



## SCHOOL CASE STUDY

### Şehit Er Süleyman Aydın Ortaokulu

School name	Şehit Er Süleyman Aydın Ortaokulu
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Age of students	10-14
Number of staff	30
Area of focus	English language skills

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# Background, Context and Drivers to change

We, as innovative teachers, came together to modernize our traditional classroom and support students' development. We created a learning environment, **FCL Şehit Er Süleyman Aydın**, for them to develop their 21st century skills in 6 different and flexible learning zones. Many skills such as research, production, problem solving, self-realization, decision making, implementation, developing creativity and design skills are gained in these learning environments. Students carry out their studies and activities by researching, observing and interviewing with high motivation. These studies support their personal development for both visual and auditory learners.

Our activities, which encourage students to do research, have been prepared in accordance with the age and level of students and have been selected according to their developmental characteristics with an approach that will meet their knowledge, skills, values, interests and attitudes. In this way, it is also possible to acquire some positive attitudes and behaviours such as making their own decisions, self-discovery and realization in the project-based learning process by gaining higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation. A learning environment has been created where students can learn by doing-experiencing and being involved in active learning methods. [See our video here.](#)

## Flexible/innovative learning environment

FCL Şehit Er Süleyman Aydın has enabled our students to be more productive. In this way, students felt more independent and autonomous while they were working collaboratively in different zones and were able to produce more creative products. Our students could express themselves more comfortably. They have become individuals who can think effectively and use technology correctly and safely, thanks to the efficient use of equipment like smart board, tablet, computer, television, etc. to support their digital skills in our learning space. Within the strategies of effective communication, cooperation, peer solidarity, our students developed their technological competence, digital identity, empathy, taking responsibility and creative thinking, etc.

The development of many skills such as demonstrating, discussing, and philosophical and critical thinking with the Philosophy for Children (P4C) approach is supported. To help students to move more easily, tables and cushions have been placed on some parts of the floor. A television has been set up to watch the work done. Our floor was laminated, and stars were used on the floors and walls to attract the attention of our students and increase their vocabulary knowledge. Our main aim is to increase our students' motivation and achievement in our learning environment.



## Student-centred pedagogy

The activities we carry out in FCL Şehit Er Süleyman Aydın are student-centered, and teachers just guide and facilitate them. We, as teachers, actively use our classroom in English lessons. The students improve their language skills by playing various English games. They acquire new knowledge from the English words on our walls. They improve themselves with Oxford language training on smart boards, computers and tablets. With green screen technology, they stay active in technology and produce new designs and create products. They improve their language skills by reading various English books in the department.

Our students develop their decision-making, autonomy, creativity and thinking skills, sharing, self-confidence, self-control and cooperation by playing chess or sitting on the mats in a part of our classroom and playing various games during individual activities and during breaks. Unlike traditional classrooms, in our new learning environment that supports innovative pedagogical approaches covering 21st century skills; children are encouraged to act independently, think critically and creatively, engage in problem solving, idea generation, digital citizenship, cooperation and peer solidarity, creating common products, socialization and communication.

They acquire many skills such as using technological tools safely and helping each other. Their studies and activities by using research, observation and interview methods and collecting information facilitate the development of high-level skills such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation.



## Use of technology

Teachers use innovative approaches in the learning and teaching process, and support students' digital skills. Thus, they raise their awareness to use technology correctly and safely. Some of the most popular web 2.0. tools are Storyjumper, Voki, Canva, Postermywall, Brochure Maker, Wordart, Wordwall, Chatterpix. With the "Google Family Link", under the supervision of their parents, students can receive e-mails, gain digital identity, and send digital letters.

Our students use web 2.0 tools actively in terms of technology. We also support the students in this way so that they can get to know these tools and use them actively. By exhibiting their designs and works via Television in our learning environment, students feel proud about themselves and their work. Unlike traditional classrooms, the green screen technology is available in our learning environment.

Students have the opportunity to create new products using computers and tablets. Thus, they express themselves more easily and develop their digital citizenship skills. In this way, their thinking and creativity skills have also improved. Also, with different and flexible zones in our learning environment, their interests, skills, attitudes and behaviours have also been positively affected. Their perspectives have changed in a positive way.



## Impact

### Benefits

- FCL Şehit Er Süleyman Aydın brought a modern and innovative view to our school. The environment motivates both students and teachers.
- Teachers adopt innovative teaching approaches and support 21st century skills of the students to use the environment more actively.
- Students have become more active learners in our flexible learning space, and they have developed their abilities, interests, attitudes and behaviours.
- Students' perspectives have also changed in a positive way.
- By learning web 2.0 tools and using green screen technology, students' designing, and creativity skills have improved, and they can use technology safely.
- Our learning environment, which consists of 6 different learning zones, supports active learning and learning by doing, and our activities are student-centered in our learning environments. Eventually, the lessons are more efficient for us, and we can spend more quality time in our learning environment.

### Challenges

- We have not encountered any difficulties regarding the use of the classroom yet, but we may encounter problems such as the breakdown of technological devices.





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Images provided by Şehit Er Süleyman Aydın Ortaokulu

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