

Escola Secundária Quinta do Marquês (ESQM) is a six-year secondary school, serving the western part of Oeiras, a small town, a few miles far away from Lisbon. The school opened in its present building in 1993 and has accommodation for more than 1000 students.

The school's population is currently of 1089 students, aged from 12 to 17, distributed by 40 classes, ranging from the 7th form (basic level) to the 12th form (secondary level). The first 3 years classes are organized on a mixed ability basis - basic learning. The last 3 years offer a wide range of courses: Science/Arts/Economy and Humanities - (Secondary Studies). The school also offers Multimedia, a professional course, but at the moment none of the students have subscribed it.

There is a teaching staff of 100 teachers and a support staff (clerical /attendants/helpers...) of 25.

Students are provided with a comprehensive range of support throughout their time in ESQM: the subjects' teachers, the support teacher (for special educational needs), the guidance teachers – psychologist - and also the Senior Management team.

In Escola Secundária Quinta do Marquês we are working with students, along with school subjects, to increase their values of: Citizenship, Autonomy, Responsibility, and Social Development.

Our aims and responsibilities can be described as follows:

- To develop each individual student's talents as fully as possible;
- To teach effectively and to set the highest standards in work and behavior;
- To help students to leave school able to make the best contribution to the community at large.

It is our aim to improve the results by:

- Setting high expectations;
- Delivering good quality teaching and
- Identifying targets for further improvement.

To develop our aims and responsibilities our main strategies are: interdisciplinarity, curriculum articulation and curricular diversity, workshops, team work, clubs and extra-curricular activities (cultural, artistic and scientific activities), links to community, protocols and partnerships with different entities.

In 2006/07 ESQM joined the pilot project of external evaluation of schools and therefore had its first Contract of Autonomy since 2007/08. The signature of the contract led to the reinforcement of the strategies of our development plan, focusing school in the useful outcome of external evaluation, exploring the advantages of decentralization and school decision making.

In 2008 our school joined the ESCXEL network project and so far we have used the reports with results analysis with the indicators used to promote reflection about pedagogical practices at school and to be more accurate in our self-evaluation process.

ESQM also joins to other different national and international projects.