

Virtual International Mobility

This is an evaluation of the mobility held 29th - 31st March.

What went well?

- The live tour enabled all children from every school to see the school in action, rather than just see photographs/videos.
- Meeting with all principals and other community members enabled wider participation, and we feel that even when we can visit each other again, we should still do this to ensure wider impact.
- Live lessons with a focus could replace the Skypes that we use in between visits as they seem to have more purpose. (Hangouts/zoom seem more efficient than Skype)
- Our journalist was able to attend who may not have been able to attend physically.

What did not go so well?

- You do not get the proper cultural experience, seeing videos is not the same. Tasting different foods, seeing different experiences.
- Cultural heritage.
- Feeling the school environment and meeting the children and teachers can not be replicated virtually.
- Incidental relationships that form during a virtual meeting, the social side of this for teachers is what keeps the project alive. So many decisions and ideas are often created over dinner, in a less formal environment.
- Children still need real-life opportunities of experiencing another culture, whether that is through visiting the schools themselves or having the opportunity of having teachers from other countries joining them in their own classrooms.
- Internet connectivity. Links not always working.
- Having to keep to the plan and, no flexibility for in the moment, spontaneous ideas.
- Children very reluctant to talk online, however this could also be a positive if we have more regular live lessons.
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Ideas for future mobilities