

## 1. The Pupil Guidance Centre (CLB)

Every school in Flanders cooperates with a Pupil Guidance Centre (CLB). The CLB guides pupils in their development into independent adults and monitors pupils' health and well-being, either systematically or in a demand-driven manner. Parents, teachers, school management teams, as well as the children or young people themselves may turn to the CLB for information, help and guidance. Various professionals work together within a CLB: doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, educationalists.

Together with the school, this team ensures that every child and young person can develop his/her knowledge, talents and skills to a maximum extent at school.

The Pupil Guidance Centre (CLB) operates in four guidance domains:

- learning and studying
- educational career
- psychological and social behaviour
- preventative health care

In each of these four guidance domains, the CLB has:

- a pupil-related provision
- a provision in terms of school support

## 2. The pupil-related provision of the CLB

The pupil-related provision comprises the demand-driven activities for pupils (at the request of the pupil, the parents or the school) and the obligatory pupil guidance (in case of truancy and for certain medical examinations).

Within the pupil-related provision, the school mainly acts as 'notifier'. It may point out to the CLB that it is concerned about a pupil, and ask the CLB to start guidance. The CLB will always first ask for the parents' consent (for a pupil under the age of 12) or the consent of the pupil him/herself (for a pupil aged 12 or older who is capable of deciding him/herself) to start guidance.

Guidance by a CLB cannot be made obligatory, except in 2 situations:

- in case of truancy (obligatory involvement of the CLB as from 10 half days of problematic absenteeism)
- in case of certain medical examinations

### 3. School support by the CLB

The CLB has a school support provision in the four domains. This provision aims to reinforce the school's internal pupil guidance, for instance by increasing the expertise of teachers in the field of 'sign' detection.

Minimum school support provided by the CLB is composed of:

- information: within the framework of the provision of information about the educational provision and the connection with the labour market, the CLB organises, together with the school, all kinds of actions regarding the choice of an educational and professional career, in which it actively participates.
- the role of the CLB as hub between the school as organisation and the network partners of the CLB, mainly welfare services and provisions with a view to specialised aid.
- participation in consultation moments organised by the school with regard to pupil guidance.
- participation in school projects devoted to the policy regarding priority target groups. These are groups of pupils at risk of dropping out due to their social background or living conditions.

In the field of preventive health care, the CLB may also provide school support, for instance when the school launches prevention campaigns or when measures have to be taken in case of certain contagious diseases.

### 4. Medical examinations in a CLB

The doctors and paramedics (nurses) of the CLBs carry out a number of free medical examinations, so-called check-ups, of the pupils of their schools.

Thanks to these examinations, the CLB can detect a number of 'disorders' in time. In this way:

- the foundations are laid for consultation within the multidisciplinary team,
- appropriate education may be provided when necessary (for instance, a pupil who appears to suffer from hearing problems may get a seat in front of the classroom),
- a pupil may be referred in time for treatment. A CLB can indeed not provide any medical treatment (therapy) itself. You must always contact your general practitioner or possibly a specialist to that end. They will deal with the medical issues.

### 5. Vaccination by the CLB

The Government of Flanders organises vaccination campaigns in order to control or even eradicate a number of contagious diseases in Flanders. The CLBs play a leading role in this respect, as they normally examine all school age youth in Flanders. This makes the CLB the perfect place to:

- monitor the vaccination status of the guided pupils: which vaccinations have they already had, which vaccinations do they still need?

- freely vaccinate the pupils who still need certain vaccinations against certain contagious diseases.

## 6. Contagious diseases and prophylactic measures

In case pupils or educational staff members have contracted a contagious disease, the CLB must take measures, so-called prophylactic measures, in order to prevent the further spread of these diseases.

These measures are the joint responsibility of the school and the CLB: both parties must cooperate in order to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

## 7. CLB as hub in a network

Sign detection and dealing appropriately with these signs are part of every teacher's assignment. In many cases, the school itself can deal with these signs within the framework of its pupil guidance. However, teachers are not social workers. A school may have doubts and wonder whether more is needed than the guidance it can guarantee itself. In such a case, it is best for the school to contact the CLB.

In consultation with the school, the CLB clarifies the demand and examines whether referral to more professional help is necessary. The Flemish Parliament Act on Pupil Guidance Centres indeed invests the CLB with the important role of hub between the educational, welfare and health sectors. In line with this, CLBs form a network with the services from their region that can offer help to young people.