

School Management

The schools are governed by a School Head, assisted by an advisory school council.

A school council is composed of:

- 3 members entitled to vote, directly elected by and from parents of regular pupils, except in Adult Education and Part-time Arts Education, where the adult students are entitled, and also eligible, to vote;
- 3 members entitled to vote, directly elected by and from the staff;
- 2 members entitled to vote, co-opted from social, economic and cultural environments);
- the principal who attends the meetings and has an advisory vote.

In secondary education, the school council determines the way in which the pupils are involved in the workings of the council. It may set up a pupil council for this purpose.

The school council has the following responsibilities:

- advise the School Head in terms of:
 - the general organisation of the school;
 - recruitment of pupils or course participants;
 - the organisation of extramural and para-scholar activities;
 - the school budget;
 - the school development plan;
- advise the governing board and the general director of the school group with regard to:
 - the assignment of the principal's mandate;
 - the programming of the courses on offer;
 - the school infrastructure;
 - the organisation of the pupil transport;
- consultation with the principal in terms of:
 - establishing the criteria for allocating the teaching-period package;
 - the organisation of non-teaching assignments;
 - well-being and safety at school;
 - the school regulations.

The school council is also entitled to ask the director and the governing bodies of the school group to expand on decisions taken that affect school life.

School councils within the same level of education and geographical area have the freedom to merge. The school councils are elected for a period of four years, with the exception of social-advancement education and part-time artistic education, where school councils are elected for two-year terms. (Special decree on community education of 14 July 1998).

The principal is responsible for:

- the general and pedagogical organisation of the school;
- the school development plan;
- drawing up the school regulations;
- establishing the professional competences of the staff;
- drawing up the job description of the staff;
- supporting and evaluating the staff;
- formulating proposals for the permanent appointment of staff;
- the temporary appointment of staff in the schools;

- the implementation of reform projects;
- establishing the needs of the teachers in terms of in-service training;
- measures of law and order in respect of the pupils;
- the application of the admission requirements in social-advancement education;
- the organisation of extramural and para-scholar activities;
- the use of the school budget allocated by the school group;
- the school's external relations;
- acts to maintain, and to temporarily manage the school infrastructure and the implementation of minor infrastructural works.

Subsidised private Catholic education

Traditionally, Catholic education boasts a large number of private-law organising bodies (928 * number provided by Staff services Education and Training. This figure only includes mainstream and special elementary and secondary education, part-time vocational secondary education, secondary and higher social-advancement education, part-time artistic education & the French-language schools under the authority of the Flemish Community.

These Catholic-education organising bodies are grouped into the **VIMKO**, Association of Organising Bodies of Catholic Education, which takes care of cooperation and structural consultation and is the participation channel of the organising bodies in the general policy of Catholic education.

The **Central Bureau** of Catholic education is the highest decision-making body within Catholic education. The members are appointed by the bishops.

In the Educational Committee, Catholic education is represented by the **VSKO, Flemish Secretariat of Catholic Education** , <http://ond.vsko.be>

The associations are responsible for the coordination and representation of the institutions of the different educational levels and sectors: VVKBaO of Elementary education, VVKBuO of special education, VVKSO of secondary education, VVKHO of university colleges, VDKVO of adult education.

Consultation within Catholic education regarding its assignment and the general options in terms of education and upbringing, is done by ARKO, General Council of Catholic Education. Its members are parents, staff, organising bodies and bishops.

Subsidised private non-Catholic education

Besides Catholic education, there are a limited number of schools which offer education based on other religions: Protestant-Christian schools and Jewish schools who have their own organising bodies.

The private **Protestant-Christian schools** are represented in the Educational Committee by the **IPCO, Organising bodies of subsidised private Protestant-Christian Schools**, <http://www.ipco.be>

There are also a few non-denominational **freethinking schools**. These are represented by the **VOOP, Flemish Schools' Forum**, <http://www.voop.be>

Alternative schools

In addition to a number of alternative schools within the 'large' educational networks, there are also a number of independent alternative schools (experience-based education, Freinet education, Steiner schools, see 2.3.4.).

- The Freinet schools and experience-based schools are represented by FOPEM, the Federation of Independent Pluralist Emancipatory Alternative Schools.

- The Steiner schools are represented by the Federation of Rudolf Steiner schools.

Number of locations where alternative education is offered.

One and the same school can offer alternative education in different locations, even according to different teaching methods (e.g. Freinet/experience-based education).

	Federation of Steiner schools
Experience-based education	
Freinet	
Jenaplan	
Life school	
Montessori	
Steiner	19
Dalton	
Learning through play	
Total	19

Special education has one Steiner school (primary and secondary education) and one type-3 Freinet school.

At secondary level, there are 7 Steiner schools, 2 municipal Freinet schools and 5 GO! schools

Within GO! A network of alternative (method) schools of GO8 has been established (NET.MET.GO!)