

Seven ways to foster democratic spaces in everyday school life: (6) Demonstrating egalitarianism



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)
Demonstrating egalitarianism	Having the doors of your headmaster's office be open to everyone most of the time	Take a walk through your school and note what barriers there are between public areas and the headmaster's offices: Do you (as a teacher or student) have to go through several doors or even front offices to speak to the head teacher, or can you easily stop by for a moment? If the former is the case, consider together with the head teacher whether this situation could be changed. Often, certain spatial arrangements have simply been handed down and adopted for years (or even decades) without ever really being questioned. Maybe the school management is interested in getting closer to the staff and the students – but has not yet found the occasion to think about how this moving closer together could also be supported structurally Perhaps the "Open Day" proposed under point 4 could be taken as an opportunity to experiment with opening up the headmasters' offices more.
	Having the student and teacher areas closely connected spatially	Make a note of the barriers that currently exist between teacher and student areas. Then discuss whether these barriers are really necessary. Perhaps existing barriers can be reduced (even if it is only by glazing doors) or a common meeting space can be created in
	Having the teacher's area accessible to the students during break times without major spatial barriers	another area of the school: for example, an open cafeteria area that can be used by both students and teachers and where people really enjoy spending time. (See also point 3) Discuss these issues at a teachers' conference. Collect arguments beforehand why such accessibility might be important in order to be prepared for opposition.



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This initiative to demonstrate egalitarianism	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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