

Changes in Deurne as part of the EPIDORGE group of schools

1. Project team

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Ben Rijken, facility manager; Frank Verhagen, teacher; Ad de Bont, teacher/ Epidorge coordinator

The students are part of a larger group (ons NHB) that deal with more than only Epidorge subjects.

2. Situation at the beginning

a. The opening hours of the library were not satisfactory for students. Observations and interviews made clear that they wanted a more efficient access tot the library. Sometimes nobody was there, sometimes the place was overcrowded

Opening hours were not the same each day and on some days the library was closed during a longer period of time.

	Time of lessons
	Opening hours library old situation
	Opening hours library new situation

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0800					
0900					
1000					
1100					
1200					
1300					
1400					
1500					
1600					
1700					

b. Since smoking is not longer allowed in any building there was a need for a place to be allowed to smoke somewhere outside. Just outside the restaurant there is a place that students frequent in between lessons. They block the stairs towards the restaurant and the place is filled with cigarette buds.

In wintertime and during rain it not a very convenient place. Students suggested a shelter and benches to sit on just at the back of the entrance of the restaurant.

3. Change in progress

a. It was evident that the total amount of opening hours should stay the same because of the working hours of the lady in charge. Students proposed that they would assist in supervising the use of the library. The lady in charge was reluctant in agreeing on that. She however was very willing to change her hours into a new timetable. From October 2005 this new timetable was introduced.

Students make use of the library in a more even way. Less empty moments and peaks in amount of students being present in the library (observations done).

Opening hours are the same each day, which makes it easier for students to plan.

Just by accident, because of a student being available for assisting work in the library, at this moment there is a experiment in extra opening hours.

This student opens the library at 0800 every morning. This means an extra 10 hours every week. This student acts with a great deal of responsibility and takes her job very serious. This also may change the way staff looks upon the way students may assist and take responsibility.

b. Not immediately, but bit by bit students move from the stairs in front of the restaurant to the back, where there are benches and waste baskets for the cigarette buds and empty lemonade bottles. Observations make clear that students accept the change and can cope with the new place to smoke and talk.

It is also obvious that there is a need for some way of outside heaters during wintertime. Those devices have not been installed yet

4. How students control the situation.

All classes, together with their coach evaluate study programs and daily concerns twice a week. During those hours, students that are members of the students board (ONS) ask fellow students how they experience the changes. After that they bring that in the monthly meetings where those changes are discussed. Both students and staff give their opinion on the changes that take place and how to adjust and improve those. In between the monthly meetings staff and students of the project team meet on informal basis and short messages are exchanged.

5. Conditions to make sure that changes occur well

Decisions need to be made by students as well as staff together. When student are part of the decision making they feel more responsible for the results. They feel that suggestion and ideas are heard and taken serious by staff and management of the school.

Make sure that there is a continuous basis on which the project team meets.

By frequent short informal in-between meetings long and time consuming meetings can be avoided.

A recognisable step by step evolution of the changes that have been taken place makes the changes and the power of the students visible. This you need in order to exchange with other students as well as to confirm the effort of the students that are directly involved in the project.