



Specialist Schools Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

TEACHERS' INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (TIPD)

2004/05 A Selection of General Feedback and Comments

Practical Arrangements:

- ❖ A fantastic trip! The whole experience was one I shall remember for a long time. Organised down to the finest detail.
- ❖ It would have been less stressful for drivers if we had a mini bus driver.
- ❖ This was a thoroughly enjoyable trip. Accommodation and travel were well organised. Our hosts were excellent – the programme was well organised.
- ❖ It has been the most amazing experience, professionally and personally. Our co-ordinator was brilliant.
- ❖ This was a very well organised trip that made excellent use of our time. We saw a wide range of schools where staff answered our questions willingly and honestly.
- ❖ Every part of the week went smoothly. The UK and local organisation was superb.
- ❖ Fantastic organisation from start to finish. Our local contact went out of his way time and again to ensure our visit was a success.

Local Agent:

- ❖ Care by the local agent was excellent.
- ❖ Our host couldn't have been better. They organised our programme so that it was varied, interesting, action packed and busy.
- ❖ A very inspirational lady with great vision, who also gave a great deal of time ensuring our visit was successful.
- ❖ Our main contact was a real asset to this programme. I found her to be extremely helpful, informative, friendly and easy to talk to.
- ❖ Our agents were absolutely brilliant - the organisation was perfect!
- ❖ Excellent organisation at local level. All aspects of visit went really well. Opportunities offered were outstanding.
- ❖ The local organiser was excellent, extremely helpful, hardworking and friendly.

Best Features:

- ❖ A well-organised itinerary with good timings for visits, all of which ran like clockwork.
- ❖ The range of different types of schools.
- ❖ The hospitality of the people we met.
- ❖ The programme. It was put together thoughtfully so it showed us the best practice. Each day was different and surprising.
- ❖ The ability to visit a variety of schools and to chat with staff and students. The local knowledge of our organiser added a huge amount to the visit.
- ❖ This was a fantastic visit. I learned a great deal and had a wonderful time. The schools were warm and welcoming, offering lots of information and allowing us to observe any lessons or subjects that we wanted.
- ❖ The opportunity to see how independence in the children is developed and encouraged.
- ❖ Having the opportunity to visit and interact with teachers and pupils in such a culturally diverse environment.

What could have been better?

- ❖ It would have been great to shadow a normal class for a day rather than just observing.
- ❖ Would have liked to have spent more time with children, we were only in each class for 30 minutes or so.
- ❖ Our time in some schools was a little short – we were hard pressed to collect as much evidence as we wanted. A little longer would have helped, but having said that, maybe we wouldn't be able to visit such a brilliant range of schools if we spent longer at each!

If Aims achieved, comments:

- ❖ Came back and put some ideas into practice.
- ❖ The local organiser prepared a programme to match the objectives and kept all schools informed of our areas of interest.
- ❖ I feel that the group objectives were achieved. I would like to say I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and brought back many ideas.
- ❖ We were able to identify practices that could improve learning and teaching in primary schools.
- ❖ Personal experiences were awesome. It was a joy to work with youngsters from a range of backgrounds and to experience their positive attitudes to learning.