

Project: NELCA 2023-2026

Project Number: 2023-1-SK01-KA220-HED-000158697

Supporting evaluation from Pilgrims Teacher Training

<https://www.pilgrims.co.uk/teacher-training-courses>

Pilgrims Teacher Training has not been directly involved in most of the NELCA project though through our collaboration with Learn & Lead Innovation we know that the principles of Learn & Lead Innovation based on the 9+ 0-0 principles align very closely with our Pilgrims approach to humanising language teaching and training and a learner centred approach in teaching and learning. We are also aware and very pleased that our collaboration with Learn & Lead Innovation has strongly influenced the NELCA project.

This alignment between Learn & Lead Innovation principles and Pilgrims humanistic approach focussing on the whole person and holistic approaches in teaching and learning and is one that we regard as a really meaningful collaboration and relationships and in working together we can learn together and grow together in creating the best of what is involved in developing, supporting and creating an effective learning organisation. The concept of the Learner Centred Approach is central to Pilgrims humanistic approach. We absolutely embrace this approach for effective teaching and learning though we would actually like to encourage consideration of what we would call a 'Learning Centred Approach'. While of, course, the focus on effective learning is through a primary focus on the learning and therefore learner centred – a learning centred approach encompasses a broader approach which does not necessarily imply a particular methodological approach in achieving learner centred teaching and learning. The learning centre approach also focuses on a whole school approach in its' implementation encouraging change and development at all levels of a school. We are sure that Learn & Lead and the LCA project embrace all of this.

Where Pilgrims has been directly involved with Learn & Lead Innovation was through 1) the induction of Pilgrims Trainers into Learn & Lead Innovation through part one "The Essentials of Communication and New Leadership" and part 2 "The Learner Centred Classroom". We have also collaborated and delivered training on the Creative Teachers, Motivated Learners Learn & Lead course hosted in Segovia in 2025.

For the first course the primary focus was to understand how the **Learn & Lead 9 + 0-0 principles**—align with **Pilgrims Teacher Training's** foundational commitment to **humanistic teaching and learning** (originally championed by figures like Mario Rinvoluti).

Overall, this induction successfully bridged corporate/institutional leadership frameworks with deep student-centered, affective educational philosophies..

The Segovia Inductions (2025)

The delivery of the courses across two separate months allowed for deep learning over two separate weeks in March and August 2025 **The March 2025 Cohort:** Acted as a foundational launch for 8 Pilgrims trainers. It focused heavily on unpacking the theoretical approach of the Learn & Lead principles. The historic, reflective atmosphere of the town of Segovia also provided and reinforced an excellent backdrop for deep professional reflection.

The August 2025 Cohort: Benefited from March's feedback though only 6 Pilgrims trainers were able to attend this cohort. It featured significantly enhanced experiential learning, better group dynamics, and a stronger emphasis on *how* to model these principles in a live trainer-trainee ecosystem rather than just lecturing on them.

This session was enhanced with an innovative approach. To enable and foster a more hands on experiential learning approach we combined the six Pilgrims trainers with Learn & Lead educationalists and as Pilgrims trainers were experienced in and have been leading learner centred approaches in their own work it was considered that an engaging feature of the week was for the Pilgrims trainers to facilitate sessions each day for the combined group.

The Segovia induction marked a powerful collaboration. Rather than operating in silos, the **Pilgrims Teacher Trainers** and the **Learn & Lead team** co-delivered a seamless training experience. The feedback highlighted how this partnership enriched the sessions, combining Pilgrims' humanistic, learner-centred methodology together with perhaps a little more structured approach in the Learn & Lead approach. In doing so we developed and understood the benefits of where we completely align and where there may be differences based on our different experiences and contexts.

The way input sessions were delivered, though, set a new benchmark for professional development. Instead of traditional, top-down lectures, the sessions mirrored the exact methodologies being taught. For example:

- **Co-Teaming & Co-Delivery:** Pilgrims trainers and the Learn & Lead team either co-led sessions or reflected together. This "double-act" allowed participants to see real-time collaboration, negotiation, and flexibility in practice.
- **Loop Input:** Which has always been a feature of Pilgrims approach. The trainers used the "loop input" technique—delivering content about student-centered learning *through* student-centered activities. Participants learned the theory by experiencing it as learners.
- **Experiential and Humanistic:** In classic Pilgrims style, sessions focused heavily on the psychology of the learner, well-being, and creating a safe emotional space to take risks, which perfectly complemented the structural goals of Learn & Lead.

The collaboration between **Pilgrims Teacher Training** and **Learn & Lead Innovation** for the summer courses in Segovia marks a prominent partnership in contemporary English Language Teaching (ELT). Grounded heavily in the legacy of humanistic education, the courses merge classroom-level humanistic teaching with school-wide learner-centred management.

The curriculum offered by the Pilgrims and Learn & Lead partnership features targeted professional development tracks designed to empower educators, school leaders, and managers stimulating, encouraging and delivering real life practical understanding of the learner centred approach. Pilgrims absolutely welcomes further collaboration with Learn & lead Innovation and we are in no doubt of the importance and success of the NELCA project.

Phil Dexter: Coordinator Pilgrims Teacher Training

Monday June 15th.

