



The *Agrupamento de Escolas Dr.ª Laura Ayres* is a public institution with a multicultural population. Since the beginning the history of this school is strongly marked by the multiculturalism of its population, the sea and tourism. It comprises a group of six schools from pre-school to the secondary education. It also has professional and vocational education as well as adult education. We have a total of 2147 students spread along several education levels: pre-school (244); primary school (434); basic education (671); secondary education (687); adult education (111). A significant part of this students lack socio-economic conditions. The school is part of a network of priority schools since 2013 with the aim to improve student outcomes, reduce disciplinary events and school absence. Most of our students have ages comprised in the range from 13 to 18 years old.

One of the main features of our organisation is the strong multicultural diversity. The rising cultural pluralism present in every modern society and caused by migrating flows stresses the difficult challenge of integrating the cultural diversity within a single society and consequently within a community. In this sense the Erasmus+ programme enables our school to offer an integrating and successful teaching methodology to all learners independently of their backgrounds and culture. Thus, by means of collaborative work the individual empowerment

resulting from different approaches and new skills will help the development of innovative pedagogical practice with a higher efficiency value in the pupils' learning process.

The staff of the school consists of 10 educator for pre-school, 24 teachers for primary school, 145 teachers for basic and secondary education, 6 teachers for special needs students and 12 technical trainers for vocational education.

In our school we have three units which support non pedagogical issues with the students:

- Unit of student and family support;
- Unit of psychology and guidance;
- Unit to support the students with multi-deficiency

This units work together with other sectors in the school in several matters, in which special education is one of them.

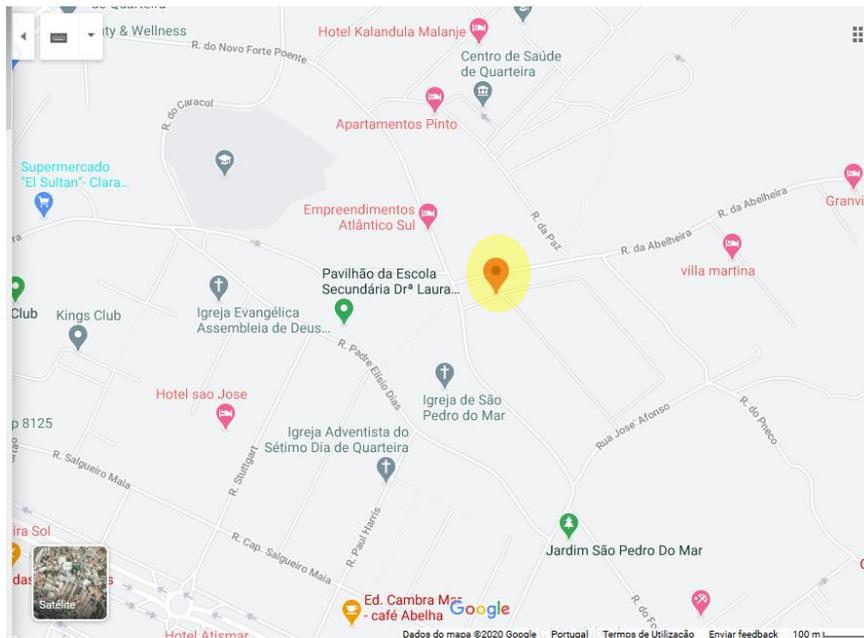
Our school recognizes the added value of the diversity of its students, and has been finding ways to deal with this difference, adapting the teaching processes to the characteristics and individual conditions of each student, mobilizing the means available to everyone to learn and participate in the life of the educational community.

From the beginning, the history of this group is strongly marked by the multiculturalism of its population, by the sea and by tourism. Algarve land, from Portugal and the World, as her patron, researcher Laura Ayres, portrays so well, which, by its work, has risen to the level of excellence.

In line with the Paris Declaration, our priorities are addressing diversity in (formal and non-formal) education and training, developing social, civic, intercultural competences and media literacy.

That is why **our motto**: *Escendo per Labore* (I rise for work); **our colors**: white and blue of the sea and the red associated with the work of our patron.

## Location



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