

„Building a democratic school culture“

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Final declaration

Bremerhaven/ Event in Germany – 21st to 25th of February 2022

The study was carried out between 21.02 and 25.02.2022 within the scope of the “Building a Democratic School Culture” Project in Bremerhaven, Germany. During the study process, the participants gave information about the general education system in their country and the democratic formation of this system. In order to build a democratic school culture, separate study groups were formed to reveal what is expected from parents, administrators, teachers and students. The working groups shared their opinions and suggestions with the participants as a result of their meetings.

Democratic school culture takes place with the participation of school management, teachers, parents, students and non-governmental organizations, as well as with the effective cooperation of these stakeholders.

To raise individuals who have embraced democratic values, are free, think critically, have problem-solving skills, and are sensitive to cultural differences; can be achieved by transferring the culture of democracy in schools to our students through life experiences.

PARENTS

Democratization in education is not a tool but an aim. The first and solid step in democracy education is taken in the family. The establishment of democratic values in family life is important in terms of supporting the education given at school. The family should take part in school activities and should be in contact with the administrators and teachers. Building a sense of trust between the school and families is extremely important. In order to increase this sense of trust and to meet the needs of the parents, seminars and trainings should be given on the right way of thinking, adult problems, and child development. In order to create a democratic school culture; educational studies should also be carried out on informing parents, communication, learning-teaching at home, and decision making. School activities open to the community (small concerts, artistic works) should be organized for school-family cooperation.

TEACHERS

Teachers should not use lecture notes as a threatening element, but should see lecture notes as a part of the learning process. Teachers should do their job with an artistic spirit rather than seeing it as a job. Teachers should be open to requests from students, follow current developments closely and use these developments in their lessons. Teachers must take into account that each student is unique and special, be able to create a free classroom environment and create a lesson environment in which students are active. Teachers should communicate well with their students, be tolerant and understanding towards their students, and use appropriate teaching methods and techniques without forgetting the fact that each student learns differently.

ADMINISTRATORS

Administrators should take the necessary measures for the transfer and protection of democratic values to future generations, and should be in correct and regular communication with all the stakeholders of the school. They should assign as much responsibility as possible to all units in the school. It should regulate the rules and regulations in the school through the commissions established with the participation of all stakeholders. It should place the principles of democratic citizenship and human rights as the basis for the functioning of the school. It should be unbiased and impartial. It should respect diversity and create a suitable educational environment for all different groups. He should make every individual in the school feel special and should be a good listener. They should actively involve families in the educational environment. It should be able to actively integrate the school into the life of the community in which it is located. He should communicate with minority groups in the school and take into account their demands. It should establish the disciplinary rules of the school in consultation with all students, including minorities. He should agree with the students about the rules in the school and give responsibility to the students in their implementation. Must be equipped to deal with conflict. A good manager should be accessible and social.

STUDENTS

All students should be treated equally without any individual discrimination. Students should have a say in all the business and operations of the school, if possible. Students should be able to decide for themselves which courses they will take and when, and how long the courses will be. Students should be given responsibility and all students should be trusted. An environment should be created for each student to express their strengths and their weaknesses (in terms of individual, cultural, religious, etc.) to be empowered without discrimination. No student should be intimidated or hurt, and every student should be given the opportunity to speak freely. Students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities. Students should be given more opportunities, especially in the fields of arts and sports. Students should not be threatened with a grade.