



Department
for Education

Department for Education
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Dear Parent,

UK STATEMENT TO THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

As you may be aware, the UK formally notified the Board of Governors of the European Schools on 16 April that we will not replace teachers who are leaving the European Schools system in August 2013.

This is not a decision which the UK Government has taken lightly.

It reflects our longstanding concerns regarding the ongoing financing burden placed on a small number of countries in the European Schools system. Despite seeking reform of the funding system to make it fairer, the UK pays nearly twice as much as we would under a proportionate structure. This is despite a resolution in 2009 that the number of teachers seconded by a Member State should be linked proportionately to the number of their pupils. If that were the case, the UK would assign 114 teachers for 1760 pupils, not the current level of 217.

Despite our efforts to bring about a fairer cost-sharing system in line with the 2009 resolution, the situation remains unchanged, creating an additional financial burden for the UK and a number of other Member States. We have therefore decided to take the step of not replacing departing teachers.

We realise that this is an important issue for British parents and pupils at the Schools. The UK is determined to work with colleagues in the European Schools system to ensure that the education of pupils will not be adversely affected by this decision.

That is why we have said that, in addition to working with the Board of Governors to achieve these reforms in the longer term, we have committed to

work with the Office of the Secretary-General and individual schools to facilitate recruitment of suitably qualified and locally-engaged teachers, including from the UK, to ensure there is no shortfall of staff in the coming school year.

I am aware that this decision will be a cause for concern. Colleagues from the Department for Education will therefore be in Brussels on Friday 26 April, and stand ready to host a meeting at lunchtime at the UK Permanent Representation to answer your questions about the decision and the next steps. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Alexia Eastwood at UKRep on Alexia.Eastwood@fco.gov.uk.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Drummond', written in a cursive style.

Peter Drummond
International Education Division