

PACT – Partnership Achieving Communities Tackling early school leaving



Value education is a set of educational guidelines that highlight the basic principles of choice of values that students first learn in the family and later at school in accordance with educational standards.

Latvian normative enactments provide that value education is a part of class lessons.

It is stated in „Methodological recommendations for improvement of upbringing work in general education and vocational education institutions” that within the educational process the understanding and positive attitude towards the following values has to be formed in students:

- man and their personality,
- life, health and safety,
- mental and moral development,
- respectful, responsible and tolerant relationships between people,
- knowledge and work,
- promoting of self and social well-being,
- patriotism and civic participation,
- family,
- traditions and culture,
- nature and environmental sustainability.

The standards for school subjects in basic education and general secondary education provide that value education is one of the cross-cutting themes that involve the development of personality that is based on moral values and facilitates the ability to form and maintain responsible relationships. Value education shall be attributed both to educational content and methods.

Value education plays an important role in the growth of individual’s personality as it strengthens self-awareness, intelligence and empathy and is crucial to the development of such 21st century skills as critical thinking, creativity, cooperation and communication.

The way of implementing value education in schools may vary. In some schools these are thematic lessons, in the others - different projects or extra-curriculum activities (holiday excursions, for example). Some schools initiate certain activities and events within the framework of so called “project weeks”.

The values of Riga Pļavnieku Basic School are respect, cooperation, growth and creativity. First of all, the above-mentioned values are being formed during the class lessons. They are included in the thematic plan for upbringing work. Secondly, they are being formed within the joint school arrangements for students, teachers and parents. At the beginning of each school year the arrangements are being planned that target the formation of these values, for example the arrangements for Lačplēsis Day, Mother Day, White Tablecloth Day (on the 4th of May) as well as 18th of November celebration (Independence Proclamation Day), Christmas concerts. The whole classes of students together with their Class teacher successfully participate in different projects, competitions and exhibitions.

Not to forget that value education in our school is being implemented during Ethics, Social Science, Literature and History lessons using cross-cutting skills.

At Riga Pļavnieku School value education is also implemented as interest-related extra-curriculum activities like choirs, folk dances, non-traditional handcrafts, floristic, floorball, basketball, Theatre Club and so on. Teachers form in students the understanding of not only school values, but also of universal values. Students represent the school in different out-of-school arrangements, promote school image, learn to cooperate in achievement of a single objective, they are creative, they respect other people’s interests and are aimed at personal growth as they always wish to achieve more ambitious results.