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TESTIMONIAL

Job Shadowing in

Camilo Castelo Branco School Group, Portugal

4th and 8th May 2026

Our Job-Shadowing experience at the *Camilo Castelo Branco School Group* in Portugal provided valuable insight into the successful implementation of the school's core values, namely responsibility and integrity, excellence and high standards, curiosity, reflection and innovation, citizenship and participation, and freedom.

The focus of our visit was the observation of kindergarten students attending *Jardim de Infância de Seide São Miguel*, led by Ms Elsa Mendanha, and *Jardim de Infância de Lagoa*, led by Ms Ana Coutinho.

Throughout our visits, we observed learning environments designed to promote curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills through experiential activities such as gardening and forest exploration. We also gained first-hand experience of an educational approach inspired by the Modern Movement School in Portugal, which encourages learner autonomy, collaboration, communication, and inclusion. Students are actively involved in discussions, decision-making, and shared responsibilities, allowing them to participate meaningfully in the learning process.

A strong sense of community was evident within both schools. Children collaborated in choosing play areas and educational outings, while parents played an active role in supporting projects and school activities. The schools also adopt a student-centred approach, encouraging children to select project themes and engage in collective reflection and decision-making.

Environmental awareness and sustainability are key aspects of the schools' educational philosophy. Through outdoor learning, the reuse of materials, handmade resources, and activities involving the growing, preparation, and consumption of food, children develop practical skills, responsibility, and respect for the environment.



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Maria Cutajar
Theresa Nuzzo School

