

FAQ: MOVE TO EVERE

MEETING

[Will there be a meeting in person with a possibility to ask questions?](#)

We always choose direct interaction, our aim being dialogue and conversation. In this case, we first and foremost wanted to share information as soon as possible. As mentioned, there will be follow-up events with smaller groups on specific topics, which will facilitate direct dialogue.

[Will parents of future Evere students be able to participate in the info sessions on Evere?](#)

Yes. An information session will be organised by the school aimed at a specific target group, but all other members of the school community are very welcome to attend.

DECISION & COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE MOVE

[Will the Board of Governors be kept informed?](#)

Yes. The Board of Governors received a complete overview with “positives and negatives”.

[How can a final decision be taken with so many uncertainties?](#)

It is true that many unknowns remain, but I want to assure you that we have a solid basis of the main elements, which enables us to plan and implement the project.

[Why move to Evere now instead of 2028?](#)

The Board of Governors, when deciding on the transfer in 2028, reserved the right to review it earlier. They decided on an earlier transfer in view of the critical overcrowding situation and the potential solutions.

[How will you explain to current P1 to P3 pupils their move to Evere for 1 to 3 years and then come back to Woluwe?](#)

I believe that together, as adults, we can ensure a smooth transition for children.

[Will there be an independent and competent body that will assess if the Evere site is suitable \(legally, up to standards, etc.\)?](#)

No, it is not planned. The Board of Governors made its decision based on information provided by the School, the Office of the Secretary-General, reports from the Brussels Steering Committee and Belgian authorities. According to the European Commission's security report, Evere is one of the best-protected campuses among the European schools in Brussels. The modular building system used in Evere meets all safety and aesthetic standards. Parents and pupils will be able to see this for themselves during the Open Days organised during the 2025-2026 school year.

[When will we get practical information about the move?](#)

The School Management will keep you up to date as soon as valid and relevant information becomes available. The expression ‘practical’ is relative and not always the same information can satisfy two different people. Next school year we will give you more detailed information.

What is Plan B if Plan A does not work out (conditions not met for moving to Evere)? Will you force Belgian authorities' hand?

The Board of Governors recognised that the commitment of the Belgian authorities is sufficient to make a decision about Evere. We do not have a plan B and the School Management is preparing the changes according to the current Board of Governors decision. The Evere site has all the conditions to welcome Woluwe students according to the current provisions.

The Board of Governors decision is based on this commitment. The School is only the executor of the decision.

ENROLMENT IN WOLUWE / EVERE

Will the enrolment policy prevent EEB2 from absorbing all of Brussels' overcrowding?

The enrolment policy is prepared by the ACL, where the School Management and a representative of the APEEE are members. Therefore, we have an indirect influence on the proposal, which is then approved by the Board of Governors.

The current division into language sections in Brussels schools does not allow for the "absorbing all of Brussels' overcrowding".

Why not limit the number of Primary students you accept at school?

The Directors of the European schools in Brussels must follow the policy approved by the Board of Governors. We do not have a discretionary power to accept or reject applications.

The current enrolment policy guarantees a reduction in the number of classes in Evere from September 2025. This process will continue to ensure a smooth transition.

After the move in 2026, what will be the ratio of pupils/available places in the Secondary?

At least 1 to 1.

Will the transfer from Primary to Secondary (EVE to WOL) be automatic without application?

Yes, indeed. As is currently the case.

Does your counting of classrooms is already taking into account the newly enrolled pupils to Evere for 2026/27?

The current enrolment policy guarantees a reduction in the number of classes in Evere from September 2025. This process will continue in 2026-2027 to ensure a smooth transition.

WOLUWE SITE

Will there be an overcrowding problem for pupils starting Secondary school in 2026?

From day 1, the entire Primary building will be used by the Secondary students. In September 2026, we will provide the Secondary cycle with several dozens of renovated and equipped multi-purpose classrooms. The summer holidays will provide enough time for this project.

In the new project, will the educational advisers' offices be near the students?

That is the plan.

Will the sports hall be renovated?

It is not planned yet.

Will there be a continuity between labs and classrooms (danger if preaus need to be crossed with chemicals & equipment)?

We plan to reorganise the various subject departments as soon as the new laboratories and the new building are ready.

Will the modernisation of the Secondary school enable STEM laboratories for programming and robotics including soldering?

Thank you for your suggestion. It is not planned but we can certainly think about how to integrate this need.

Has a separation of S1-S3 from S4-S7 classes been considered in the new setup of the Secondary buildings?

Probably not, but we will consider this option as well. A partial separation would be possible.

What steps will you take to minimise the disruption for parents having children in Woluwe and Evere?

I believe that the APEEE and the OIB will come to the support of such parents. The School is focused on the students and their educational needs.

According to a study of PWC the capacity of Woluwe is around 2,500 pupils. Your presentation mentions 2,600 while some spaces will be closed for works. How will that function?

No works will result in a significant reduction in space. The increase in the school population is a temporary process and the works should be completed before we reach maximum capacity. No relocation of Secondary pupils is planned. I would like to remind you that EEB5 will not be built before 2030.

A new permanent building with around 25 new classes will be created.

Will the capacity of the Secondary cycle be 2,800?

Yes, after the delivery of the brand-new building.

How are you planning all these works within the holiday period? Can you show a scheduled proposal? What is the fallback?

The works will continue throughout the school year, with a focus on the holidays. Safety and security will be ensured.

As you can read in the presentation, the work will be carried out in phases until 2030. During the summer 2026, we will renovate and equip the multi-purpose classrooms in the current Primary school building.

Why is a Mental Health Center necessary in a school? Your focus should be on education.

The Mental Health Center is as necessary as ever. The plan is only to expand the "infirmierie" and to relocate the psychologists' offices to a nearby location. The way both services are provided will not change.

We have 1,500 Primary pupils and almost 3,000 in Secondary. Will the creation of EEB5 change this?

From 2030, all new classes with new students will be directed to EEB5, if their language sections are offered there. The opening of EEB5 will relieve all of Brussels European schools.

Why isn't Evere becoming an exclusively Secondary school instead of Woluwe? Woluwe is closer to the EC buildings for parents of Nursery-Primary pupils.

The Evere site is smaller, and the Secondary school population is always higher due to the higher number of levels, (6 in Nursery/Primary and 7 in Secondary). In addition, we always have new pupils who have completed the Primary school in the Belgian system. In Evere, it is not possible to set up science labs, study rooms, etc. The sports halls are also designed for young children.

Will the conversion of IT and printing rooms into classrooms mean classrooms without windows, natural light and ventilation?

Those rooms are standard rooms with windows, natural light and ventilation.

Will this move remedy the dramatic level of absenteeism of Secondary teachers we have been observing?

I don't think it is related.

How will the site be safe and practical for pupils with years of ongoing building and works?

Safety will be ensured during the few months of works and the area will be properly secured. Details will be provided later on.

Why is there no shuttle between the two schools as it was done when P1&P2 had been temporarily moved to Evere?

We have had situations where some siblings have been separated for two years now (one child stays in Evere while the other goes to the Secondary school in Woluwe). We are aware of the obstacles, but internal transport for the sole purpose of picking up children in one place is not taken into account.

Can you clearly clarify the ratio of students/m², outdoor space and classrooms?

The external studies issued by PWC note that the current capacity of the Woluwe site is 2,600 pupils, taking into consideration our organization, national norms, particular needs of the timetable, well-being, etc.

The capacity of the Evere site is 1,500 based on national legislation only.

Why was the information to the Board of Governors 70 while you write 65 in your presentation to us?

The information provided to the Board of Governors included proposals for IT conversion, a print room, etc. This gives a total of 70 classrooms.

EVERE SITE

What about the four (Deputy) Directors for Primary? Will two of them change jobs?

The managerial structure in Primary will change, we will remain with one Deputy Director and one Assistant Deputy Director.

Can you clarify if the current plan is then to transfer to Evere in the school year 2026-2027 ALL sections from Nursery and Primary cycle?

Yes, indeed.

Why are you showing the plan for Woluwe but we have not seen the plans of the interior for Evere?

In Evere, no construction works are planned apart from the expansion of the outdoor space which is being discussed and negotiated with the Belgian authorities. The parents and students will be invited to see existing premises during next school year.

Will it be possible to bring children to Evere by car and leave the car there during the day until the children are picked up in the afternoon?

No, it will be not possible.

Will adequate parking space for school buses be created to ensure smooth arrival in the morning?

We are working on this with the Belgian authorities.

EVERE HEALTH & SAFETY

In addition to air pollution, what is the position of the Management regarding the huge NATO-style tower near the school?

The School Management has no influence on the choice of location. This is the responsibility of the Belgian authorities.

What will the school do to mitigate the high levels of air pollution on the Evere site? What are the results of the survey?

We are awaiting the results of professional air quality measurements in Evere. Decisions will be made after analysing the results.

Shouldn't the expansion of the playground be done before the move? Will it be completed on time?

The partial expansion will be done in 2025-2026 already. As explained during the presentation, we are discussing and negotiating with the Belgian authorities. Please remember that the final decision about the transfer has been made a few weeks ago only.

How wise is it to place small children near NATO headquarters given today's world?

I would like to emphasise that we currently have more than 750 young pupils in Evere who are safe and secure.

Will the children be in modules or will there be real buildings? What are the norms regulating all this?

No structural changes are planned for the Evere site for the time being. The entire building is constructed using a modular system that meets all standards.

EVERE FACILITIES

Can the locker system be improved (more places to unlock or change to an individual system)?

We are not planning to change the system, but with the move, additional space for school lockers will certainly be allocated.

Will there be sports facilities at some point? A shuttle to Woluwe is not viable and sports activities are important.

Please be assured that all sports activities included in the curriculum will be provided. Students in P3-P5 will have activities outside the school grounds, younger children (Nursery - P2) will be guaranteed sports at school without having to leave the premises. The arrangement of after-school activities is the decision and responsibility of the parents, not the school.

There will indeed be sports facilities. If the outdoor space is expanded, a special tent used for sport activities will be installed.

How will the merging of classes in Evere work? Can you explain the merging of 2-4 groups of smaller classes? Will the teaching in mother tongue be ensured?

Currently, we have language sections that are smaller than others, e.g. Lithuanian or Swedish. If the number of students in two consecutive classes does not exceed 25 students, we merge the two year groups. This is written in the regulations of all European schools and has been the case for many years. It has nothing to do with the transfer.

We will not merge two different language sections as it would go against the very concept of the European School system.

Will classes moved from Woluwe to Evere stay intact, or will they be split?

We cannot guarantee that they will remain intact. Every year, the situation is different and we have to react and make decisions based on current data. The classes from Woluwe will be merged with Evere's groups.

Is it really feasible for the Evere population to have lunch in the canteen if the capacity is 200 pupils and the service lasts for 30'? With 1,500 pupils, lunch would have to run from 11.00 to 15.00?

The capacity of the Evere canteen is:

- Nursery - 200 places per sitting
- Primary - 500 places per sitting (250 per canteen – 2 canteens)

So we could arrange the timetable accordingly to organise 2 sittings.

Evere pupils' conditions (air pollution, no swimming classes, merging of classes, etc.) will be worse from the ones in Woluwe...

They will not be worse, they will be different. The parents and students will be invited to visit the school. We are awaiting the results of professional air quality measurements in Evere. Decisions will be made after analysing the results. We will not have less swimming classes. Merging groups has nothing to do with Evere but with regulations of the European Schools system. The rooms are bigger (75m²) than in Woluwe (55 m²), which is why we will divide some of them to have good conditions to provide L1 SWALS, ONL, educational support, etc.

How are children's activities happening in NATO?

Currently, the children have sports classes, including swimming lessons, at the NATO sports centre. The sports lessons are for P3-P5 classes.

Won't pupils in overcrowded Woluwe just be transferred to just-as-overcrowded Evere? Can you clarify the ratio? Evere will be full but not overcrowded.

Flemish authorities use 8-10 m² per child as a guideline, how far are we off with 1,500 pupils?

The premises in Evere ensure that the current standards prescribed in Belgium, Flanders and Wallonia are met.

You refer to 1,500 pupils, but the APEEE has communicated a student population of 1,660 – Which number is correct?

The concrete number is not known yet, it depends on various elements. Our calculations are based on the provisions in the current enrolment policy, our experience and the school capacity.

According to enrolment policy rules classes can have up to 30 pupils. Will there be enough big classrooms to accommodate them? Will this maximum number change?

We are going to divide a few classrooms only.

How and when do you intend to increase the number of classrooms to ensure the space is suitable for small children to learn and play?

We will have enough space:

Nursery: 14 full-sized and equipped classrooms vs 11 classes (groups) according to the provision

Primary: 51 full-sized and equipped classrooms vs 61 classes (groups) according to the provision:

- 3 Nursery classes will be used by the Primary
- 3 rooms – IT + printing + meeting room – will be converted to Primary classrooms
- Merging of 2 to 4 groups – Small language sections
- Possibility of dividing rooms and up to 3 offices will be converted to classrooms for L1 SWALS & ONL

Will both sites have joined activities?

Activities are planned that will promote the integration of the two sites. In fact, many projects have already been carried out jointly since the Evere site was established.

Would the current size of classrooms in Evere be maintained in the future? What about the current ratio of students/class? Should we expect the maximum of students/class in the future?

Yes, the current classrooms structure in Evere will be kept save for 2-4 rooms which will be divided. The maximum number of students per class is currently 30 which has nothing do with our situation. There are ES rules followed by all European schools.

EVERE CLASSES

Have you considered that activities are imperative till P3 but school stops at noon on Friday which means that children must wait until 15.30 for their bus?

The school is committed to providing premises for extracurricular activities as before.

What will happen to the activities outside of school? Will children spend even more time on a bus/less on activity itself and will it then cost the parents even more?

Compulsory sports classes are organised and financed by the school, including transport. The children will not spend more time on the bus than they do now. I would like to emphasise that older students currently have sports classes outside of school premises in Woluwe and Evere. This will continue.

The plans for the most vulnerable pupils in Evere are rather vague compared to Woluwe, can you elaborate?

In Evere, no construction works are planned apart from the expansion of the outdoor space. The parents and students will be invited to see existing premises during next school year.

Will the DE, IT, EN pupils coming from Woluwe be merged with the equivalent classes in Evere as of the 2026/27 school year?

Yes, they will be.

If there is only space for 1 class per year in each section in Evere (except the FR section) then what will happen in the classes where there are already more?

Classes with more than 30 children will be split.

In Woluwe, swimming classes have been offered during the whole duration of P1 and P2. Since it will be 8 weeks per year or less in Evere, what will be offered instead?

If this happens, the children will have regular sports lessons during the remaining period.

What about rooms for special education in Evere? Will you get more teachers for educational support for all languages?

We will provide the classrooms and as many teachers as needed; it has nothing to do with the transfer.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Would it be possible to contact the new Flemish commune regarding the farming ground next to EEB2 to see if anything has changed since the elections?

The Management is in constant contact with the Belgian authorities, notably regarding this topic. I am sure that this issue will be addressed at the next meeting of the Brussels Steering Committee.

Wasn't the permit for Evere only valid until mid-2027? Have actions been taken to extend it?

The Belgian authorities committed to do so.

What is your strategy to hold Belgian authorities accountable to find a new location in case Brussels intends to sell the Evere site or does not deliver a permit that allows Evere to function beyond March 2027?

I count on the Board of Governors on this matter. I am the executor of their decisions.

APEEE

Could APEEE consider having a bus in Evere after the after-school activities? Or otherwise explore the model of Uccle where some activities taking place at lunch?

The question of having a transport service after the after-school activities was studied in the past, with the following conclusions:

- Covering all stops would result in very high costs.
- Currently, about one-third of students use the after-school activities, spread across five days a week.

From an ecological perspective, buses would operate half-empty, which is inefficient.

Regarding activities at lunch, logistical challenges arise, particularly when it rains, as pupils would need to stay in their classrooms. At Woluwe, lunch activities have been organized in the past. However, in case of rain, monitors had to conduct sessions in corridors, disturbed by people passing through—this was not an ideal situation.

Nonetheless, upon request of parents, the APEEE services can explore these possibilities again in 2026.

Are there any plans to organise a joint bus service between/from the two schools, to ease the logistics for parents who will have children in both locations? How will the bus system work when you have a child in Evere and one in Woluwe (morning pickup, post-school transport, etc.)?

APEEE has experience with logistics on two locations from the start of Evere as a school site (2021), and in particular with the temporary move to Evere of P1–P2 pupils from Woluwe due to construction works (2023). Although shuttle solutions are technically possible, they come with significant financial implications and may turn out to be very inefficient. The feedback from parents at the time was largely negative: children spent a long time in the buses. Moreover, some adjustments that were made at the time to address a short-term challenge resulting from a temporary move due to renovation works are not possible or desirable in the context of a School with two sites (for instance, classes starting later or ending earlier than scheduled; the School supporting the costs of the shuttle). Therefore, the existing model serving the two sites will remain essentially the same: there will be routes to Evere and from Evere, and routes to Woluwe and from Woluwe.

What help will the APEEE receive to counter all these difficulties?

At this stage, there is no confirmed external support specifically dedicated to addressing transport-related challenges linked to the future move. However, the APEEE is actively engaging with all relevant stakeholders (including the School and the OIB) to highlight the upcoming challenges and advocate for coordinated solutions, particularly regarding infrastructure, timing, and service feasibility.

Every year the time spent on the bus increases. If the population increases, will pupils spend even more time in transportation?

Unfortunately, this is a very real concern. The evolution of traffic in Brussels, which has been worsening year after year, already affects the punctuality and comfort of our services. With a growing school population and increasing dispersion of families across the city, the risk of longer transport times is indeed present.

The APEEE will continue to optimise routes where possible, while acknowledging that congestion and urban constraints are beyond control. Moreover, there are both financial and operational constraints that limit the ability to increase the number of routes.

The APEEE is already starting to consider the challenges entailed by the move and is committed to work to deliver as good a service as possible. The move in 2026 will require a major redesign of the routes, in particular those to and from Evere, and the APEEE will be particularly attentive to the needs of the families with children in both sites.

Will the APEEE make sure that families with children in both locations have the same bus stop?

The importance of simplifying logistics for families with children split between both sites is at the core of the concerns of the transport service, and the APEEE is already anticipating some of the challenges that will be brought about by the move. Where possible, the transport service will strive to assign a common bus stop to siblings, provided that both children's schedules and routes allow for it. However, due to the distance between both sites and the layout of routes, each situation will have to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can the bus service be delayed to e.g. 17:00 so that the children can go to the daycare?

Delaying the departure time to 17:00 would be a drastic change in the organisation of the service and would entail significant operational challenges. In practice, since having all children waiting until 17:00 is not a possibility, the

APEEE service would need to organise two different bus departures. In that case, the second departure would have to be paid for by the parents of the children using it.

Given the already high operational costs and the limited capacity of our current bus fleet, this option does not seem realistic under current conditions, unless a substantial number of families is willing to commit to this service and to cover the additional costs.

[Will there be enough pianos in the classrooms to ensure piano lessons?](#)

Yes, there should be a sufficient number of pianos be available.

[Will the full range of after-school activities be offered in Evere \(notably football\) as well?](#)

Given that the sports facilities in Evere are significantly scarcer than those in Woluwe, sports like football or athletics cannot be offered in Evere.

However, it might be possible to organize these activities in Woluwe, if a shuttle service is arranged between Evere and Woluwe. This might have an effect on the price of these activities.

OIB

[Can the OIB please consider keeping the garderie services in Woluwe as it would really help families?](#)

We are currently looking at the options for the 2026/2027 school year with the School and the APEEE, but at this point in time it is too early to confirm anything. However, we take note of your request.

[Is it possible to organise OIB after-school care for bigger children \(e.g. P4-5\) on the Woluwe site together with S1, possibly with a shuttle bus by APEEE?](#)

We are currently looking the options for the 2026/2027 school year with the School and the APEEE, but at this point in time it is too early to confirm anything. However, we take note of your request.