

Turkey - May 2015

In Turkey we visited two very different schools and met children from different backgrounds.

One of the schools that we visited was not a modern provision and did not have modern resources such as smart boards and OHP's and was very basic. The children who attended this school were working towards a vocational qualification and really lacked the English Language. These children did not have high aspirations as they felt they would do low skilled work or continue to work in their family business in their villages and therefore there really wasn't a need to learn the English language. They were unable to relate to the fact that having the English language would actually allow them to have more opportunities and hence in the long run would have greater income for their families. I felt the children were keen to learn, once they were challenged appropriately and were engaged.

However the second school we visited was very much different to the first as it had better resources and technology with better facilities. These students were working towards a more academic qualification and were every motivated and determined. They had higher aspirations and wanted to pursue professional careers. These students had good subject knowledge but needed to develop the speaking element of the English language. These children were not very shy or reluctant to speak but needed further practice to improve their English to a good level. I felt these students would progress much further if they were taught in a more practical way which focused on speaking activities rather than academic book based learning.

I feel the schools need to provide adequate training to their teachers to incorporate the English speaking element to give students better career opportunities.

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