

Parents' space in France

1. Need/challenge addressed

The need addressed by this measure is 'family' – the Parents' Space offers a place within each school which is open to parents.

2. Level of intervention

Universal – the intervention is available to all parents at each school.

3. Intensity of the intervention

The Parents' Space is an ongoing intervention where a dedicated parent space has to be provided in all schools.

4. Target group and age group

The measure is not targeted - it applies to all schools and provides a space which is open to all parents with children in the school.

5. Conditions and different steps necessary for the implementation of the Parents' Space

Parents who attend the room report that the welcoming attitude of the principal and teaching staff was essential to convince them to join the various activities.

The investment of the social worker or any other adult and the way he/she manages the activities and collaborates with the parents is a key factor

6. Stakeholders involved in the delivery of the Parents' Space

As mentioned above, there is a universal law which requires that all schools have a space for parents. Two examples from Lyon have been provided here: the primary school 'Les Géraniums' and the Collège Victor Schoelcher.

Local authorities (regions, departments, municipalities) are solicited for space planning as, by law, they are responsible for the functioning of schools, each depending on the type of institution.

Associations can be mobilised to propose activities in addition to what the institution may provide.

7. Overall responsibility for implementation of the Parents' Space

Parents' space is introduced by the law. The responsibility to implement it belongs to the school leader.

8. Obstacles in introducing the measure and how they were overcome

- Freeing up space in often very constrained areas and having a budget to manage it
- Freeing up time to manage the place

9. Monitoring/assessing the Parents' Space

Some indicators are in place to measure the effects. These include:

- Number of parents attending the meeting place;
- Absenteeism and incivility in high school or school;
- Changes in the educational outcomes of children of parents who use the place.

10. Results of the Parents' Space

At the primary school 'Les G raniums' the principal of the school has reported that the LAP has considerably improved the relationship between parents and teachers: parents feel welcome at school; they feel it is also 'their' place. Parents who attend the LAP indicated that they see themselves as a resource for the school. Both parents and the teaching staff emphasised the importance of time to build trustful relations.

At the Coll ge Schoelcher, reported results include:

- Improved relationships between families and the college; parents are less apprehensive when they come to college;
- Parents support their children much better in their studies and enforce the school rules;
- Involvement of families in the college authorities is rising sharply;
- There has been a significant drop in uncivil behaviour and violence.

Parents have confirmed that the room is appreciated as it offers them opportunities to learn, meet and establish more informal contacts with the teaching staff; they feel welcome at school and their children are proud to see them attending the room. Thanks to participation in classes available to parents to attend, many parents have decided to return to formal education to obtain qualifications. Teachers also report better school results and atmosphere, as well as a positive impact on pupils' motivation and self-esteem.

11. Funding/resourcing the Parents' Space

The LAP at the primary school 'Les G raniums' is fully funded by the municipality under its urban policy. The municipality provides funding for the social worker, for both the primary school and the college.

The Parents' Space at the Coll ge Schoelcher is funded by the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, the Ministry of Urban Policy and local authorities.

12. Current status of the Parents' Space

The Parents' Space is currently running.