

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

Spain's Education Act 2/2006 of 3 May for the first time incorporated inclusive education as a principle in education. This was continued under the Improving Education Quality Act 8/2013 of 9 December, the preamble of which stated that "only a quality, inclusive, integrative and demanding education system can guarantee equal opportunities and enable each student to develop his or her potential to the fullest". It went on: "equality and quality are two sides of the same coin. A quality education system is unimaginable in which there is not a priority to eliminate any hint of inequality. There is no greater lack of equity than a system that equates laziness or mediocrity."

However, inclusive education is more than a guiding principle; it is a right. This was taken further when, in 2008, Spain signed and ratified the **United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 2006)** whose Article 24 recognised the right of persons with disabilities to an inclusive education.

But what is inclusive education, and what do we mean by it?

The term *inclusive education* emerged in 1990 at the UNESCO International Forum, where the idea of education for all was promoted at the Jomtien International Conference in Thailand, where there were calls for access to education and equity, mobilising necessary resources and improving learning conditions.

Recently, under the Incheon Declaration, adopted at the close of the World Education Forum in South Korea in May 2015, and which is the basis for the new educational goals of the Sustainable Development Goals, the idea of education for all was strengthened, and specified further under **Sustainable Development Objective No. 4** - with a focus on "ensuring inclusive, equitable and quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all".

In 2006, UNESCO defined inclusive education as follows:

"Inclusive Education can be conceived as a **process** that allows **the diversity of needs of all learners to be addressed and met** through greater participation in learning, cultural and community activities and by reducing exclusion both within and outside the education system. This involves changes and modifications to content, approaches, structures and strategies, with a common vision which covers all children of school age and the belief that it is the responsibility of the regular system to educate all children. The aim of inclusion is to provide appropriate responses to the broad spectrum of learning needs in both formal and non-formal education settings. Rather than being a marginal issue regarding the way in which certain learners can be integrated into mainstream education, inclusive education is an approach that looks into how education systems and other learning environments can be transformed in order to respond to the diversity of learners. The aim of inclusive education is to enable teachers and learners to feel comfortable with diversity and also see it not as a problem but as a challenge and opportunity to enrich the learning environment" (UNESCO 2006, page 14)

Inclusive education is therefore a process aimed at responding to the diversity of all students. A process that encourages everyone in the classroom to participate and achieve. It therefore broke with the idea of integration that had previously prevailed. Inclusive education does not focus, as the concept of integration did, on specific students. Rather, it represents an innovative approach that helps us **transform schools into learning environments**, in order to provide a quality education response for all students at all times.

The proposal here is based on the concept of inclusive education that eliminates any barriers to participation, presence and learning - in order that all students in the classroom participate, are present and obtain achievements in all activities in which they take part at school, with high expectations for all at all times.

Throughout these Teaching Units, the intention is to arouse students' curiosity, encourage their creativity and ingenuity, and produce a final output in the form of a poster or a video calling for inclusive schools. However, the underlying idea above all is to guide students' ability to build and share knowledge, and in so doing develop higher-order thinking skills among all students, because we are all doers, we all have that ability to do things.

In developing this material, the following general objectives are pursued:

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage critical thinking and personal initiative, in developing both individual and team working habits.
- Promote opportunities to enhance those intelligences in which each student shows greater abilities.
- Encourage visual thinking as a means of expressing ideas and feelings with drawings, working on creativity and reinforcing verbal thinking by addressing formats other than linguistic ones.
- Encourage the development of effective, critical and creative thinking.
- Involve students in the processes of research and problem solving.
- Encourage the use of information and communication technology (ICT) as a teaching resource for teachers, and as a means for students to explore their potential to learn, communicate and offer their own contributions and creations using different languages.
- Empower students to become involved in creating a school for all.
- Develop life skills for personal and social wellbeing from a proactive perspective, improving interpersonal relations.

LINK WITH COMPETENCES¹

¹ Order ECD/65/2015, of 21 January, which describes the relationship between competences, content and assessment criteria in primary education, compulsory secondary education and baccalaureate.

The European Union's guidelines insist on the need **to acquire key competences in order to prepare students for the demands of today's society** - a changing society that creates uncertainties, a global and plural society in which it is fast and easy to obtain information. Taking this into account, our proposition here is to work in the area of competences, such that all competences are included as an essential element under this Teaching Unit. Given that competence knowledge integrates not only conceptual knowledge, but also the development of skills, attitudes and values, we shall be basing this work on the humanistic notion of education that advocates inclusive education.

Competence-based learning is characterised by its multi-faceted nature, found in all areas; its dynamism, involving a process through which higher levels of performance are acquired; and its global nature - being based, as we've seen, on values that promote integrated training around the individual.

Key competences are closely related and linked to the general objectives being pursued, thus encouraging their attainment. Similarly, they will be developed under the proposed curriculum and when developing the proposed methodological guidelines and strategies.

How will we encourage the development of students' competence in each of the key competences of the curriculum?

a) Linguistic communication

Competence in linguistic communication is included in all activities that will be carried out under this Teaching Unit. This competence will be worked on through the interactive discussion work that takes place in the classroom, in both large and small groups, as well as through different support materials, with a particular focus on digital media which enables students to achieve multiple literacies.

Thus, the aim is to promote a vision that is linked with social practices in which learning is determined through interactive situations, encouraging and placing value on the number of interactions as well as the variety of them. This is also a key element for the socialisation of all students in the classroom.

This competence is based on the values and attitudes to be developed throughout the teaching unit, such as respect, development of a critical spirit, the value of diversity, active and empathetic listening, egalitarian dialogue, as well as the skills inherent in this competence: reading, writing and speaking, comprehension and oral and written expression.

a) Mathematical competence and basic competence in science and technology

These competences include a range of values that are based on rigour. They are essential skills and are closely linked to decision-making, the development of critical thinking, and solving problems, challenges and finding solutions.

The work done in the teaching space and the way in which it includes coding and decoding of visual information, perspectives, transformation of forms, three-dimensional scenes and so on, are specific areas of mathematical competence that will be developed in terms of the teaching space when creating

the final output project proposed under this Teaching Unit. Similarly, ethical criteria and a sense of responsibility inherent in the basic competences in science and technology will be developed.

b) *Digital competency*

The creative, critical and safe use of ICT will be worked on during the proposed activity as well as textual, iconic, visual, graphic and sound languages adapted to 21st century society.

Furthermore, we will strengthen knowledge of computer applications related to inclusion, with the aim of solving problems, creating content for communication, achieving objectives related to learning, inclusion and participation in society.

c) *Learning to learn*

This competence is characterised by the ability to initiate, organise and persist in learning. It is fostered through motivation, metacognition and planning, both individually and in groups, thus contributing to the development of higher-order cognitive processes.

d) *Social and civic competencies*

Social competence is related to personal and collective well-being; this is one of the general objectives being pursued here. Civic competence on the other hand is based on the development of human values such as justice, equality, citizenship, human rights and so on, which are all inherent in the concept of inclusive education.

In order to develop these competences, we always begin with an awareness-raising activity, which helps develop understanding of specific aspects of the social and emotional reality of certain people. The aim always is to put values into action, to act, through cooperation, commitment and empowering all students.

e) *Sense of initiative and entrepreneurial spirit*

The ultimate goal of the competition is to turn an idea into a visible product. This objective fits perfectly with this competence - which also includes raising awareness of the inclusive values that permeate the whole philosophy behind this competition.

Issues related to creative capacity and innovation will be addressed, along with the ability to work both individually and as a team, with shared leadership, critical reasoning and a sense of responsibility.

f) *Cultural awareness and expression*

As with the previous edition, this can be found throughout the competition and refers to the expressive component and aesthetic and creative ability, as well as the mastery of capabilities relating to different artistic and cultural codes.

METHODOLOGY PRINCIPLES:

Competence-based learning involves the inclusion of competencies as an essential part of the curriculum and, through this, contributes to the development of students' competencies.

However, it is also based on the use of active methodologies that imply a change of role both among students and teaching staff. Students need to play an active role in the learning process, with activities that promote teamwork, foster the capacity for learning for oneself, encourage and stimulate metacognition and, through this, promote the participation and involvement of all students in learning.

With the aim of enriching learning and creating rich and varied activities, all Teaching Units recommend the use of tools, techniques and dynamics, which are explained during development of the corresponding activity.

The following summary table gives an overview of these proposals. More detailed explanations of all these can be found in the Methodology Guide that is provided as supporting material.

	TU1	TU2	TU3	TU4	TU5
Thinking Process "See, Think, Question"			x		
Key to thinking "Prediction"	x	x	x	x	x
Visual Thinking			x		
Graphic Organiser "Mental map"				x	
Graphic Organiser "Venn Diagram"				x	
Six Thinking Hats				x	
Design Thinking				x	
Empathy Map				x	
Cooperative learning "1-2-4"			x	x	

Structure”					
Discussion groups	x	x	x		x
Creativity technique “Nominal Group”	x	x	x	x	x
6-3-5 Technique				x	
Brainstorming				x	
Challenge-based Learning		x			
Service Learning	x		x	x	
Group Dynamics: Ball of Wool	x				
Group Dynamics: Two Truths, One Lie	x				
Group Dynamics: the World of Colours		x			
Group dynamics: Bingo		x			
Group Dynamics: The Cooperative Ball				x	

Working on emotions: The Bottle of Happiness					x
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List of videos for the different proposed activities presented in the Teaching Units.

Multiple intelligences	Anatole's Little Saucepan , by Isabelle Carrier Cuerdas , by Pedro Solís Tamara , created by House Boat Animation Studio The Dot , Peter Reynolds
Diversity in the classroom	Four Little Corners , by Jérôme Ruillier The Gift , by Jacob Frey Leg Up , by Bevin Carmes The Shoes , by Nima Raofi
Use of technology	Maria and Me , by Miguel Gallardo Imagine , by Belén Jurado (audio) ON Fologüers Series , by ONCE
Pedagogical use of spaces	Images have been used
Emotional education	Colour Your World With Kindness Inside Out , by Disney

AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT

The success of a teaching methodology and the results obtained by students is based not so much on the way new knowledge is made known, but on assessment - understood as a set of activities that enable errors to be identified, their causes to be understood and decisions made to overcome them.

Perrenoud (1993) in Sanmartí² (2007, p9)

The importance of assessment as a process in which all students participate takes on a special meaning within inclusive education. We talk of authentic assessment - that is, assessment that encourages student metacognition and reflection; a participatory assessment that learns from mistakes and an assessment for learning, which disconnects assessment from merely the qualification.

² Sanmartí, N. (2007). *10 ideas clave. Evaluar para aprender*. Barcelona: Graó.

how they felt, what they learned, what else they would like to know about the subject, whether they tried hard and tried their best, whether they persevered in the task, and so on. As previously, it will depend on the activity being carried out and the objectives we're aiming for.

The purpose of these journals is to develop students' metacognition, sense of responsibility, commitment and critical thinking, as also help them reflect on everyday practice.