

Democratic Participation in eTwinning Projects

(United We Play, United We Win)

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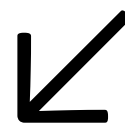
What kind of words do you associate with the term
'Democracy'?

right to vote constitution good for the people participatory citizen gender equality
express choice active participation freedom of thought showing your ideas free speech laws
election **responsability** respeto **be present** civil rights selection inclusion diversity **rights and duties** equality before the
respect rights **be involved** **free vote for all** **freedom of speech** active citizen
thought **cooperation** **freedom equality** **free vote** activism initiative
community **common good** **vote** **respect** **active citizenship** collaborare
speech leadership **citizenship sharing** tolerance justice **have a voice** **to have own thought**
debate voting rights **responsability** **active citizenship** **freedom and respect** **share opinions** **commitment**
education **responsibility** **freedom of choice** **freedom and respect** **share opinions** **commitment**
live together **responsibility** **freedom and respect** **share opinions** **commitment**
free expression gegenseitiger respekt **responsibility** **freedom and respect** **share opinions** **commitment**
votes **responsibility** **freedom and respect** **share opinions** **commitment**
etwinning community collaboration equality **freedom and respect** **share opinions** **commitment**
equal opportunity help world without border rules no false judgement right to comment explanation of thought
elections decision expression to have a say

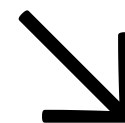
What is wrong here, then?



Democracy



A kind of regime



A culture of living

**“No person is born knowing what democracy is
– it needs to be learned and, most of all,
experienced.”**

Sarah Kaeting

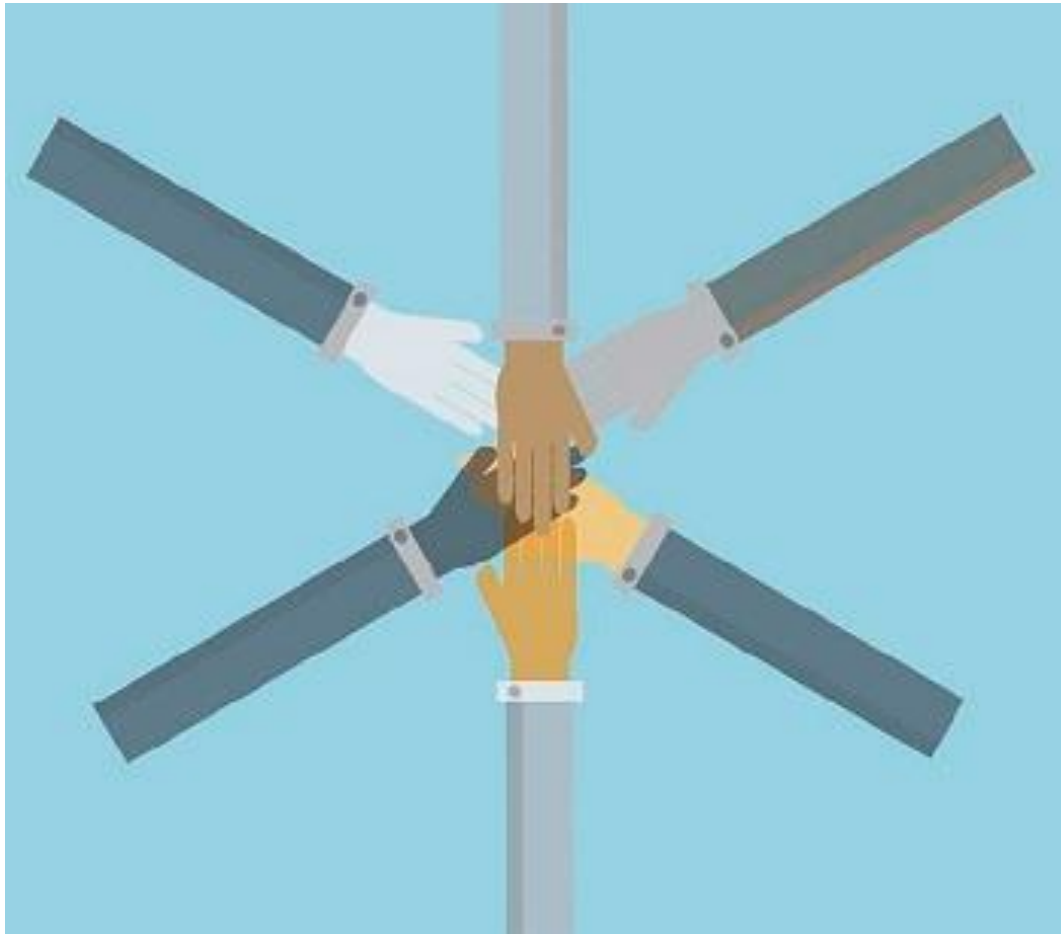
The current state at schools in Turkey

- Democracy and Human Rights course,
- Textbooks,
- School Clubs,
- Classroom president election,
- School representative election,
- Individual initiatives through projects.

Hecht and Ram (2010) explains the development process of democratic schools in terms of 3 waves;

- **1st Wave → 1900's - Progressive education**
- **2nd Wave → 1960's - Free Schools**
- **3rd Wave → 1990's - Democratic Schools**

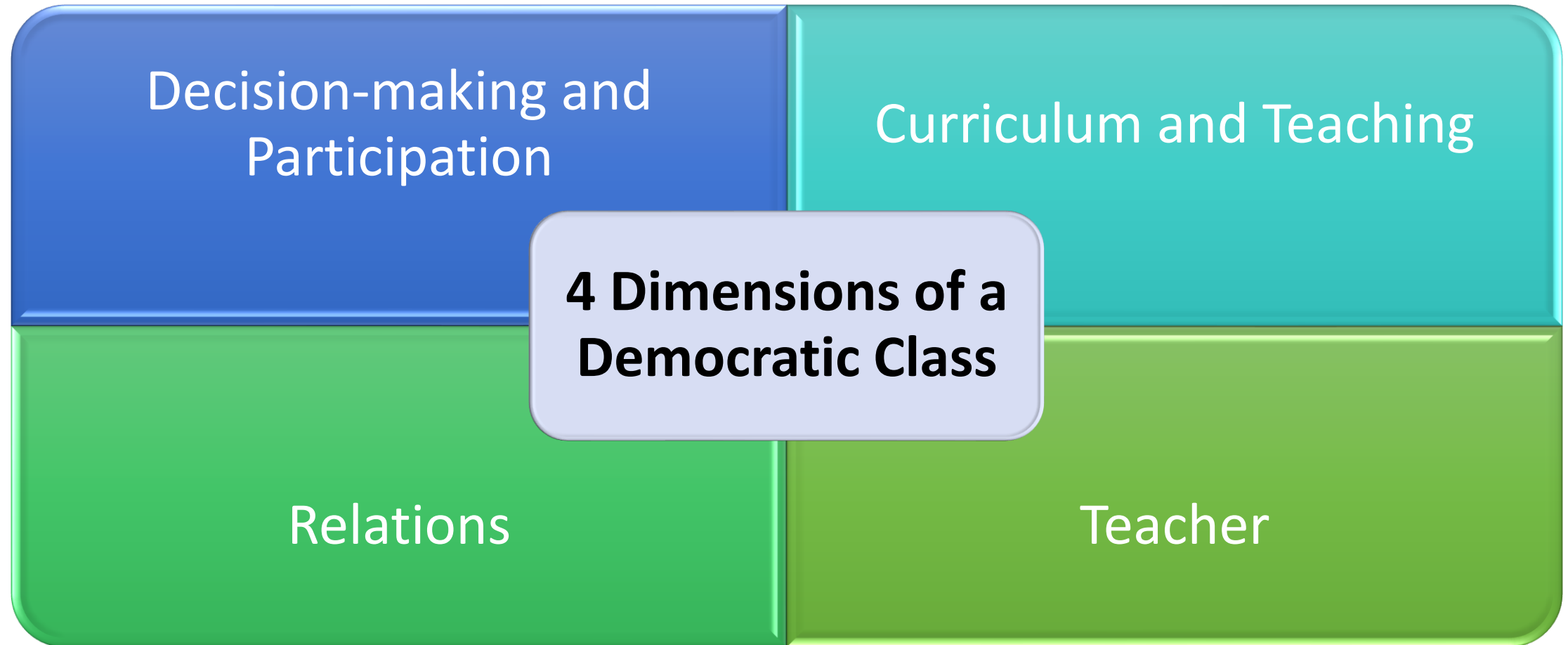
Democratic Education



- **Integrating students into decision-making process.**
- **Students are also parts of the process in which the decisions made are implemented.**

Democratic Education

- **Everyone has equal decision-making power.**
- **Whoever has an opinion should be able to express it.**
- **accepts the versatility of learners.**
- **allows students freedom.**
- **is not competitive but collaborative.**
- **abolishes the fear and enforcement by adults.**



1- Decision-Making and Participation



- Students as the subject of a decision about themselves.
- Decisions reflect the wishes, values, concerns, and interests of all students.
- Teacher and students together should identify classroom rules, values, principles, and sanctions.
- Students run the rules and defend them.

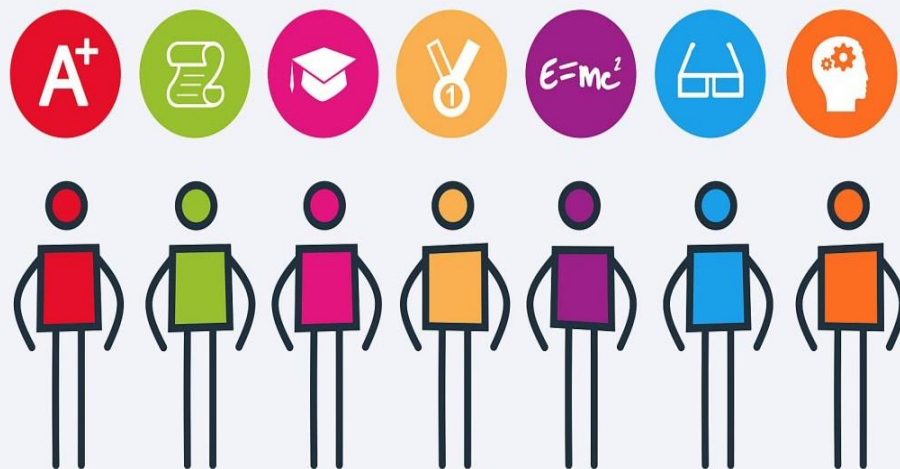
1- Decision-Making and Participation

It contributes to ;

- developing we-feeling,
- relations among peers and between adults-students,
- a sense of responsibility,
- social communication,
- participating in democratic society out of school,
- citizenship skills.

2- Curriculum and Teaching

- Students have the right to speak on teaching process.
- Students take part in deciding and choosing issues such as learning aims, what to learn, which methods to benefit from, how to assess learning, etc.
- It is necessary to constantly negotiate and evaluate what is taught and how it is taught in a dialogu-based way.



2- Curriculum and Teaching

- Instead of adopting goals and content defined by authorities, Students unearth their own goals and put them into practice.
- Students are in the center.
- Process-oriented evaluation.
- Grades are not seen as criteria for success.
- Competitive evaluation and reward not welcomed.
- Self-evaluation and peer evaluation are preferred.

3- Relations



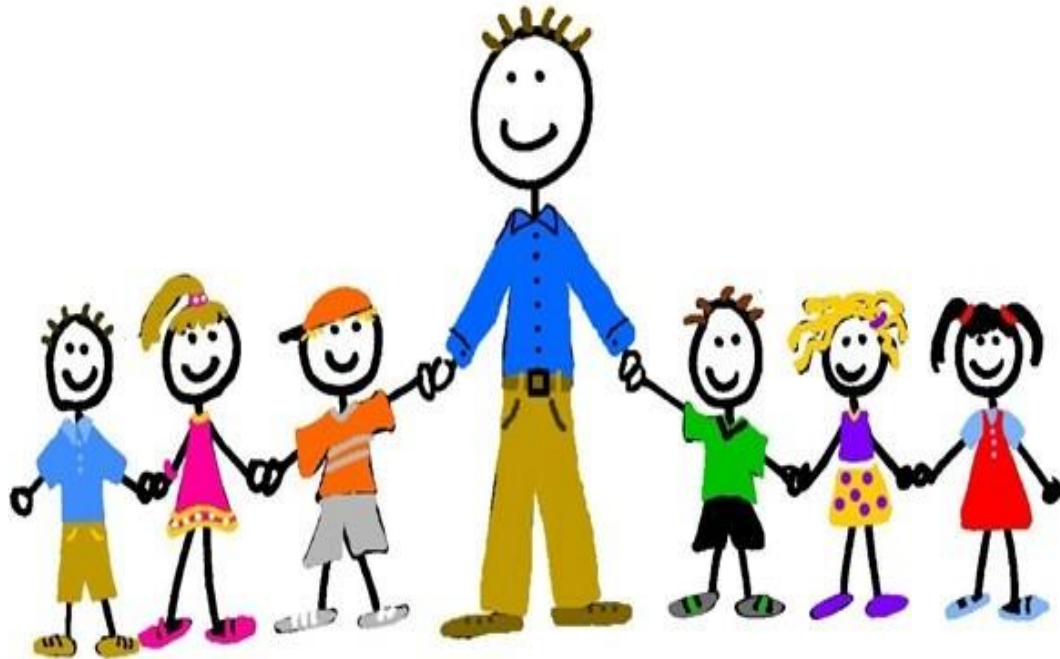
- There is a misconception that adults have more natural authority, so children will just blindly listen and follow them.
- There is no hierarchical relationship between students-adults and old children-young children.
- The relationship between teacher and students is horizontal.
- Democratic education focuses not on outer discipline, but on improving students' inner discipline.

3- Relations

It contributes to;

- Tolerance,
- Cooperation,
- Mutual respect,
- Multidirectional communication,
- Conflict-resolution skills,
- Creating a positive environment for trust,
- Equality,
- Supporting social justice,
- Confronting racism and sexism.

4- Teachers

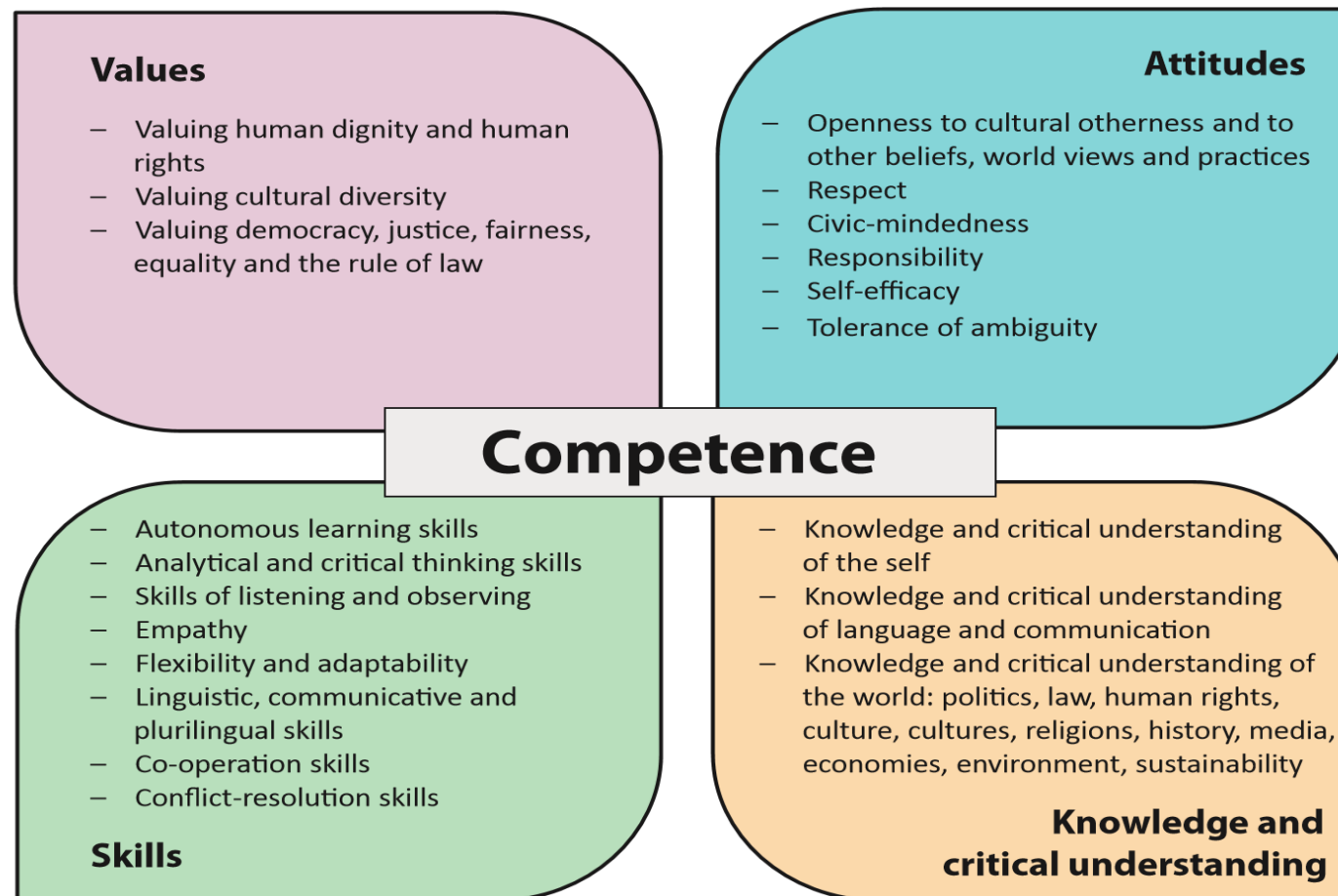


- Teacher has the main responsibility for ensuring a democratic environment.
- Teacher turns democracy into a lifestyle in a decent environment.
- Teacher is a role-model with his/her attitudes.
- Teacher is not a narrator, but a facilitator and supportive.
- Teacher is a good listener, good observer, rational, friendly.
- Teacher should be open to professional development.

Practical Ideas for Democratic Participation in eTwinning Projects



20 competences for democratic culture

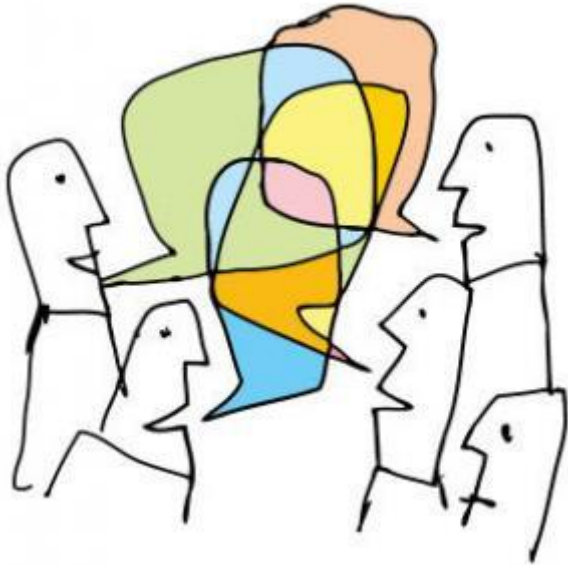


Project Planning and Designing



- Students should be included in project planning and designing.
- They form a list of agreement.
- Students' needs, capabilities, demands, interests must be taken into consideration.

Regular Meetings



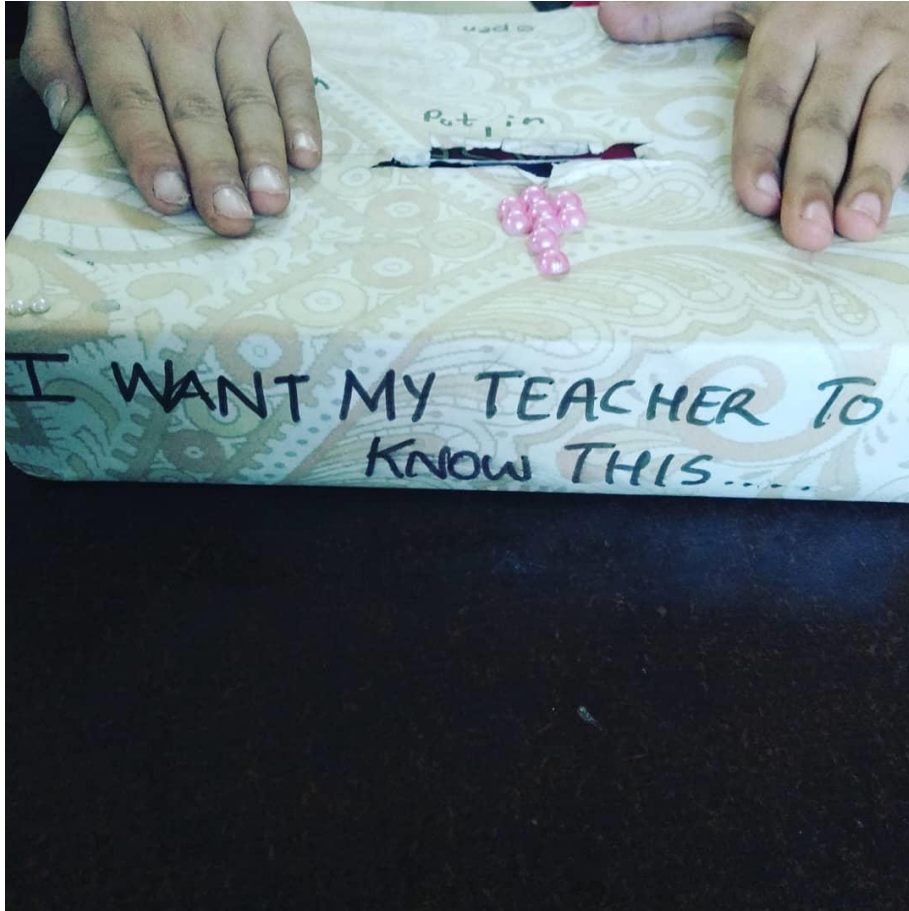
- Students should be included in project planning and designing.
- Someone volunteers to take the logbook to record the decisions.
- Remind them that these are agreements that they have created and refer back to it when students are breaking their own “rules.”

Poll



- Poll students to hear from them, or get feedback from them.
- Poll Everywhere, Plickers, Kahoot!, Survey Monkey, Typeform

Wish Box



- In a way to tackle 'tyranny of the majority', get the ideas of minority about whether they want to say something more.
- Consensus instead of majority rule.

Peace Table



- In case of a dispute between students, Peace Table can work for conflict resolution.
- Encourage the children to resolve the problem themselves without adult intervention. However, if the children cannot resolve it, then teacher assists.

Weekly Evaluation



- Have students evaluate project works and their own engagements.
- Always remember to include what is going well and what could be improved for next time.

Provide different methods of learning/teaching



- Diversify methods and tools to address all the learner types.
- Students will be much more likely to share ideas, enjoy class, and feel accountable for showing up if they have built a community..

Be Transparent



- Tell your students about your intentions for the class.
- Tell them you want to co-create a classroom where their voices feel heard and they feel excited to come to class.

thank
you!



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