

LLM Project

Meeting Report Meeting 1, Southwark UK December 2011

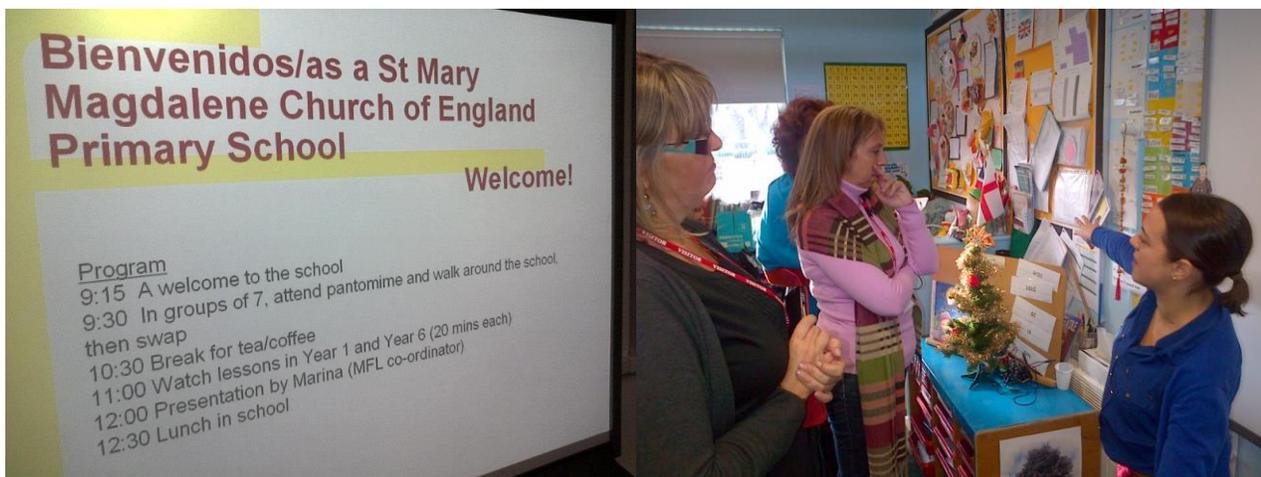
EVALUATION REPORT

The LLM project plan calls for 4 main meetings during the 2 year life of the collaboration. The first of these took place in London in December, 2012. It was an important meeting as it was the first chance for many of the partners to meet and it launched the project.

Originally, the meeting was planned for November. However due to various practical problems, both partner regions did well to ensure the meeting took place in 2012, despite it being held a month later than previously planned. This was important as it ensured that the partners met to fully begin their collaboration as soon as possible and they should be commended for their efforts.

The group of 15 educators from the Canary Islands included representatives from every one of the Spanish partner organisations. They arrived in London on Wednesday, Dec 5th. Their accommodation in Blackheath was well appointed and worked well for the group, allowing them to journey there easily from the airport and to travel easily to the each day's meeting venues in Southwark.

The first evening provided an opportunity for a quiet welcome dinner for the party at a local restaurant. Just a few of the project leaders from Southwark joined the group on this first evening. This was a chance to renew the links made at the earlier prep visit in January 2012 and for new relationships to begin. The final program for the visit was circulated and the format for the coming days discussed.



An early start the following morning saw the Spanish group met at their hotel and accompanied to Southwark partner school, St Mary Magdalene Church of England Primary School in Peckham. The

Schools MFL coordinator had developed a comprehensive program for the day which enabled the Spanish visitors to tour the school, to learn about and discuss primary language provision and to experience the learning taking place in various classrooms. In the free time that followed, many of the visitors went off to discover central London before returning for the 5pm meeting at Goldsmiths Educational Studies.

In a closed session, the group learned about the context of education (including language learning) in the borough—both geographically and politically. The policy developments due to the political changes (and cuts) since the last election were discussed. This was helpful in explaining the changes affecting education locally since even the earlier prep visit.

From 5.30pm, more representatives from the Southwark partner schools began arriving. Several MFL heads, and Senior Leadership members as well as teacher partners were in attendance. Many of the Southwark delegates had met earlier in the term at a Southwark partners project meeting held at John Donne School.

A 6.00pm, Vicky Grammatikopoulou from the Educational Studies faculty officially opened the joint session by welcoming the guests to London. A short evaluation exercise took place and then the formal presentations began. The prep visit at which the project plan was formulated was discussed and the project's 2 year timetable and outcomes presented again.

The boroughs former MFL adviser gave a presentation about the borough.

Opposite numbers from the Canary Islands municipality and teacher in-service centre presented the Spanish context.

At 7.30pm, the meeting concluded and the group moved across the road for a dissemination event at a nearby restaurant. Links were deepened and what had been presented so far discussed with those from wider afield.



Friday saw the group head off to learn about secondary language provision in Southwark, having been exposed to the primary context the previous day. Secondary partner school, The Charter School hosted this day's sessions. Content from teachers and pupils as well as class room observation and presentations from the MFL team and the deputy head ensured a comprehensive, full day's program was

delivered. The visitors had free time following this in preparation for the busy Saturday program to come.

Saturday found the group accompanied on a walking tour taking in noted Southwark landmarks, following a their trek through Greenwich and along the Thames to Tower Bridge and London City Hall-which lies in Southwark borough not far from the Southwark LA offices in Tooley St.



Then it was back to Goldsmith Education Studies where both Southwark and the Canary Islands representatives again met formally.

Each of the Spanish schools in the partnership presented power point presentations as did partners from City of London Academy and Victory Primary School in Southwark. Discussion forums were led by Southwark’s ‘expert’ project partner, Goldsmiths Education Studies and the conclusions reported back to the wider meeting. Secondary language training was presented by Ruth Bailey.

The three day meeting ended with the partners discussing future collaboration work deadlines to come and a directed, evaluation discussion considering what had worked well and what might have been improved on during this first joint project meeting.

EVALUATION DISSUSSION: *What Went Well? What Didn't?*

To complete the first joint meeting of the LLM partnership, a discussion was held with all of the participants at the end of the final day. Participants were asked to comment on what had gone well and what could have been better.

Comments—What did/ didn't go well:

JG (ES) —Everything was good. We learned how you teach and got to know you. These kinds of visits allow us to think about what we are doing as well (*in our own region*). We are proud of what we do in the Canary Islands and realize we are doing well.

ES –both schools we visited were so modern and so well equipped. We learned that UK teachers work very hard.

UK –I was impressed to see the level of English all pupils are getting to (*in Spain...as a result of the presentations about language teaching in the Canary Islands*).

PA (ES) –We saw very good examples here of school practice. We are fighting to improve. We are thankful for having these Southwark partners to learn from.

ES –CLIL has been a focus for us from 2004 – 5 in all our schools.

UK –Training (*for teachers*) is really important.

ES –We can do so well at Secondary due to CLICL and the strong language teaching foundations we have at Primary level.

Charter school were brilliant with their focus on transition (*between primary and secondary*.) It was great to see this.

ES –We prefer to experience than to have hours of presentations (so therefore we liked the balance of this visits' program.)

However, we needed more time in the primary schools and more interactions with teachers. Primary to Primary and Secondary to Secondary (*face to face work*) between partners would have been good.

Job shadowing between our partner schools could deepen our experience/ sharing and learning.

ES –the group work (*discussions and feed back*) was the most valuable.

Overall this was a great start for our project...

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