How to WORK on CONNECTION in SCHOOLS

Classroom management begins with relationships.
Let’s create some connection

What do we have in common?
Who Are We?

• Each educational network has its own educational guidance service (pedagogische begeleidingsdienst - PBD), which ensures professional internal support to schools and centres.

• Schools can call on us for educational and methodological advisory services (innovation projects, self-evaluation projects, support initiatives).

• We works in and across schools for the in-service training and support of schoolheads and (starting) teachers.

Who Are We?

• We also plays an important part in establishing new curriculums and supports their implementation.

• If the inspectorate establishes shortcomings in schools, the educational guidance service may be called on to address them.

• Anyhow, we focuses above all on prevention.
What do we do?

- Support schools in the realization of their (christian) educational projects
- Support schools in the pursuit of quality
- Support the policy and the educational development of schools
- Support the professionalization of all staff members (head teachers, starting teachers and teachers with specific tasks in particular)
- Introduce, develop and support educational innovations in schools

Frame of reference about the Quality of education
"Good education = Learning in dialogue"

"They have to be HAPPY to learn"
Influence on Learning Process

😊 top 10 positive relationship with teacher and classmates
😊 disastrous shifting school and exclusion from school

10 Selected Effect sizes: What works best for learning in schools?
Source Visible Learning (2009)
Grafiek KLASSE

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<th>Leger onderwijs</th>
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Ik voel me goed

- op school en in de klas
- tussen mijn vrienden
- ik vind de sfeer op school aangenaam

Self Determination Theory

VITAMINES VAN GROEI

Hoe?
Thoughts
Feelings
NEEDS
BEHAVIOR

Connecting Communication

Focus on what unites rather than what separates, …

Listen to understand!!

Keep the relationship positive…
What is Connecting Communication and what is it good for?

Connecting Communication inspires people to act mindfully and to communicate effectively by using their emotional intelligence.

1. Observations
   - What you see and hear
   - Mind interpretations
   - No judgements

2. Feelings
   - Happy and free
   - Happy, sad, science, trusted, loved, betrayed, lied...
   - Avoid judgemental language of feelings:
     - "I'm angry with you"
     - "You're insulted"

3. Needs
   - Your need is the concrete solution
   - Focus on what you do want, not on what you are missing
   - Use the needs list

4. Requests
   - What matters for you to hear this?
   - Can someone:
     - Plan language: "Do you want..."
     - Say for a real YES

Needs
Values that contribute to health and wellbeing of people.

Connecting language of feelings
Feelings are sensations that give information about needs. Pleasant feelings inform us that needs are met, unpleasant feelings tell us that some needs are not met.

Judgemental language of feelings
Avoid expressing judgements and reproaches; translate them into feelings and needs.
AUTHORITY
FROM A CONNECTING ATTITUDE

• Reflective attitude
• Focus on the relationship with students, parents, team, …
• Working on mutual respect
• Appreciative attitude, authenticity, vulnerability
• More attention for the process than for the result
• forgiveness
WHAT?

CORE TEAMS
- Ambassadors of the philosophy
- Inspire about connecting communication
- Making a plan with goals and actions

SCHOOL
- Support teachers
- Train the trainers

THE MAKING OF A CONNECTING PLAN
Social Discipline Window
Ted Wachtel, International Institute for Restorative Practices

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Control (limit setting & discipline)

Support (encouragement, nurture)
Material/methods to connect

- Used methods invite people to reflect on situations, their feelings or needs.
- All methods stimulate conversation with people about these themes.

Reflection = giving value to experiences

Working on connection in the classroom through PROACTIVE CIRCLES

most things look better when you put them in a circle
PROACTIVE CIRCLES

Goals:
- Peace time
  - strengthen relationships between group members
  - connecting people
  - getting to know each other
- War time
  - Restorative circles: talking about issues

How does it work?
- Questions
  - Clear and simple questions
  - New groups → simple, material subjects.
  - Group with high confidence and safety → more complex
PROACTIVE CIRCLES

How does it work?

Tips:
• Do it regularly
• Learning/training
• Connecting attitude
• Don’t give your own opinion
• Appreciate the answers
• Power of silence

CARDS WITH FEELINGS AND NEEDS

• Giving people “words” to express their needs and feelings
• Connecting with yourself/others

→ Individual and groups

www.humanmatters.eu
**Building with Playmobil/Lego**

Build your ideal school/company/organization:

- Individual or small group
- Brainstorm
- Create and talk about mission and vision
- Ideas for actions
- Connection

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**CARDS FOR INSPIRATION**

Inspiration for individuals or groups.

- Pick a card that inspires you and put it on a visible place to remind you regularly.
- Pick a card for someone and look how he/she reacts to have a good conversation.
- In groups “mix and trade”.
- ...
Blobtree Collection

Talking about a situation

• Which figure reflects best who you are?
• What went well? How did you notice?
• What was difficult?
  What can you do to change this in the future?
• Which figure would you like to be?
• What do you need/can you do to reach it?

✓ Own strength–weakness analysis
✓ Giving and receiving feedback
✓ Setting your own goals
✓ Performance interview and coaching

Game of Qualities

70 Distortions

• Own strength weakness analysys
• Giving and receiving feedback
• Getting to know eachother
• Reflection on collaboration
• Performance interview and coaching

70 Qualities
**Atlas of Experience**

Dialogue about experiences in job, teams, at home...

- own reflection
- coaching
- 2 or small group
- collaboration

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**Proactive Policy:**
- Empowering relationships
- Rules and agreements
- Structure and support to learn
- Connecting communication

**Basic needs:**
- Safety
- Involvement
- Relations

> Every day in every situation

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**Curative:**
- Restore relationships

Listening to what others really have to say.
Responsibility for own needs and feelings.
Saying the essential for good relationships.
Focus on connection.

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**Appreciation for every member of the school community**

**Connection@School**

All school community
- Pupils – pupils
- School team – pupils
- School team with parents, externals...

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Katholiek Onderwijs Vlaanderen
“BUILDING BRIDGES TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS”

To improve well-being and learning of all
Connecting people, empowering and restoring relationships
Inspiring, training, supporting schools

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