

## **Kenyatta University Primary School, Time Travel School Inspection**

### **Goal**

- Teachers have methods of teaching mathematics in the historic environment
- Pupils have an understanding how school mathematics can be used in the historic environment
- Pupils realize the benefits of basic knowledge in numbers and measurement

### **Facts**

In 1965 Kenyatta College opened, two years after independence, on the grounds that had been used for military barracks by the British army, the Templar Barracks. The focus in the college was on secondary school education and training of teachers.

Kenyatta College grew a lot in the 1970s. In 1978 Faculty of Education of University of Nairobi was transferred to KUC and KUC became the leading institution for teacher education and training of teachers in the country. New houses were built on campus and the staff grew extensively. Most of the increasing staff stayed on campus with their families. There was a need for a primary school and in 1978 Kenyatta University College Primary School opened as a school for the children of the staff at KUC.

In August 1985 the University College was changed into a full university and became Kenyatta University. The name of the school subsequently changed to Kenyatta University Primary School.

From the beginning the school was quite small with small classes. There was a desire to have a high quality in education.

Every school was inspected now and then from the national educational authorities. The school inspectors checked if the education was on an adequate level, the books in order and that the curriculum was followed. The schools seldom knew when the inspector(s) were coming.

### **Scenario, School Inspection 1980**

KUC Primary School opened only two years ago and has big ambitions to be a school of excellence and promote quality education in a child friendly environment.

Today there is a rumor that the school is going to be inspected by national and/ or local inspectors. The inspectors seldom give notice in advance, so nobody really knows if they are coming today or another day. And will it be inspection of the whole school or in just one or two subjects? Will there be one inspector or a panel? When they come the inspectors want to check the documents and observe lessons. They can ask questions in the classroom, to understand the teaching situation. They often interview both teachers and pupils to get a full picture of the school. Before they leave, at the end of the day, they will give an oral report and summarize their experiences. A few weeks later the written report will reach the school.

A school inspection is quite nervous for the teachers and the head of the school. What will they say? This is decisive for the future of the school.

The teachers have lessons as always but of course they are well prepared. They want to do a good impression if there will be an inspection.

One of the classes is outside to have a lesson in the school yard in Mathematics, more specific on measurements. This is an alternative way of teaching compared to the classroom. Probably the inspector is quite curious in this way of teaching. Will he/ she find it a good way of teaching and learning?

The teachers start the lesson as planned and the pupils are divided into different activities. Nobody knows if there will be an inspection or not. It is best to be prepared...

### **Roles**

The pupils are the pupils, grade seven, in 1980

The adults are teachers, teacher students and assistants at school in 1980

School inspector, lecturers at the teacher college

### **Key Questions**

- How and when do I learn in best? Understanding, quality of education (listening, reading, doing, problem solving; in the classroom, outside; at school, at home; relevant themes, motivation, etc)
- In what way is this learning relevant for me? When can I use it?

### **Problem-solving activities**

- The school is new. We need a wire around the schoolyard to make it safe. Material, perimeter, posts, cost..?
- How much water is needed every day for all the 500 pupils in the school?
- Show the distance between different numbers which you meet in your daily life? What do the different numbers represent in your life?
- Plant beans on the schoolyard. There is material for a 20 meters fence to protect the field from animals. Structure of the field, distance between the plants? Plant the beans. How many?

### **Time Plan**

14.00 The participants gather in the school yard

Welcome, scenario, rules

14.15 Initiation

Activities start

15.10 School inspector arrives, students presentation

15.30 Time Travel ends

Evaluation

16.00 End

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