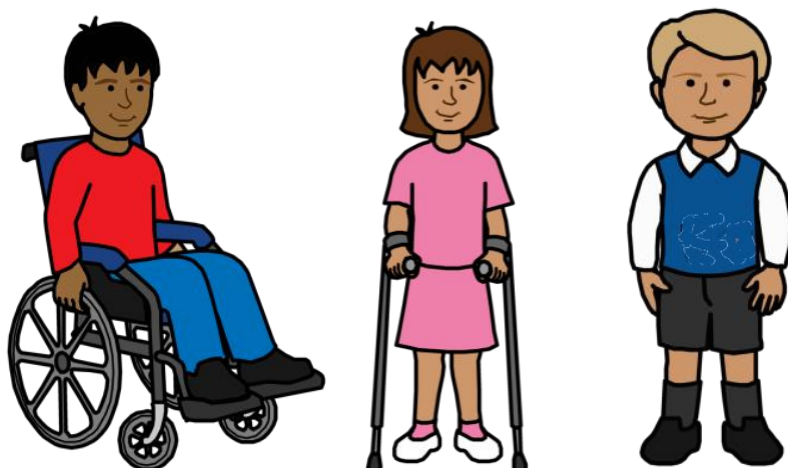
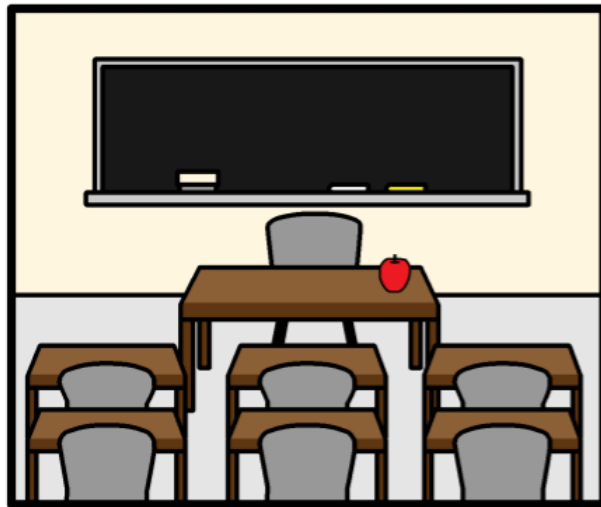




# Problems for Children with Disabilities in European Schools



Sink or Swim



# About us

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH



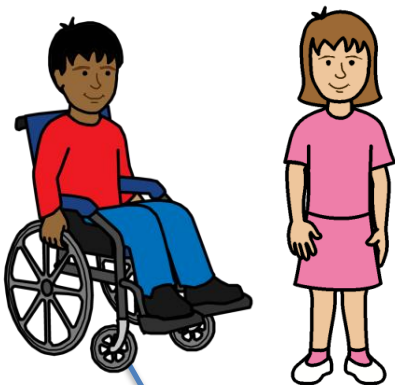
This report is by Human Rights Watch and the European Disability Forum.



Human Rights Watch works to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

The European Disability Forum works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

# About this report



This report is about children with disabilities in some schools called European Schools.



There are 13 European Schools in Europe.



Children can go to European Schools for free if their parents work for the European Union.



The European Union is a group of countries in Europe.

They work on important things to do with Europe.



This report is about problems that children with disabilities have going to European Schools.

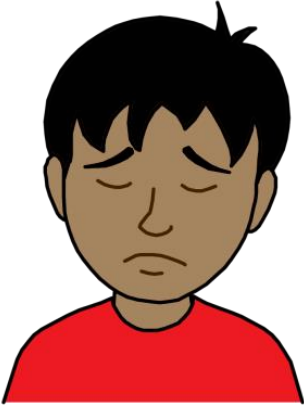
In 2018 we spoke to some people to find out more.

For example, we spoke to:

- Children with disabilities
- Parents of children with disabilities
- Staff from European Schools
- Staff from the European Union



## What we found out

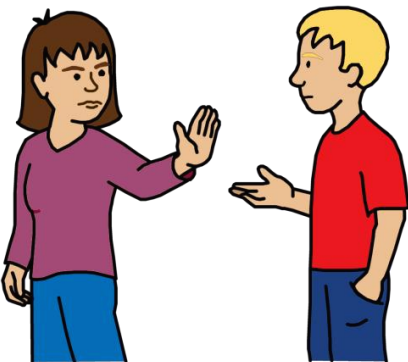


We found that European Schools are not doing enough for children with disabilities.



The rules say that European Schools can say no to children with disabilities.

For example, if a school thinks it cannot support a child with disabilities.



We found that European Schools:

- May not let children with disabilities go to the school



- May not give children with disabilities the support they need to learn and do well

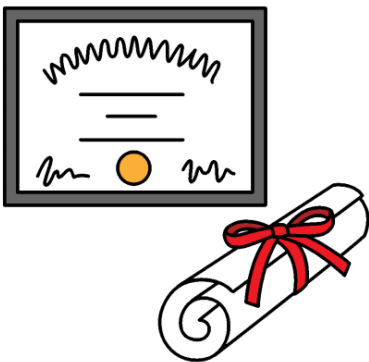


We found that European Schools may try to make children with disabilities leave the school.

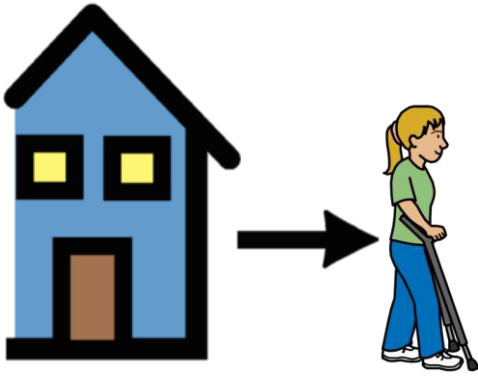
European Schools may tell parents that:



- The school cannot give their child the right support
- The school is not right for their child
- Their child is not doing well at school and that there are problems
- Their child will not be able to pass the main exam later on



Some schools may ask parents to come to many meetings to talk about problems with their child.



The schools may ask the parents to move their child to another school.



It can be hard for children with disabilities and their parents to find another school.

They may have to go to a private school that costs a lot of money.



Some parents can get money back from the European Union to pay for private schools.



But they only get some of the money back. They still have to pay a lot of money.



Everyone in European Schools learns the same subjects.

Then they take a main exam at the end.



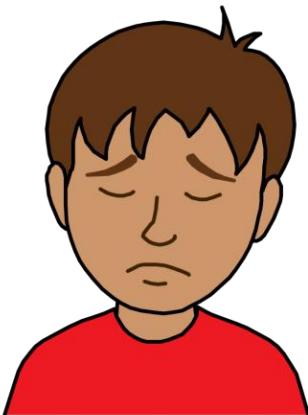
Children have to learn 3 languages in European Schools.

This can be hard for some children with disabilities.



Children with disabilities have to follow the same classes as everyone else even if it is hard for them.

And there are no other exams that children with disabilities can take.



This means that children with disabilities may leave school without passing any exams.



Some children with disabilities get support from someone in the classroom or extra lessons.

But this support may not be right for them and their disability.



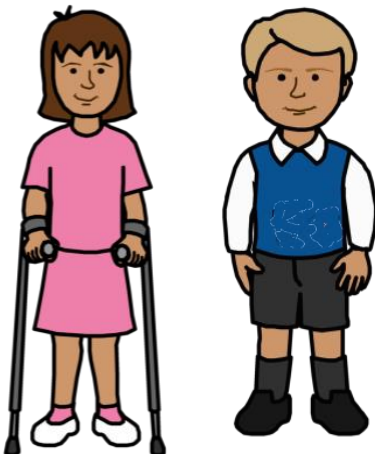
Many staff and teachers may not know how to support children with disabilities.

Or they may not want to change what they do for children with disabilities.



Some teachers at European Schools do their best for children with disabilities.

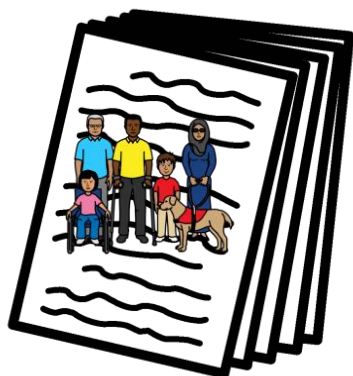
And some things are getting better at European Schools.



But European Schools need to do more to make sure that all children with disabilities get the right education.



# What the European Union is doing



There is an important document about the rights of people with disabilities in the world.

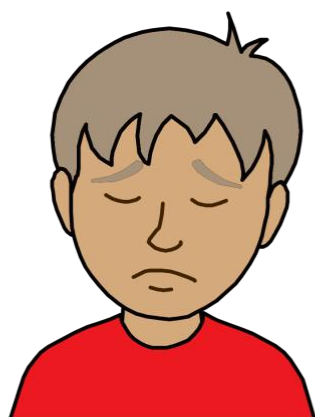


The document includes the right of all children with disabilities to:

- Get a good education
- Learn in the same classrooms as other children
- Get the support they need to learn and do well



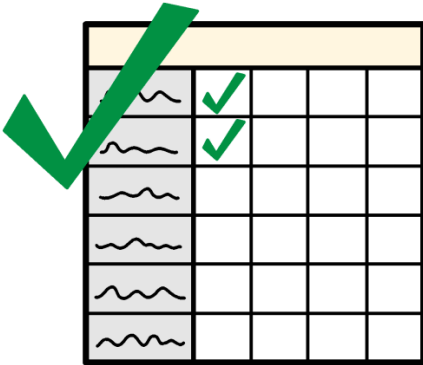
This is called inclusive education.



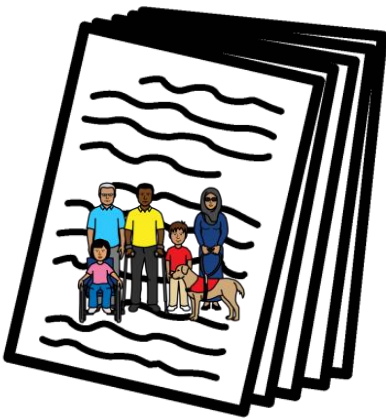
The European Union has promised to do what the document says.

But this is not happening all the time in European Schools.

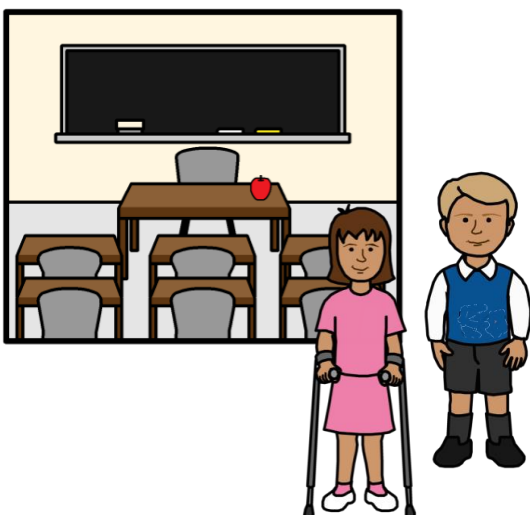
# What we want to happen next



The people in charge of European Schools should do the following things:



Make sure that European Schools follow the important document about the rights of people with disabilities.



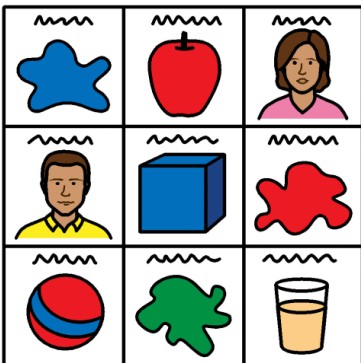
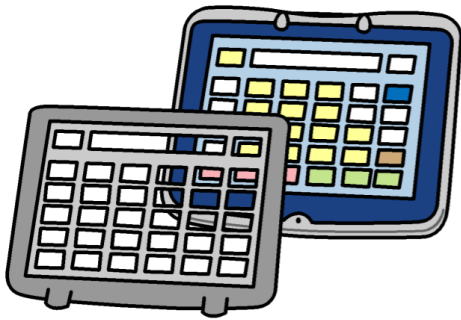
Make sure that children with disabilities can get a good education and learn in the same classrooms as other children at European Schools.

The people in charge of European Schools should do the following things:

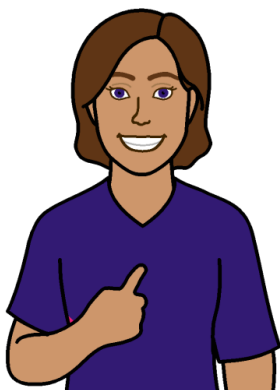
Make sure that every child with disabilities gets the support they need to learn and do well.

For example, a child with disabilities may need:

- Special equipment to help them learn
- Information in a way they find easy to understand

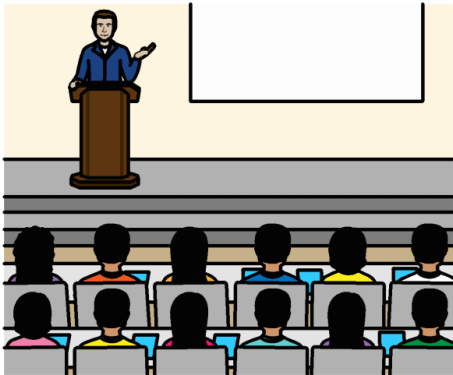


There should be a plan about how to make this kind of education happen.



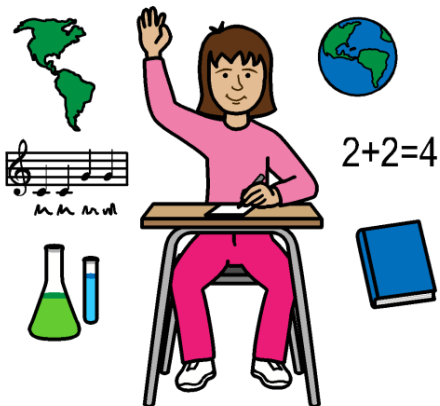
And there should be someone in charge of making it happen.

The people in charge of European Schools should do the following things:



Make sure that all teachers and staff in classrooms know how to give children with disabilities the right support.

Teachers should get training about this.



Make sure children with disabilities can learn in a different way if they need to.



Make sure there are other exams that children with disabilities can take if they cannot take the main exam.



The European Union should do the following things:

Make sure that European Schools welcome children with disabilities and give them the right education.



Make sure European Schools have the money they need to support children with disabilities.