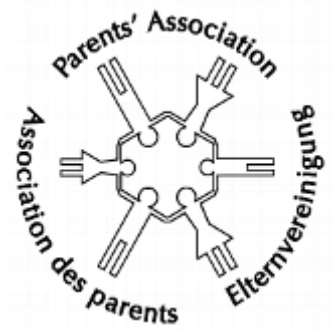


Parents' Association of the European School Munich



Parents' Association of the European School Munich Newsletter – School Year 2017-2018

Dear Parents,

A difficult school year for all stakeholders is coming to an end and we nevertheless hope that your children had a successful year and will enjoy their school holidays.

After the cumbersome election of a new chairman in December 2017, the activities of the parents' association resumed and continued with almost the same team in the usual way, with a focus on the core activities (bus, transport, after school care, canteen and extracurricular activities) of the parents' association, whose existence was at stake before the election.

Representation work and attendance at regular meetings with the school and parents' representative have taken place in the usual way.

The highlights of the school year from December 2017 onwards were the following:

- The IT environment of EV-ESM has been further extended by a new online tool that will be made available in the coming weeks for canteen registration. The necessary information will be provided in due time.
- You may have already heard about the new European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This regulation offers an increased level of privacy protection and became effective on the 25th of May. In Germany, data regulations were already among the strictest in the world. In order to comply with the new GDPR standard, we are finalising the update of the EV-ESM privacy policy in relation to processing of personal data. This will be published on our web page during the summer, at the latest at the end of August. We assume that the school will take the necessary steps to comply with the new GDPR as well.
- The contracts with the caterer and the school are under review and will require change and adaptation, at the latest before the primary school moves.

- The replacement of the web page of the parents association is considered as well and will include a space dedicated to the pedagogical committee for its publications.

As many of you will have noticed, the local school environment has become more demanding as a result of budgetary constraints, Brexit, and changes in demography at the EPO. All these factors have had unpleasant consequences for the school, its management, teachers and eventually the pupils and their parents. Among these are:

- reduction of teaching hours, merge of classes for the next school year,
- transfer of some activities belonging to the “all-day concept” to the parents’ association for the coming year,
- difficulty in attracting and recruiting qualified teachers, especially native-speaking German and English teachers, for different reasons (Brexit, insufficient salary level),
- restriction of educational support,
- restriction of replacement of absent teachers
- difficulty in finding adequate solutions for SWALS,
- and still a lack of space in a school designed for 1200 pupils and which has to accommodate more.
- under occupied Kindergarten owing to, among other factors, restricted opening hours.

However, the administration of the school is still in line with the regulations and only the handling of exceptions has changed. We reassert our support for the school directors and administrators who have shown exemplary commitment to their work in this changing and difficult situation.

As the next school year 2018/2019 approaches, the new marking system will provide new challenges. We strive for a pragmatic approach to the resolution of problems through informal discussions and proposals.

We will pay attention to any problem occurring during the coming BAC session and take action through the channel of Interparents if necessary.

Please bear in mind that all European Schools are suffering under similar budgetary constraints and also have to deal with uncertainties. With this in mind we have strengthened our exchanges with the other European Schools and Interparents.

To consider that Munich could or would be an exception in this general environment would surely be a mistake.

Jean-Luc Dupuis

1. Chair Person EV-ESM