



Education Centre of Consultations

The context for the use of ICT for Inclusion

The Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa was created on 1 March 2013. It is the first place of its kind in Poland and aims to provide free specialist support for organising inclusive solutions in the education, upbringing and social life of children and young people with special needs. Experienced special needs teachers offer specialist help, using innovative and modern influences and information and communication technology. The Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa serves:

- Kindergarten, primary school, junior secondary school and secondary school teachers
- Parents/legal guardians of children and young people with special needs
- Pupils.

Actions aimed at teachers:

- Giving content-related advice and consultations about working with:
 - Children with intellectual disabilities
 - Children with related disabilities
 - Children with behavioural disturbances
 - Children with educational difficulties
 - Children with social adjustment issues
 - Children with autism and Asperger syndrome
 - Children with visual and hearing impairment
 - Others.
- Organising open lessons and presenting good practice relating to activities that are carried out in primary schools, junior secondary schools, vocational schools and boarding school groups
- Didactic and educational classes for certain subjects and at a certain level of education
- Therapeutic and rehabilitation activities carried out in the framework of work with pupils with special needs:
 - Didactic and compensatory classes
 - Corrective and compensatory rehabilitation: logopedics, corrective gymnastics, sensory integration, eyesight improvement
 - Socio-therapeutic classes
 - Sherborne Developmental Movement
 - Others.
- Care and educational classes carried out in boarding school groups and after-school clubs



- Additional classes that develop pupils' skills and abilities, which are carried out in the area of the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1
- Observation of school performances according to actual schedule
- Individual consultations concerning diagnosis and planning the work of individual cases of pupils with special educational needs.

Actions aimed at parents:

- Presenting educational, therapeutic and rehabilitative forms of working with children with special educational needs
- Presenting good practice in the work of counsellors in boarding school groups according to actual daily routines, showing possible responses to difficult behaviour among children and young people
- Individual consultations with parents
- Consultations on the choice of an appropriate form of education for a child with special educational needs.

Actions aimed at pupils:

- Possibility of doing work experience
- Possibility of carrying out voluntary work
- Participation in events organised at the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1.

The policy context

Educational policy in Poland aims to promote inclusive education. The main emphasis is on introducing and using information and communication technology. ICT tools give pupils with special needs easier access to various sources of information, including education. The establishment of the Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa allowed those who are interested to avail of individual consultations, activities or open lessons. Thanks to these, it is possible to learn about the characteristics of work with pupils with special needs in practice and to promote information and communication technology.

The use of ICT

In the Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa, specialists focus on using information and communication technology in education. Good practice in ICT use by teachers mainly consists of its use in:

- Diagnosis
- Therapy
- Organising rehabilitation classes
- Adjusting educational conditions to the child's disability
- Making lessons more attractive.

Pupils using modern ICT in education impacts upon:

- Knowledge dissemination



- Acquiring new abilities
- Supporting the development of social life during computerisation (ability to use a computer, a tablet, an interactive whiteboard)
- Making and maintaining contact with peers (MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Active participation in lessons
- Increasing motivation to learn
- Adjusting educational conditions to the child's disability
- Making lessons more attractive.

Parents using modern ICT in everyday life allows them to:

- actively participate in their child's development;
- acquire new abilities and meet their child's needs;
- support the development of contact with teachers/school heads;
- participate in observations of lessons via a computer, tablet or interactive whiteboard;
- create groups that support parents with the same problems;
- increase their motivation to ensure that their child develops effectively and is included in social life.

Key outcomes and benefits

The Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa allows teachers, parents and pupils to take part in classes and open lessons, which present:

- Interactive lessons in classes 1–3 of primary school
- Multimedia lessons in primary school
- Educational projects in junior secondary school
- Rehabilitation, correction and compensation.

Specialists at the Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa give consultations twice a week and maintain phone and email contact with people who are interested in their advice. The number of participants grows each month. It is evident that such services are needed and must continue. The Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa is the first innovative solution proposed by special needs teachers in order to create inclusive education in Poland.

Main challenges and obstacles

Obstacles relating to the use of ICT include:

- A lack of financial resources to guarantee ICT use for each pupil
- Specialised ICT adopted by teachers only
- A lack of multimedia programs that include educational content for certain groups of pupils



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- The fact that coverage provided by domestic resources (computer, internet connection, etc.) is sometimes incompatible with pupils' individual needs.

Additional information

Information about the Education Centre of Consultations in the Special Training and Educational Centre no. 1 in Czestochowa can be found on the website www.sosw1.czyst.pl and on Facebook.

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