

Seven ways to foster democratic spaces in everyday school life: (5) Creating a homely atmosphere



Being a democratic school means:	This can be supported by:	This is how you could get started: (Feel free to use the grid on Page 2 to sort your ideas)
Creating a homely atmosphere	Shaping your school in a way, that students like to spend time there – even after school hours	Prepare a photo rally with individual groups of students: To do so, send them around the school with several cameras and ask them to take pictures of places that are pleasant but also of the ones that are unpleasant to them. Afterwards, look at the results together with the students to identify particularly unpleasant places (perhaps there are even genuine "feared places" in your school) on the one hand, and on the other hand, to work out together what makes the "nice" places so enjoyable. In addition, you could organise a public collection of ideas: for example, in the form of a large poster in a central place of your school, where ideas for making your school more beautiful are collected and students can write down what needs to change so that people would rather spend time at school. All these results could then serve as a starting point for you to develop measures to increase the quality of the atmosphere in your school. Maybe you could even organise a competition (with a more specific focus) — and ask the school's support association for a prize and start-up funding to implement some of the ideas. This way you could also increase the public visibility of your project and your efforts! You could also organise a project week to implement the ideas (e.g. "We make our school more beautiful!").
	Shaping your school in a way, that teachers like to spend time there – even after school hours	Conduct a staff survey: Where do you feel comfortable? What conditions would have to be met for you to prefer spending time here? Try to set up various rooms or zones for different needs: a quiet room for resting, a focus area with power sockets and a printer so you can concentrate on your work, a place for informal exchange, etc.



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This initiative to create a homely atmosphere	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			

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