

Teacher in the spotlight: Miquel Àngel Estévez i Torrent



Name Miquel Àngel Estévez i Torrent

School [IES Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia](#)

Minority language Catalan

How long have you been a teacher? Just this September is my 27th year teaching Catalan.

Which class(es) do you teach? I was teaching tercer d'ESO (14-15 years old) and 1r. Batxillerat (17-18 years old), as well as compulsory classes of Catalan for secondary school teachers.

Which subject(s) do you teach? Catalan language and Catalan literature.

What aspect of your job do you find most interesting? I think that when you are a long term teacher – the pupils are with me for three or more years – you have the possibility to see how they become older.

What aspect of your job do you find most challenging? Sometimes you have to call the attention to them because they don't pay as much attention as the language demands.

How do you deal with the different mother tongues of the pupils in your classroom? In my case, and in my school, we have different ways to deal with people who come from abroad. There are special classes – aules d'acollida – to take care of the people coming from abroad.

For what purposes do you use the minority language? As Catalan is a general matter in education we try to use this language as much as possible. E.g.: all the administration is in Catalan, as well as 80 per cent of the classes. Sure enough all pupils know Catalan and Spanish at the same level, because even though Catalan is the official language in education there is a great number of pupils that speak Spanish.

What do you think is an important problem with regard to multilingualism? In our cities, unfortunately, the street language is Spanish, even though we try to stimulate our pupils to use Catalan as their own language.

Does your school have contacts with (a) school(s) abroad? If so, with which school(s)?

We have been in contact with schools in France and England, as well as schools in México at “cicles formatius de grau superior” (those are post compulsory schools).

On what themes or topics would you like to work in the future, possibly with other partner schools from Europe? I would like to know how the teachers of Scotland, Wales, and other bilingual countries teach Scottish, Welsh to people not having the language as mother tongue. I realise that this kind of problem is almost resolved in countries like Switzerland and Belgium, because these countries have special laws protecting their languages.