Democratic Participation
Pupil Voice????

by Iclal Lawrence

What is democracy?

Demos and Kratos

The term originates from;

Greek δημοκρατία (*dēmokratía*) "rule of the people",which was found from δῆμος *dêmos*) "people" and κράτος (*krátos*) "power" or "rule" in the 5th century BC to denote the political systems then existing in Greek city-states, notably Athens;

Democracy by definition means the government by people. That means that all the people should be able to have their say in one way or another in everything that affects their lives.

Survey time

✪Can you make a list of ways that your school involve pupils into the school life?

✪How do you involve pupils in decision making process?

Please feel free to share ideas with other delegates through Twitter.

Hinge question

What is a democratic classroom?

Research by Sweden

Children's experiences of democracy, participation, and trust in school

By Robert Thornberg and Helene Elvstrand
Linköping University

What do you think can we assume from this research?

The aim of this paper is to investigate children's views and experiences of democracy and pupil participation in relation to everyday school life, and to let their voices be heard on these issues. The data for this paper was derived from two ethnographic research projects conducted in three elementary schools in Sweden.

Pupils are seldom given any opportunity to create, modify or repeal formal rules through open negotiations.

We found obstacles and limitations that counteracted school democracy: (a) discontinuity, (b) the long-term interaction pattern of teacher power and pupil subordination in the school organisation, which in turned encouraged and educated compliance with authority rather than deliberative democratic participation, (c) naive trust in teachers, (d) the school process of suppressing children's voices, and (e) unfair inconsistencies constructed by teachers.'

Reflective schools view 'pupil voice' as far more than establishing a pupil council.' (A Vision for teaching and learning in 2020)

How can you integrate pupil voice in your eTwinning projects?

Keep tweeting your ideas about democratic participation and tips to involve pupils into active school life to become active citizens!!

eTwinning

eTwinning weeks are almost here!

30 September - 27 October

#eTw4Democracy