

## Teaching report – Tuishime School

On arrival I was made very welcome by all the teaching staff and pupils. To begin with the experience seemed very daunting due to everything being very different to anything else I had ever encountered, however everyone helped me settle in very quickly. During my visit I experienced all classes apart from class 7, as they were busy revising for their exams and graduation. Even though the school has excellent exam result and all children are extremely well behaved, I cannot say that I personally feel they are getting a well-rounded education. All lessons have a routine of the teacher talking at the children for approximately half an hour with the children occasionally repeating what the teacher says; for the other half an hour the children write in silence. It seems that the children know facts but I am doubtful whether they actually have an understanding that they could apply later in life. However, teacher Monica in class 1 was an exception and had her children up and out their seats and they had fun while learning. Although, in another lesson I observed it seems that that the lessons are lifted from textbooks, as you will see in appendix 1. Thus, if the teachers have not got a solid foundation of knowledge how are the pupils meant to learn effectively?

While I was there I carried out an arts and crafts lesson, this was a substantial task in itself, as the school had no crafts materials, I had to use bottle tops as glue pots, and feathers and matches as paint brushes, which makes the task in itself harder than it should be from the onset. I feel that this issue needs to be resolved, and the children should be able to partake in more vocational studies, to make them well rounded learners. When I first began the activity, the children were anxious and nervous and did not like the freedom given to them, after a while the children became more open and enjoyed the activity, and helped each other as well. At the end of the lesson all the children had a sense of achievement and were all happy with their finger puppets they had made (appendix 2).

It is not just the crafts materials that were lacking but materials all together. My first problem was that there are no clocks around the school. My issue with this is, how do they children learn a sense of time, and how do the teachers know how long to give on activities and lessons. My second issue was that the children are using razor blades to sharpen pencils from class 1 onwards. This may be common practice in this school, but I don't think it is particularly safe or efficient (appendix 3). Therefore I think it would be advisable to donate some pencil sharpeners in the near future. Additionally, all the books that we are taking over for the pupils are not being used effectively they are in the head teachers office and I did not see them used once, and their was only a book case in the nursery section of the school, I feel that these books should be available to all pupils at all times.

Last but not least, I am worried about the amount of homework given; the children get homework every night and it is expected to be done for the next day. My problem with this is that, the children wont value it as much as they would if they had it once or twice a week. Additionally the teachers don't mark it effectively as they just do it as they are handing it out, and thus next steps and understanding can't be enforced. Also, homework is given out in class and it

takes half an hour to an hour for it to be copied out. Which is a wasteful resource of lesson time, and could be used a lot more efficiently to actually teach the children something.

I hope that you don't feel that my comments are unjustified, it is just my personal feeling and I would love to see the children having more fun and activities in the classroom. I had a thoroughly enjoyable time and would love to return in the near future.