

Dealing with Autism in Gozo

Evaluation Session - 26-3-2018

During this meeting, each participant reported the work done so far to achieve his/her targets.

Ms Pauline Grech reported that she has disseminated her knowledge on the importance of social communication. As a result teaching staff started to emphasise socialising skills through the display of staff and student photos in the classroom or on the classroom doors. In the case of the special unit the photos of teachers outside the classrooms are helping



ASD students to know what session comes next and with whom. It was reported that teachers and LSEs created exercises through which students are getting more aware of their teachers and peers. Some students made improvement in naming their peers and were reported to have generalized this information outside the school.



Mr Joseph De Brincat reported that meetings with the two special unit teachers in charge of the gym sessions took place.



He passed on information on what he observed in special schools in London. Together they decided which equipment to add in the school gym in order to incorporate sensory integration sessions in the gym sessions. He said that equipment has been bought and is already in good use.



Ms Cynthia Camilleri reported that sensory equipment was bought for the special unit classrooms. She said that these resources are regularly being used to help students calm down to be able to focus more during the session that follows. She reported that teachers which implemented these methods have

noticed the difference in the learning patterns of students. She also reported that she passed on the information of creating and using colourful semantics to other special unit teachers. Since then resources have been created and are



being used especially during cognitive sessions. The cognitive teacher said that LSE's from other schools are also using this method of teaching. Information and resources were also shared with parents and professionals through the Autism Facebook page. Some parents have also reported that they are using this method at home.

Ms Nadia Cremona and Mr Mario Mifsud (both primary school teachers) talked about the work they are doing in the mainstream classes. They are implementing some concepts of the SCERTS model in their classes to enhance emotional regulation. This is going to be implemented in depth in next year's SDP which we will be drafting during the staff development day seminar towards the end of this scholastic year. They are sharing these methods with the other primary teachers as well as the LSEs in their classroom.



The closing seminar was also discussed during this meeting. It was decided that it will be held on the 7th of May 2018. The title of the seminar is going to be Dealing with Autism in Gozo: The Way Forward. It was decided that there will be two panels during the seminar. One panel will be with the participation of parents and the other with professionals. A draft of the

programme was made and a list of people to invite for the seminar was drawn. It was also decided to create an event on facebook and a fee will be paid to help us reach more people.