

## **1) Our School and Educational System**

Àngel Serafí Casanovas school is situated in the town of Sort (Pallars Sobirà county), Catalonia, Spain. Pupils are from Sort but also from la Bastida, Llessui, Bressui, Enviny, Pujalt, Montardit de Baix and Gerri de la Sal.

According to school indicators, almost all the population comes from families involved in the village, workers and from different socioeconomic levels. Immigration tax is very low. Economic general level is middle-high.

Primary school education is composed of six years of schooling. Most of the children start this period of schooling when they are six years old and they finish when they are twelve. Primary education is organised and divided into distinct areas of knowledge but they are integrated and developed as a whole. These six courses are compulsory and free for every child living in the county.

On the 10th of July 2009, the Catalan Parliament approved an act entitled 12/2009. This law enabled the Catalan government to establish the curriculum for each stage of the Catalan educational system. Apart from that, this act highlights the need to develop the curriculum within the framework of pre-established guidelines, which firstly ensure the achievement of basic competencies and secondly, justify the relevance of the chosen school subjects.

Six years later on June 23rd, the Catalan Parliament issued a decree entitled 119/2015. This decree converted the central task of expanding and developing different areas into guidelines whereby to develop core competencies. The aim of this conversion was to equip pupils with the capacity to solve real problems in different contexts. It is argued that children should be able to expand and apply knowledge as well as practical abilities. Acquired attitudes and social and behavioural components are also considered a means to achieve efficient learning and skill set development.

The Education Act 12/2009, which was passed on July 10th, sets out a competency-based curriculum. Within it the different subjects are grouped into fields of knowledge. The area of first foreign language is included in the Linguistic Field.