

APEEE position paper on 180 working days for the pupils

APEEE objective

The Apeee objective is that all EEB1 pupils are offered each year by the school 180 working days (*jours de cours*). In particular for the S1-S6 pupils in case the School uses the possibility of suspending normal lessons during the days required for the BAC oral examinations, replacement activities should be offered of appropriate quality and planned sufficiently in advance.

Background

The school year in all European Schools “*must consist of 180 working days for the pupils*” according to Annex 1 in the General Rules of the European Schools. This formal rule has not been respected for EEB1’s S1-S6 pupils in recent years. The School planned 171 working days for the S1-S6 pupils in the last school year (2016-2017) and plans 172 working days for the S1-S6 pupils in the current 2017-2018 school year (see details in annex).

The Board of Governors grants the European Schools the possibility of suspending lessons in the secondary cycle during the days required for the BAC oral examinations at the end of the School year and replacing the normal lessons with replacement activities. The Board of Governors recommends that such replacement activities are planned a sufficiently long time in advance, so as to improve the quality of what is offered and to make them compulsory, if necessary, for pupils who register to participate in them, in order to avoid absenteeism and security problems. The current EEB1 practice of suspending S1-S6 lessons during the oral BAC examinations without offering replacement activities for S1-S6 pupils is not in line with the formal rules.

Class Councils (as well as all other School Council meetings) “*shall meet outside school hours*” according to Article 17 in the General Rules of the European Schools. The School’s current practice of organising secondary Class Councils and other Council meetings during school hours at the end of the school year is not in line with the rules. Discontinuing this practice would also help ensure that a sufficient number of secondary teachers are available to carry out replacement activities for the S1-S6 pupils during the BAC oral examinations. Parents understand that about 20% of the secondary teachers are occupied by the BAC oral examinations, so 80% of the teachers should in principle be available to cover replacement activities for the S1-S6 pupils.

APEEE positions concerning the school year and the 180-day rule

1. If and when the School uses the possibility of suspending S1-S6 lessons during the days required for the BAC oral examinations, the School should offer replacement activities for the S1-S6 pupils as foreseen by the Board of Governors. The replacement activities should be planned a sufficiently long time in advance, so as to improve the quality of what is offered and to make the activities compulsory, if necessary, for pupils who register to participate in them, in order to avoid absenteeism and security problems.
2. **Replacements activities for S1-S6 pupils** during the oral BAC examinations that would qualify as “working days for the pupils” in line with the curriculum could include inter alia **school**

trips, excursions, workshops* and (for S5-S6 pupils) work experience placements. The replacement activities should be of educational/pedagogical nature and with concrete links to the School curriculum. No “garderie” style activities.

3. In order for the school to be able to organise replacement activities, the School’s current practice of organising secondary Class Councils and other Council meetings during school hours at the end of the school year should be discontinued. Class Councils (and other School Council meetings) shall be held outside school hours in line with Article 17 in the General Rules of the European Schools.
4. The Apeee considers that the EEB1 School management is responsible for organising the school year in full compliance with the formal rules applicable to all the European Schools, including the provision that the school year must consist of 180 working days (jours de cours) for the pupils. It is not up to the parents to tell the School how to organise the school year to ensure that 180 working days (jours de cours) for the pupils are effectively delivered. The APEEE trusts that the school management – in close cooperation with its competent faculty of teachers – is best placed to decide on the practical organisation of the school year.

*Workshops could be organised on relevant issues that the school certify as part of the curriculum, for example creative writing, debate, coding, science/tech projects, art/music etc.

Annex : Planned working days for EEB1 S1-S6 pupils during the last and the current school year and the formal rules concerning the school year in the European Schools

ANNEX

Planned working days (jours de cours) for EEB1's S1-S6 pupils during the last and the current school year and the formal rules concerning the School year in the European Schools.

2016-2017	Planned working days for S1-S6 pupils per month
Sep	20
Oct	20
Nov*	17
Dec	14
Jan	17
Feb	15
Mar	22
Apr	10
May	17
June	19
July	0
Total number of planned working days for S1-S6 pupils	171
Holidays /weekends total	194

2017-2018	Planned working days for S1-S6 pupils per month
Sep	18
Oct	20
Nov*	18
Dec	15
Jan	18
Feb	15
Mar	17
Apr	16
May	16
June	19
July	0
Total number of planned working days for S1-S6 pupils	172
Holidays /weekends total	193

*Journée pédagogique not counted as a working day (jour de cours) for the secondary pupils since all lessons are cancelled on that day.

From the General Rules of the European Schools

ANNEX I

RULES CONCERNING THE SCHOOL YEAR

The school year may not begin before the second working day in September. Locally recruited teachers will start working on the first working day in September, that day being used for the General meeting, extraordinary Class Councils (appeals), testing of pupils etc.

The school year must consist of 180 working days for pupils (181 in leap years).

The last day of the school year must be the same day in all the European Schools and will be 7 July or thereabouts.

The schools should allocate:

- a. one week for the All Saints half-term holiday, to include 1 November.
- b. two weeks for Christmas/New Year, beginning around 22 December.
- c. one week for the Spring mid-term break, preferably the week in which Shrove Tuesday falls.
- d. two weeks for Easter, preferably one before and one after Easter Sunday¹. Schools with a Greek section should ensure that Greek pupils may observe the Orthodox Church's Easter Monday.
- e. Community holiday, to be marked either by a holiday or by organised activities to raise awareness of the Community.
- f. Whit Monday
- g. Summer holidays: approx. 8 weeks

Additional holidays: Days may be allocated by Administrative Boards according to local requirements, including, for example, Labour Day and Ascension Day where these are national holidays.

The holidays listed in points a, b, c and d will be harmonised across the Schools located in the same city (Brussels, Luxembourg).

¹ Only the European School of Mol which needs to respect the organisation of boarding institutions attended by some pupils may organise the Easter holidays differently, if necessary, in order to conform its school calendar to the Belgian Flemish educational system.

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- For the 2012-2013 school year, the amount of the contributions to be foreseen in the budget for the 2013 calendar year will be reduced to one third of that sum.
 - As from the 2014 financial year, no further contribution will be payable by the ECB or the Italian Government.

The Italian Government will nevertheless continue to defray the costs of payment of the national salaries of the Italian teachers seconded to the European School, Frankfurt as it does in the other European Schools, like all the Member States for their seconded staff.

B.11. Request from the Council of Europe that category I status be granted to the children of its staff and to those of the staff of the permanent representations to the Council of Europe – 2010-D-293-en-3

The Board of Governors decided not to grant category I status to the children of the staff of the Council of Europe or to those of the staff of the permanent representations to the Council of Europe.

B.12. Length of the school year in the European Schools – 2010-D-173-en-4

The Board of Governors confirmed its decision of 30 and 31 January 2007:

1. From a formal viewpoint, to grant the schools the possibility of suspending lessons in the secondary cycle during the days required for the Baccalaureate oral examinations at the end of the school year, as they appear each year in the Memorandum on the Baccalaureate drawn up by the General Secretariat and approved by the Board of Governors,
2. From the viewpoint of practical organisation during the Baccalaureate orals period, to recommend to the schools,
 - a) that the number of work experience placements in companies in years 5 and 6 at the end of the school year be increased,
 - b) that the organisation of replacement activities be planned a sufficiently long time in advance, so as to improve the quality of what is offered and to make them compulsory, if necessary, for pupils who register to participate in them, in order to avoid absenteeism and security problems.

From:

Decisions of the Board of Governors Meeting, Dec 2010