

The 132nd Elementary School of Athens is located in the school complex of Grava. Most of the schoolchildren are immigrant and refugee children (80%), mainly from Albania and from other European, Asian and African countries. At the moment, we have children from 23 different ethnicities (Syria, Afghanistan, Romania, Bulgaria, Egypt, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Ghana, Ukraine, Georgia, etc.) at our school.

Since 1999 teachers have been collaborating with parents and they have developed initiatives and implemented programs aiming at the smooth integration and the harmonious coexistence of all children, Greeks and foreigners at the school. Many of these initiatives are still running, others have been updated and new ones have been added, depending on the priorities and needs of the school community, but also on the possibilities and constraints of the general social and political context.

The actions and initiatives developed are all based on our principal idea that multiculturalism in our school community is both a source and an opportunity for an all-in-all development of children, locals and foreigners.

The most important activities of our school, since their inception, were the teaching of the native language of foreign pupils, the parallel teaching of Greek to their parents, the implementation of programs for the development of personal and social skills (Health Education), the widening of the content of the school events (national holidays, anniversary events) for the acquisition of the values of peace, equality, freedom. Also, initiatives have been developed towards respect to diversity, origin, culture and religious beliefs of all children.

Nowadays, the school continues to operate on the basis of the pedagogical principles it has adopted, broadening its role and extending its actions to today's particularly difficult conditions that the country's crisis arises.

Indicative actions and initiatives of the School:

1. Regular meetings of the Teachers' Council so that teachers can work collectively and engage creatively and responsibly in the life of the school.
2. Constant and frequent communication with the students' families in order to identify the problems faced by children and to support them directly.
3. Investigate and immediately address to basic everyday needs of children by ensuring a minimum standard of living (providing food, clothing, school supplies, etc.).
4. School meals for all children on a daily basis.
5. Building a network of schools, health structures and mental health specialists to prevent or solve serious issues for families of children e.g. completing health records, vaccinations, medical examinations, psychological support.
6. In-school training for teachers, as well as constant counseling and support, in order for them to be able to respond effectively to difficulties arising within the school environment.
7. Prevention and health programs through experiential workshops for students, teachers, parents, for personal and social development and health, on issues related to basic life skills (communication, cooperation, self-esteem, rights and boundaries, friendship, recognition, expression and emotional management, protection against dangers, etc.).

8. Development of the school curriculum focusing on the beneficial implementation of the diverse elements of all students deriving from language, culture and experiences. (e.g. movie making, multilingual storytelling and pedagogical games, a library including foreign children's literature , events and celebrations that comprise elements of the language and culture of foreign pupils, etc.).

9. Teaching foreign students their mother tongue (teaching Albanian and Arabic Language) on the scientific principle of the necessity of teaching the mother tongue to multilingual children.

10. Expanding the content of national and religious events and religious education courses focusing on human values and preventing the derogation of foreign students' religious or ethnic identity.

11. Language courses by volunteer teachers to migrant / refugee parents to enable them to communicate with school, neighborhood and state services and structures, to support their children at school and become more easily integrated into Greek society. These courses are open to anyone interested.

12. Training parents to strengthen their parenting role while strengthening their relationships and their connections with the school.

13. Spare-free bazaars of clothing, toys and school supplies at a regular basis.

14. Collaboration with local organizations and social solidarity organizations to support children and their families.

15. Afternoon school programs for children and adults on art, culture, sports, tutoring, etc. Indicatively we mention workshops on photography, music, theatre and art for children, tutoring, dance, cooking, and Greek language lessons for parents, etc. (Many of these actions are held in collaboration with the Student and Family Support Program of "Children's Villages SOS Greece").

16. Afternoon Library facilities, voluntarily held by school teachers.

17. Solidarity actions to support vulnerable social groups and at the same time to educate children on human rights.

18. Participation of the school in the pilot program of Freinet's Pedagogy-Institutional Pedagogy for the years 2017-2018. This is a training program for school teachers who are called upon to apply the Freinet's Pedagogy-Institutional Pedagogy to the classroom in order to achieve inclusive, cooperative and democratic education based on free expression, the real interests and needs of children and the connection of the school with the community.

19. Finally, in order for the school to have a more effective communication with all parents of our school children, written announcements are multilingual. Moreover, there is a simultaneous translation during the meetings held among the school teachers, the school principal and the migrant / refugee families.

(Clicking on each of the images below, you can zoom in and open them in a separate window)

- entrance hall-corridors
- school yard / playground
- classrooms
- computer room
- library