

Dear Mr. Goggins,

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We are writing to you in our role as the APEEE delegates to the EEBI Health & Safety Committees (Uccle and Berkendael) just to let you know some concerns parents are raising about the possible reopening of the school for the final six weeks of the term (after holidays, 25th of May) as well as issues for the further reopening in September. We would like to say we are not in favour or against a return to school before summer. That is a decision that should be based on information and policy decisions far beyond our access and scope; it is a matter for scientists and finally for the decision of the Belgium authorities and the school direction.

Whilst distance learning has worked rather well, in taking a final decision on the re-opening before summer, consideration should be given to the specific situation of the primary and secondary. If the school could adopt safety conditions carefully monitored to keep them efficient while keeping high educational and pedagogical quality of teaching, this re-opening could provide relevant experience for managing the situation as of September while giving the kids the opportunities to catch up with teachers and friends.

We appreciate the meeting you convened last Tuesday and the further meeting you announced for the next days. Indeed, informing families about the arrangements for the end of the term and about the uncertainties surrounding the start of the new scholar year is crucial. We would be grateful if communication about upcoming decisions could be circulated to parents as early as possible, even if it is only to inform us of the decision making process and timeline that the European Schools are following. We think it is important for families that we eliminate as much as possible any uncertainty and being regularly informed about next steps as it was the case until recently. Against this background, we took note of the message you circulated to the parents on Tuesday as regards the possible resumption of classes as from 25th of May.

In our opinion, the following issues will require being addressed including possibly by innovative solutions. This would be test cases for the reopening of the school in September, as it is unlikely that the situation regarding Covid 19 would have changed and that the school's infrastructure could be suitably amended by then. We should thus already anticipate the fact the situation will go on and that the return in situ of all students at same time in the school in September is unlikely:

- Which measures will be taken to ensure that all pupils can continue their education under equal conditions, in particular where some students will be taught on site and others off site? Besides the possible continuation of social distancing for several months, there will inevitably be some cases of quarantined pupils/parents/teachers, or delicate situations where parents could be forced to remain in quarantine till their children return to school. Could you envisage the filming of live lessons with synchron and asynchron consultation of the video by students? If this requires adaptation of the classrooms, could it be done over the summer? Could a test case be organised for instance in the last two weeks of school for S6 and/or S7?
- As partial attendance is required, what will the criteria be (pupils/classes, schedule, levels)? And how will this affect transport? For now but also what could be the scenarios as of September?
- How will we ensure the necessary physical distancing on the schoolyard and school playgrounds? For instance, there may be need for more surveillance when on the school site in order to ensure that students respect physical distance and avoid gathering in hubs (school or canteen entrance/exit, transport area/buses, going to/from class etc.)?

- For adults and kids beyond 12 years, masks are compulsory according to Belgium rules: is the school preparing to supply masks and hygiene material not just for staff but also for pupils as of September or should family be informed that they should provide the necessary material? Will the school nursing station also reopen?
- School should provide soap, towels and warm water at the bathrooms (in particular for Gutenberg building) to ensure hygiene measures.
- Once the canteens will be allowed to reopen at a later stage, what health and safety measures will be put in place including for the bathrooms (soap, towels etc)? Who will oversee these?
- We suggest the deconfinement programme for the school includes scenarios and instructions to staff/families for a possible return to a confinement situation if Belgium authorities so require.
- In view of September, what kind of arrangement of infrastructures, circulation in the buildings and between the buildings, change of classrooms by teachers instead of students, adaptation of the agenda etc would be necessary and possible to realise by then in order to welcome in situ as many students as possible on the two campus in safe conditions?

We are also looking forward to your response, the next reflection meeting and the upcoming meetings of the Safety & Hygiene Committees at Uccle and Berkendael.

Yours sincerely,

APEEE Delegates

EEBI Health & Safety Committees

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