

A LOOK FROM ...

SAN JOSÉ DE CALASANZ SCHOOL. VALENCIA SPAIN)

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How do you understand a comprehensive school in full time?

As a school that attends all educational, formal and non-formal aspects, in full time, not only during the school day. It is comprehensive because it covers all the necessary educational dimensions: curriculum or academic, pastoral, spiritual, social, playful, sports, artistic...

How to coordinate formal education in school with non-formal programs?

With creativity and desire. The first and fundamental thing is to be convinced that non-formal programs enrich and complement formal education. From this premise, the rest is possible with teacher training, resource management, flexibilization of the curriculum and enthusiasm for a comprehensive education.

How to build Christian community from school?

In my experience, a Christian community is built from school enabling times and spaces to share in general and, in particular, to share the faith. It is important to count on all of us who form the educational community, to generate bonds, to share the Eucharist, to celebrate together... Invite and welcome everyone, engage all community members, listen to them. Be creative also in the calls, suitable and different according to ages, interests, needs. And finally, but in my opinion the most important thing, do not give up, be persistent, and live every encounter, every sharing, with joy and gratitude: no Christian community is built overnight, but everything that enables it is cementing its growth.

What steps are being taken at your school to reach this comprehensive model?

With Covid-19 we have gone backwards, or rather some activity has been paralyzed, but in the school we are moving forward with proposals to offer a comprehensive school in full time, from the time it opens until it closes: ordinary classes, celebrations, continuous prayer, accompaniment in school time and outside it, extracurricular subjects of academic type (languages, for example), pastoral (Calasanz movement, for both students and teachers, PAS, families and alumni), social (volunteer students, volunteer families) sports (futsal, handball, basketball, judo), playful (chess, robotics), artistic (ballet, musical, theater...) and Scout groups. We also celebrate the Sunday Eucharist and pray together in strong liturgical times, before we begin the lesson of the little ones. There is a long way to go but we are in it, conditioning and managing spaces to complete a comprehensive school in full time.

What is the link of the educational project to the social environment of your school and to families?

The link of the educational project with the social environment of the city in general is limited, and especially it is if we close it to the neighborhood in which the school is located. In this respect we need to grow. There is a greater link with families, of course, since they are part of the educational community and the Christian community, and with whom we establish a constant dialogue through various means and at various times of the course. We count on them for training, celebratory and prayer moments, volunteering, the Calasanz Movement, the bank of uniforms and books, the celebration of family day... However, we also need to continue to strengthen ties with them.

María Muñoz Delhom, a 14 de marzo de 2021.

