



THE TESOMA SCHOOL

Individual teaching *methods* : *Ideas and practices*



The Tesoma school

- **A comprehensive school, classes 7-9**
- **Ages 13-17**
- **Located in a western suburb in Tampere**
- **The total amount of pupils are 380-450**
- **Average class size 21 pupils (16-24)**
- **Immigrant background pupils 10-12%**
- **Three special education classes and one flexible basic education class (JOPO)**
- **individual study programs for immigrant pupils**
- **finnish as a second language teaching**

The Tesoma school

- **The size of a class 15-24 pupils**
- **The individual remedial teaching (according to the needs of the pupil)**
- **two special education teachers for regular classes**
- **three specialised classes (sport, drama and science) in each class level**
- **3 full-time special education in small groups (max. 10 pupils)**
- **In mathematics the groups are formed according to the pupil's learning potential in the subject (the so called flexible groups)**

Supporting the pupils

- The individual study plans/programs when needed
- The school assistants in special classes
- the three level supporting measures
- two Finnish as a second language teachers (1-4 pupils in a group)
- a school psychologist, a social worker, a school nurse, a psychiatric nurse
- two study counsellors
- The immigrant mother language teaching (2-hours a week)

Support on three levels

- **regular: Support teaching from subject teachers**
- **optimized: individual study plans, special teachers, finnish as a second language teachers**
- **special: A special education class, with maximum of 10 pupils**



Individuals programs for the "newly arrived" immigrant pupils

- **pupils are members of regular classes**
- **a special teacher teaches verbally difficult subjects like history, biology, geography and natural sciences**
- **includes social support and counselling**
- **close contacts with the parents**
- **mostly for immigrant pupils, who start their school after preparation class (one year) from the 7th grade**
- **individual study plan (lasting 3 or 4 years)**

Pedagogical support team

- **The team: The principal, the assistant principal, 2 special education teachers, 2 student councillors, the school nurse, the school social worker, the school psychologist, the school doctor (occasionally)**
- **The meetings once a week, 1-1,5 hours**
- **The goals of the team are: 1) to support the pupils physical, psychological and social well-being, 2) to create a secure and healthy school environment, to prevent pupils exclusion from education and the society 3) prevent bullying (a nationwide program)**

Pedagogical support team

- **The working areas of the team are: 1) the following of the pupils absences from the school, 2) dealing with behavioural problems and misuse of alcohol and drugs, 3) helping the families with social problems, 4) the prevention of bullying, 5) helping the kids with mental problems, 6) the crisis assistance (afterwards)**
- **The idea of "early prevention" if possible**
- **The welfare of the pupil is "everybody's business" at the school !**



The individual pupil support team

- **is formed individually in each case**
- **depending on the problem, the support team members vary: The teacher, the nurse, the psychologist, the social worker, the principal, special education teacher, study counsellor, the psychiatric nurse**
- **the team works closely together with the pupil, the parents and other authorities (doctors, social workers, child care, youth workers) and the third sector organisations**
- **the team`s work has to be approved by the parents**

The religion education

- **The religion education is taught without confession in Finland**
- **The evangelic-lutheran and orthodox christianity are the official religions in Finland**
- **Other religions are taught at school if three pupils apply**
- **In Tesoma school, islam is taught to 15-20 pupils**
- **The ethics is taught to pupils who are not members of any religious groups**

The ideology

- **Every pupil is an individual and their needs are different**
- **Each pupil is a different learner**
- **All pupils are equal and they should have equal opportunities in education on the second level**
- **No pupil is allowed to skip school**
- **The school and teaching must be flexible**
- **Same rules for everybody, but different individual study plans and teaching arrangements are possible**

The new Tesoma school

- **Kindergarten: 140 children and preschool 80 children**
- **Primary school: 400-500 pupils**
- **Secondary school 400- 500 pupils**
- **Youth center**
- **Montessor classes in Kindergarten and School (classes 1-6)**
- **staff number 90-100 (estimation)**
- **the size of the school 15 000 m2**

Some more tips

- **Free meal is provided to each comprehensive pupil every day in all schools in Finland**
- **Anti-bullying plan, the security plan**
- **Codes of conduct planned in every school**
- **Tight co-operation with the social and youth services**
- **The attendance of the pupils is followed closely every day by the teachers (the weeklist) and the school social worker**
- **A pupil's council in every school**

If you want to know more

- **Afternoon activities (voluntary) from 3 pm- 5 pm**
- **Work experience for each 9th grade pupil (15-16 years old pupils) during a two weeks time (in Tesoma school the "JOPO-class")**
- **Joint application system: The form filled by pupils and their parents, the study councellors assist**
- **ICT involved in almost every subject, but also taught as a optional subject**
- **Class teachers for pupils from the age of 7-12 (years 1-6) and subject teachers to pupils from the age of 13-16 (years 7-9)**

The Subjects

- **The obligatory (core) subjects in secondary school are: Finnish, Swedish, English, biology/geography, history and social studies, chemistry/physics, mathematics, guidance counselling, health education, religion or ethics, art, music, physical education, home economics, crafts**
- **The optional subjects are: ICT, home economics, art, crafts, physical education, natural sciences, music, foreign languages(German, French), drama**

The Assessment

- **The assessment scale is from 4 to 10**
- **Summative assessment is given twice a year > the pupils and their parents get numerical certificates**
- **It is also possible to give written certificates for young pupils and pupils with special needs**
- **The assessment discussion with the parents at least once a year**
- **All tests are evaluated with numerical assessment (grading)**
- **The special education pupils can be assessed with flexible criteria according to their individual plan**

The Curriculum

- **The Curriculum in Finland is made on three/four levels:**
 - 1) The Core curriculum is given by the National Board of Education (the last one from the year 2004, the new one will be introduced in 2016/2017)**
 - 2) Each municipality adds its own interpretations without changing the core curriculum**
 - 3) Each school modifies the curriculum into "more practical school curriculum"**
 - 4) The teacher's curriculum**