

<b>Being a democratic school means:</b>	<b>This can be supported by:</b>	<b>This is how you could get started:</b> (Feel free to use the grid on Page 2 to sort your ideas)
Providing meeting facilities for different group sizes	Having a place in each class where the whole group can gather in a circle to discuss important matters with each other.	Many classrooms are still characterised by a duality of "front" and "back": the teacher sits (or stands) in front and speaks, while the students' desks are arranged so that they can primarily see and hear the teacher well. However, when it comes to discussing matters that concern everyone together and on an equal footing, this is rarely a good spatial arrangement. Therefore, consider collectively whether it might be possible to find a solution to create gathering spaces in the classroom: for example, by placing benches in a square or simply by having a carpet on which people can come together. However, it is important in this context that it should not be too costly to create this gathering situation so that it can really be used spontaneously...
	Having places where students can spontaneously gather in small groups to discuss important matters with each other without being disturbed	First, assess the situation: Are there currently places where the students of your school can spontaneously gather in smaller groups (up to about fifteen people)? Ask the student council of your school (if there is one): Do such assembly possibilities already exist? If yes: Could the current space be improved? If not, what would be needed? In addition, ask other students - and ideally give specific scenarios: "Imagine you would like to discuss or prepare something undisturbed with a dozen other students, do you know where you could do this? Who would you turn to? What would be an ideal offer here?" Then consider together which existing or new spaces could be used for such occasions. Also consider the question of access: Could such spaces always be open? And if not: How could low-threshold access be organised? Could there perhaps even be a kind of student-led self-administration of the relevant rooms?
	Having a place where the whole school community can come together (for example for celebrations, presentations or discussions)	Make a list of all the places in your school that are suitable for a gathering of the whole school community. Perhaps you already have a large auditorium that is used for such events anyway? If you don't have such places (or if they don't lend themselves well to certain events), try to think outside the box: could there be other places that you wouldn't think of at first glance? How about the sports hall, the cafeteria or the basketball court, for example? Often, such unusual meeting places open up completely new possibilities and atmospheres. Just try it out and organise, for example, a small open-air concert at the end of the school year in the school yard!

**Seven ways to foster democratic spaces in everyday school life:**  
**(3) Providing meeting facilities for different group sizes**

This initiative to promote accessibility and openness in our school ...	... can be implemented quickly	... requires some lead time	... requires a rather long lead time
... is inexpensive to implement			
... is not inexpensive, but not too expensive either			
... is quite expensive and can only be realised with additional funds			