



Cap sur l'école inclusive
en Europe



Best practice The extraordinary -week Section of the module / Reassurance

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1 Context

Our Lasallian educational project: "That they build with all possible application all the school children they are responsible for, that they neglect none and that the application they have is equal to all and greater even to the most ignorant and the most careless "

For many years, Collège Saint Guibert in Gembloux has been developing a pedagogical project deeply inspired by the message of Saint John Baptist de la Salle, to pay the greatest attention to the smallest and the weakest. With this premise, intimately linked to our teaching mission, welcoming everyone is a daily concern in our school. So, we welcome, in our school, several children whom we qualify as "extra-ordinary" in order to enable them to integrate the society, which is also theirs, with the best opportunities of development.

Ten years ago, we welcomed a blind student, a student with a spina bifida, a student with autism, and two cochlear implanted students. We are very attentive to "type 8" students, young people with learning disabilities. Without awareness or explanation, the entire Collège didn't always understand the approaches. We created an extraordinary week 12 ago. All the students of the first form (12-14 years) live this week through different workshops. The daily routine in Saint Guibert also tends to answer the precepts of the decree Mission of Education in the French Community of Belgium in its article 6, namely:

- 1 ° To promote the self-confidence and development of the individual of each student;
- 2 ° to bring all students to appropriate knowledge and to acquire skills that will enable them to learn their whole lives and take an active place in the economic, social and cultural life;
- 3 ° to prepare all students to be responsible citizens, able to contribute to the development of a democratic, united, pluralistic society open to other cultures;
- 4 ° to provide all students equal opportunities for social emancipation.

It is in this dual state of mind that the idea of creating an "extra-ordinary week" was born during the 2007-2008 school year. The aim was to meet and exchange the "ordinary" world and the "extra-ordinary" world that our young integrated students from specialized education made us discover.

We wanted all our students (and their entourage) to discover the world of the difference related to the handicap through different activities and animations organized in partnership with specialized associations.

2 Objectives

Awareness by our students:

- that the difference related to disability shouldn't be considered as an impassable limit
 - that behind the person living a disability, there is a person in his own right (with his talents, his wealth) and no longer entirely apart. Encourage the meeting between our young people and other young people (or less young people) to exchange. Break the barriers of prejudice.
- Open the doors and the spirits.
- that, thanks to awareness-raising projects such as this one, they will be able to acquire the autonomy necessary to cope in different situations of social life, to become an actor of their own life.
 - as a citizen, every student has an active role to play in this social connection. This role will be concretely manifested in the active participation of the classes in the realization of the animations (exhibitions, questionnaires, participation in the workshops ...) The initiative at this level will be reinforced and encouraged.
 - that the situation of disability is a concrete reality, lived near us (contact with local associations) and even within our school (extraordinary students integrated in St Guibert).
 - that the strength and will to succeed are only in partnership and team spirit. The class has to weld together to carry the projects as far as possible.

It was also essential that this awareness become a reality, in the daily acts, both within the institution and in their social and civic life outside school, responding to the mission decree.

3 Progress of the "Good Practice".

During a school year all primary school pupils (12-14 years old), so 670 pupils from 29 classes, actively prepare the workshops which will be offered to all during the extra-ordinary week which takes place once every two years in the spring. It is not just a question of them being spectators, but actors in this event. All courses (general, special, practical...) are involved in the design and production of concrete activities. Contacts with local associations linked to the world of disability, meetings with specialised institutions and exchanges with young and older disabled people mark out this preparation time... an integral part of the educational project aimed at changing everyday representations and behaviour.

A large number of partners from outside the school are solicited and respond positively. This initiative made it possible, in particular, to federate the local associations concerned by the theme by initiating a meeting of these under the aegis of the commune of Gembloux.

Examples of proposed workshops (not exhaustive) :

Circus school: « handipercus and handicap »

Theatre workshop

Photo exhibition and animation

« surdimini" workshop

« Parcours chaisards »

Painting workshop animated by extraordinary artists

Discover adapted sports

Journey to the heart of the night at the Royal Institute for the Deaf and Blind "IRSA"

Debate with Luc Boland, filmmaker, Lou's father, "extraordinary" child

Obstacle course

Conference by Serge Vanbrakel, great "extraordinary" child

Some partners :

In Gembloux:

Benoit Dispa, Mayor of Gembloux and great support each time in our week, local associations from Gembloux: the 2nd base, Zabranou, the circus school, L'ASBL Empreintes, the commune of Gembloux, the 2nd base (autism)

Elsewhere:

AWIPH (Walloon Agency for the Integration of the Disabled), Horizon 2000, Lou Foundation, Cap 48, IRSA (Royal Institute for the Deaf and Blind), the General Secretariat for Catholic Education SEGEC, ONA (works. National. Blind)

4. Evaluation of the activity

The repercussions of this activity were, at the time of the past adventures, very numerous as well at the level of the teaching staff strongly involved in the adventure as at our young students and their families. Students who have already had this experience have grown up and become much more aware of the difficulties faced by the world of disability.

These students are now in the second and third degrees and are moving forward with this new approach. No student can ignore what it means to be "extra-ordinary"...

Integration also enables exchanges and positive contributions from both sides. There is a surge of solidarity in classes where there is integration, positive attitudes towards different pupils and vice versa.

You will find attached some examples of reactions from our "guestbook".

An "extra-ordinary" garden, for example, has been started... This one is run by students from the first and the second year. . It is a garden of the senses, accessible to all people, disabled or not, created on land ceded by the city of Gembloux. This initiative was supported by Comenius projects and is done in partnership with Italian and Finnish schools!!

5. Limits

Material and human...

Moving so many students, finding a suitable place to welcome them, mobilizing a certain number of professionals, requires time, coordination, and a financial investment.

We believe that all this is worthwhile and teachers and students regularly talk about the positive impact of these days within their classes.

Nevertheless, it is necessary that the life skills, the solidarity, the empathy, the respect of the differences are encouraged day by day within each course.

6. Perspectives.

And now what? Today

The request to renew this week was so strong (both from teachers and students) that it was decided to renew the experience every two years... this to allow each student of the first degree to live this adventure once during his school career in Saint Guibert. A new "extra-ordinary" week has been taking place since May 2012, 2014 and 2016.

In 2018, we will have the opportunity to experience this "Extra- Ordinary" week with the European partners of the Erasmus project: "Inclusive School