CoReD
Collaborative Redesign with schools

Stories of Educational Spaces (SES)

Past, present, and potential future design and adaptive reuse of educational spaces

Description of Tool

SES is a dialogue tool for use in school development processes. The tool creates awareness about the qualities and shortcomings of the physical learning environment by opening up conversations about the past, present and potential future uses of selected places.

In the tool's activities, well-liked and/or interesting places at the school are selected, explored and further developed through the use of knowledge, imagination and storytelling.

The tool may contribute to an increased awareness of the physical environment and its significance and use for well-being and educational purposes. In addition, the tool may contribute to the development of a shared place-based affiliation. The tool can be used for smaller, self-driven development processes of the physical learning environment and as a prelude to both smaller and larger renovation projects carried out by external partners.

The tool is ideal for creating dialogues about spaces between teachers, students, school leaders and architects as workshops can be held across the various groups.

Example of padlet page

Tool instructions concerning use

The tool is to be used in a workshop with 4-20 participants divided into teams of 2-4 participants. Estimated duration 1½ hours. Padlets* with four columns under the headings 'present', 'past', 'future' and 'other' must be created for each team before the workshop. Each team needs to possess a smartphone or a tablet to be used in the workshop.

1. Brief instruction with examples of how to narrate stories about past and future use and layout of educational spaces. The group is divided into smaller teams of 2-4 participants. Each team is given a password to the pre-designed Padlet-page.

2. Narrating stories with the group divided into teams. The teams are asked to choose and visit 1-3 places at the school, describe the present use of the spaces and narrate/imagine stories of their use in the past and in the future (see work manual for further instructions). The narrated stories are added to the teams' Padlet-pages together with relevant photos, drawings etc.

3. Sharing stories in the big group. Each team presents their chosen spaces, reads their stories aloud and shows pictures and drawings using the Padlet-page (preferable on a large screen). Each presentation is followed by time for questions, comments, and dialogue.

* It is also possible to print and use the worksheet available from the CoReD-homepage.

Tool instructions on how to use the results

All Padlet pages are saved digitally, notes from the third part of the workshop can be entered before the pages are saved. The stories read aloud are audiotaped or typed into a word document. A separate document with main points from the final interview is generated. Followingly, the material can be handed over to the designers to secure that important features from the old school building are transferred to the new/rebuilt building.

Additional resources

A detailed workshop manual with questions for the storytelling part.

To create a padlet go to: www.padlet.com. You can also use other digital platforms such as Miro (www.miro.com) or Google jamboard (www.jamboard.google.com).

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