Strands of the Learn Together Programme: ART EXHIBITION – all children contributed and all was exhibited for one BIG celebratory evening. In planning at minute for this year.

MICRO

1. All the little things (but critically important) that are the building blocks of Ethos and culture: the way we do business – the way we relate to each other (adults/children/visitors/pre-enrolling Parents.
2. Relevant Communications Policy: uncomplicated and assertive!
3. Appreciating that the “How” is as important as the “What”
4. ETP addressed by all staff, including SEN/Learning Support staff
5. SNAS (Special Needs Assistants – Brilliant! Fully involved!!
6. Ethos Touchstone of our school: CB: School Secretary

This is by no means complete. It is a personal reflection on how we communicate our Ethos to all. I have found it a most helpful exercise, just to reflect on **‘what’ and ‘how’** we do things. Many items above are scaffolding for delivery and constitute school policy. I will continue to revisit and develop the above, in consultation with our school community and the wider ET Network. This is where, I believe, the National Forum, best meets the needs of ‘deliverers’ of Ethos and the ‘end-learners’. I am more than happy to contribute to the on-going focus on Ethos delivery in our Network. A privilege!!!

Gerard Kelly: February 2007 (National Forum)