

To whom it may concern

Date: 28.3.2023

Subject: Parents' concerns regarding proposed changes to EIS Kivimies campus and going forward

On 10.3.2023, Ms. Anne-Marie Rapo, the Principal of Espoo International School (EIS), shared with us via email, certain changes proposed by Espoo City Council regarding the EIS Kivimies campus and which had been communicated to the Principal. In summary, the proposed changes involve separation of EIS (for grades 1-9) and Kivimies school (for grades 1-6) for English-language teaching. The Kivimies school will be the official management for all activities at the Kivimies campus. This means that our kids (now in Grade 3S), who had been inducted into Espoo International School at Kivimies campus, under the auspices of Espoo International School, shall now be transferred to under the auspices of the Kivimies school.

This brings up several grave concerns from all the parents and students currently studying in EIS at the Kivimies campus, especially in Grade 3S. Since the establishment of the EIS Kivimies campus in 2020, students were offered to join Espoo International School after an entrance test – of those students offered, some were sent to Kivimies, some to Opinmäki campuses. At the time of admission, no differentiation was made between the 2 campuses regarding the curriculum, the board of the education followed or even the prospects of availing the IB board's MYP program at EIS for grades 7-9. Now by separating the 2 schools, where our kids will bear the brunt of such a move and possibly move under the auspices of Kivimies school, will probably also unfortunately lose the privilege to avail the 7-9 grade MYP IB curriculum offered by the EIS auspices, with no fault of our kids. With the proposed changes, not only do these disrupt and traumatize our daily lives, interfere with our mental health and alter the course of our students' educative journeys, but also stands testimony to the fact that a breach of trust can and will happen if the Espoo City Council so wishes to.

Now however the Espoo city council decides to move ahead with their proposed plans, we as parents of grade 3S unanimously voice our opinions and ask the Espoo city council to address all our concerns before materializing their final proposal of change. Our concerns and solutions are very clearly listed below:

1. Our kids must continue with EIS and not to be moved to any other school because they have taken the entrance exam to be eligible for EIS which is an IB school at the MYP level at grades 7-9. Many parents chose EIS for this very reason.
2. If EIS and Kivimies are at all separated, our kids must be given the rightful option to move to the Opinmäki campus under the EIS banner.
3. ~~If our EIS is retained in Kivimies campus, we demand the same level of facilities that Opinmäki kids enjoy and this has been a long standing issue ever since the Kivimies campus began~~
4. ~~If our concerns and proposals are not taken into consideration, unfortunately we will need to involve higher authorities~~

We sincerely and earnestly wish that this change is brought in with consideration of our concerns and we can reach a consensus favourable to all involved. This can only lead to favourably working together and not against each other. We await your sound judgment and inclusion of our requests in your final proposal of change.