



Positive school culture and a strong school community

Liceo Statale Cagnazzi 2025

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Positive school culture

A positive school culture is the key to helping students feel connected to their school.

At the heart of a positive culture are warm interactions, respectful relationships, and a strong sense of community.



Warm interactions

- Well-being at school depends on the quality of relationships
- **Adults in school model how to meet others with empathy and friendliness**
- In this digital age we need to practice and find time for face-to-face interaction
- School should support this work



Strong school community

- Our school SYK is a large school with almost 1200 students between ages 9 and 19
- **Building a school community**
 - Older and younger students do projects together and see each other on a daily basis in the same building
 - Teachers share the same teachers' room and have joint responsibility for all students
 - Strong traditions that school leadership supports
 - Everyone is a part of the community, also parents
- **Our students have a strong sense of belonging to our school**





Old and young students together

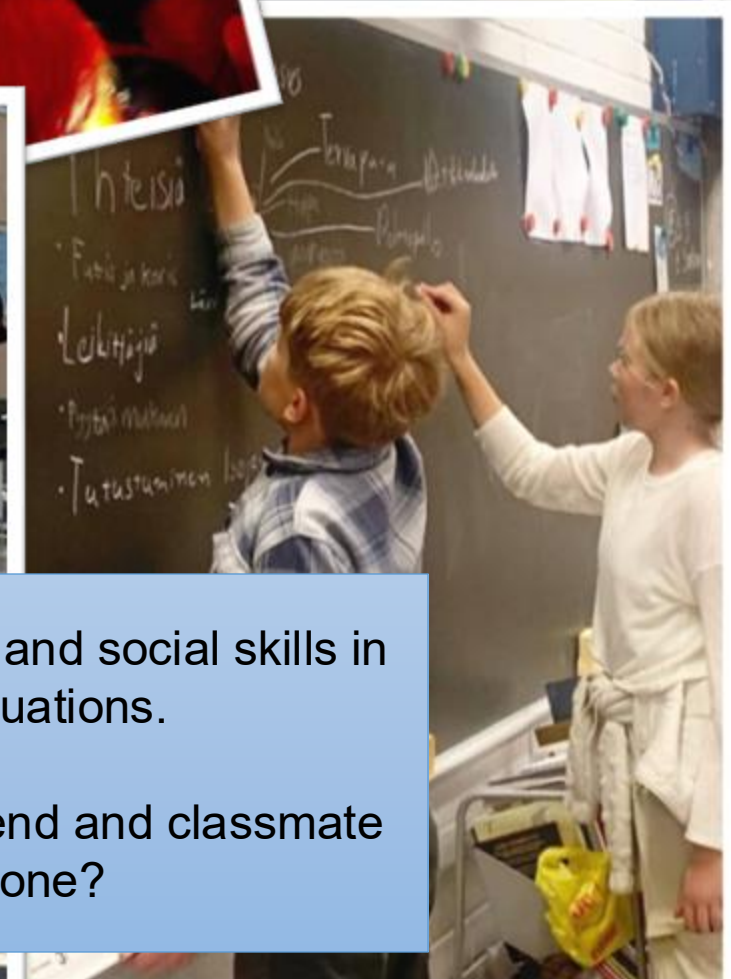
Practising social skills together



“Every day we practice meeting others, accepting differences, friendship skills, and empathy. I believe the best way to prevent bullying is by practicing emotional skills — learning to say how you feel before the fists start flying.”

(Class teacher)





Practising interaction and social skills in different situations.

How to be a good friend and classmate to everyone?

Student welfare team supports the teacher

- Finnish schools have student welfare teams who support teachers and students
- Teams typically consist of a responsible principal, psychologist, social worker, special education teacher, possibly school nurse, and homeroom teacher
- The team takes on the more difficult cases and offers support to the student and family



IHMISSUHDETAITURIN PUUTARHA

Taitoja ja vahvuuksia, joita ihmissuhdetaiturilla on.

Aidosti oma itsensä
Antaa toisille aikaa
Antaa toisille tilaa
Antaa välillä periksi

Hyväntehtoisin
Hyvä kannustamaan
Hyvä kah-

Kuuntelee kiinnostuksesta
Kuuntelee rauhallisesti

Eysyy kuulunista
Kärsivällinen
Lempeä
Luotettava

Läsnäoleminen
Monipuolinen

Luottaa ihmisten näkö-

Myönteinen

Myönteisyyden

Luomatonta kykyä
Antaa omaa puheenvuoro-

Luottaa vuoroon

Luomatonta

Luomatonta ystävyyttä

Luomatonta palaut-

Luomatonta haastusta

Luomatonta

Luomatonta omat virheet

Luomatonta itselleen

Luomatonta hiljaa yhdessä

Luomatonta yrittää anto-

Luomatonta kaikki mahaan

Luomatonta mielipiteet ha-

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HELSINGIN
SKOULI



School clubs

- learning also happens outside classrooms
- variety of school clubs for students of all ages
- after or during school days
- choirs, orchestras, sports clubs, nature clubs, art clubs, theatre, etc.
- clubs cost very little (40€/year)
- give students a chance to develop skills and build friendships





- Break activities for high school: going for a walk, yoga, boardgames, improvisation theatre





Collaborating with partners



Class big sisters and brothers; Tutors

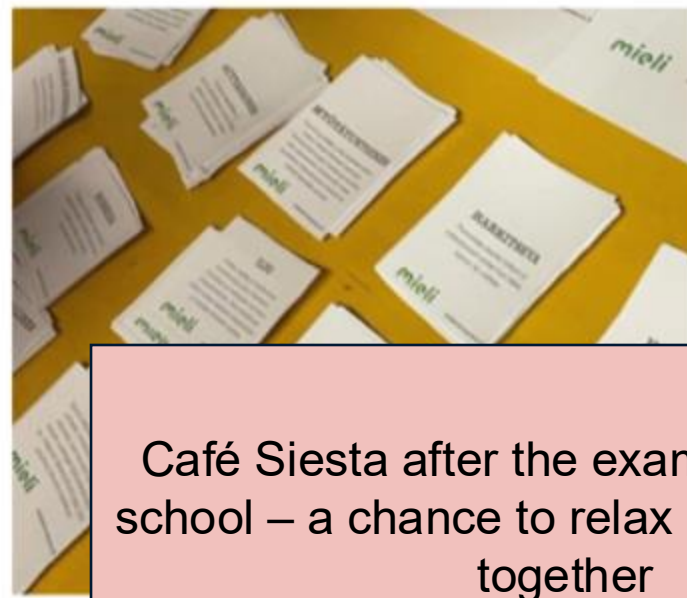
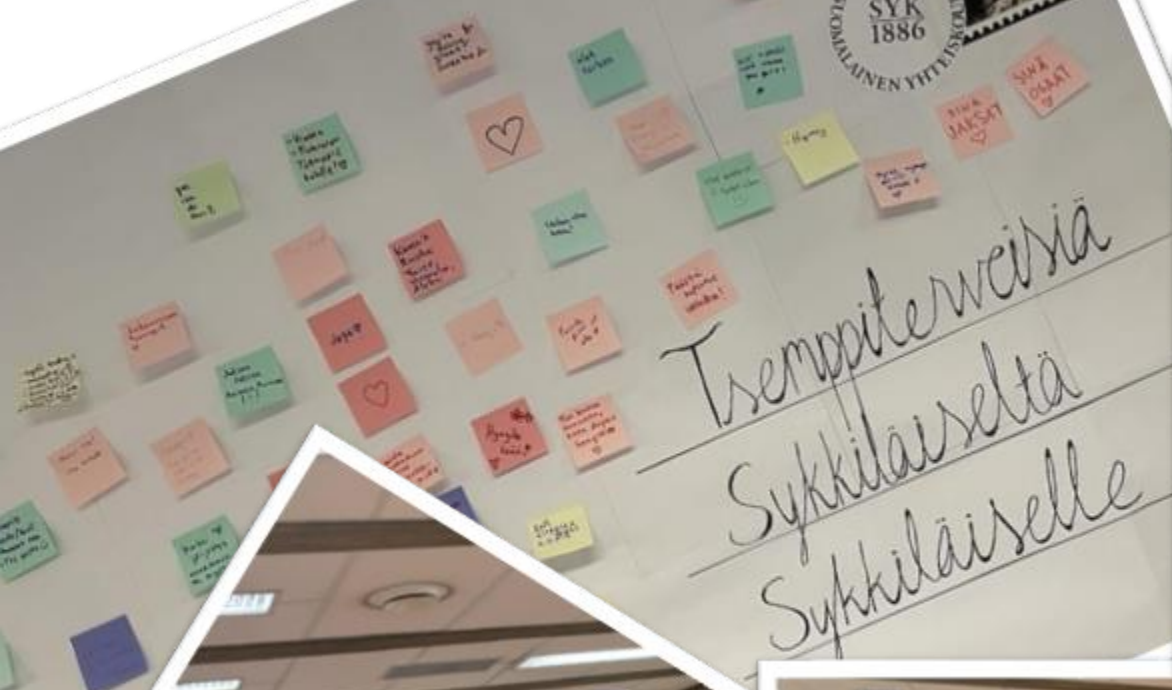


- Primary school classes have their own "big sisters" and "big brothers" who come and play with the kids during breaks and help the class teacher on excursions.
- They are students who are responsible and especially selected for this role. They are typically 3 years older.
- In high school, there are 25 tutors who guide and help the first-year students and organize social events.





Tutors play a big part in high school



Café Siesta after the exam week in high school – a chance to relax and spend time together



Even the best school events don't automatically create real connection or group spirit — it happens only when adults intentionally plan and support positive interaction between students.



Teachers and other staff members

- If school staff feel well, students can feel well
- for staff: improvisation theatre, yoga, sports, cultural events, and parties
- spending time and laughing together
- taking care of new staff members and integrating them





Traditions build a strong culture. It is important to interact with the adults of the school also outside classes.



Hei 6.-9- luokkalaiset!

**Tervetuloa
rentoutumaan
välitunneilla!**

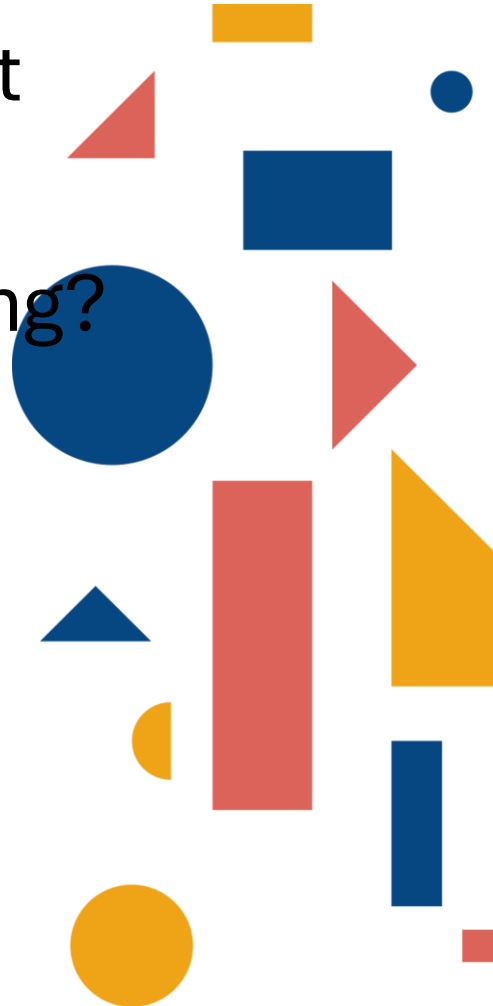
- torstaisin luokka 2C
klo 12.15-12.45
- perjantaisin luokka 39
klo 12.15-12.45



Promoting a positive school culture - questions



- What has already been done in your school? Does it work?
- What challenges do you face in promoting well-being?
- Which practices or approaches strengthen your school's sense of community and well-being?
- Share your best ideas and tips with your group!



Thank you!

- [Etusivu – SYK](#)
- [SYK \(@syk1886\) • Instagram-kuvat ja –videot](#)



Sources

- [KouluKunnossa Läsnaolomalli – KouluKunnossa](#)
- [School to Belong – oppilaitoksille — HelsinkiMissio](#)
- [Esimerkkinä kohtaamisen arviointi | Opetushallitus](#)
- [Yhteisöllinen hyvinvointityö SYK 2022](#)
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