

The European Schools, intended largely for the children of personnel of EU Institutions, are official educational establishments controlled jointly by the governments of the member states. In all these countries they are legally regarded as public institutions.

They are governed by an intergovernmental convention defining *The Statute of the European School*, replacing the earlier convention signed by the six original member states in Luxembourg on 12 April 1957. The later convention will come into force when the ratification process in the member states is completed.

The words which express the essential aims of the European Schools have been sealed, in parchment, into the foundation stones of all the schools:

“Educated side by side, untroubled from infancy by divisive prejudices, acquainted with all that is great and good in the different cultures, it will be borne upon them as they mature that they belong together. Without ceasing to look to their own lands with love and pride, they will become in mind Europeans, schooled and ready to complete and consolidate the work of their fathers before them, to bring into being a united and thriving Europe.”

Basic instruction is given in the official languages of the Union. The pupil’s mother tongue therefore remains his/her first language throughout the School.

Consequently each school comprises several language sections. The curricula and syllabuses (except in the case of mother tongue) are the same in all sections.

In the school where the creation of a separate language section is not justified, the Board of Governors has decided to provide teaching in the mother tongue, and possibly mathematics, for those pupils for whom there is no language section.

To foster the unity of the school and encourage genuine multi-cultural education, there is a strong emphasis on the learning, understanding and use of foreign languages.