

15.- MATHEMATICS TEACHER

I am Inmaculada, the Maths teacher. To start with, I would like to say that Mathematics, as you all know, is a subject hated by many people, but, it is also true that it is appealing for others who know how to comprehend, understand and appreciate it.

Throughout all the years I have been teaching, I have quite often been asked what mathematics are useful for, and I have then answered that they serve three main purposes:

Firstly, it helps us to “furnish” our mind, to use it correctly because thanks to mathematics we learn to explore, to make generalizations, to be abstract – in a single idea: to organize ourselves.

On the other hand, thanks to mathematics, we can solve problems that arise in our everyday life, such as for instance we can know how to work out a light, water or telephone bill, or also know how to work out tables, diagrams that frequently appear in the press, on television, or even know how to manage our own money.

And, lastly, I can tell you that thanks to mathematics both science and technology have developed enormously, and thanks to this we live nowadays in much better conditions than our ancestors did.

But what I have learnt is that, when they really get to know how useful mathematics can be in class then the students start to solve problems related to daily life.

So that the students can carry this out successfully, the teacher has to teach them how to develop problem-solving strategies but, also, they have to count on their own intuition and prior knowledge.

Well, I'll go on to explain now the groups of contents which are taught in the ESO: they are four groups of contents that are usually repeated through the four years of compulsory education.

The groups of contents are the following: Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Information Treatment. We all know that these contents are very hefty, and rarely can the teacher teach them in their totality.

“And, how do we evaluate these contents?” This is another very important question to take into account. We basically use three evaluation methods:

The first and really the most important one is exams; then, checking the class notebook, which must be complete, ordered, clean, well-sequenced, and, lastly, also the regular observation by the teacher of the student's daily class work and homework.

Homework is usually revised daily on a student by student basis. This is quite hard work because it takes a lot of time to check them, to go from desk to desk, trying to check the student's homework. But, in the long run, we learn that this is worth doing because you make the pupil work, and start daily habits kept up at home.