

EIS Kivimies 1-2S Parents
March 30, 2023
Growth and Learning Board - Espoo City Council
Juha Nurmi, Director of Basic Education
Espoo City Youth Council
EIS School Board
EIS Student Board, EIS Parent-Teacher Association

Request for fair treatment of students of EIS Kivimies campus

The proposal presented at the guardian's meeting organized by Espoo City Council at Opinmäki and Kivimies campuses of Espoo International School (EIS) on 28.3.2023, to bring EIS Kivimies 1-2S students under the auspices of the new English-language school, the Kivimies School, is not acceptable by the undersigned parents and guardians.

It's rather unfortunate that Espoo City Council's sudden proposal to cut off EIS 1-2S from their alma mater, reflects discrimination, injustice and clear breach of trust towards the students and parents of EIS Kivimies Campus. We would like to remind the city council that:

1) We, as parents and guardians, consciously enrolled our children in Espoo International School for its great reputation, international community and especially for its IB (7-9 grade MYP) program. Many international parents of 1-2S chose to reside in Espoo and not in any other districts knowing that Espoo offers IB Board accredited school in EIS.

2) Our children have successfully cleared the selective entrance test to be admitted to EIS just as other EIS students at Opinmäki. It is unjustifiable to shift only a certain set of students of EIS to a different school.

3) EIS has grown deeply into our childrens' identity, strengthened by their joint activities like Eco school representation, student council memberships, and joint events and festivals with Opinmäki Campus. It is deeply traumatizing and morally unfair for the young children to have their identities as EIS students, taken from them with no fault of theirs.

4) Before applying to EIS Kivimies, parents and guardians were assured that their children could stay in EIS through elementary school until grade 9.

The undersigned understand the reasons behind the proposed changes and the need for Espoo to better accommodate families moving to Finland for work assignments. However, the proposal is unfairly discriminating against our children compared to other EIS students.

Therefore, we would urge Espoo city to amend the current proposal and request to transfer our children to the EIS Opinmäki campus and allow the existing EIS 1-2S students to remain a part of their beloved EIS identity. The existing EIS students, including our children at EIS Kivimies campus, must have priority over any new students admitted to the EIS for Autumn 2023. Additionally this will facilitate the Kivimies School to have many more fresh faces, without baggage of children, parents and guardians who feel mistreated.

Espoo decision-makers must understand the grave seriousness of this matter to the parents, who pay taxes here and have chosen EIS as their kid's school and have built their future in the Espoo region. Such unfair treatment could also cause great reputational harm to Espoo, which tries to build a brand as an excellent place for international talent to relocate. We kindly ask Espoo City Council and the deciding heads to take our concerns into consideration when deciding the matter and to do the right thing.

Regards,

The undersigned EIS Kivimies 1-2S parents