

## How we can take part into the decisions at school

### The forum

The forum is a meeting of our class's pupils that takes place every Monday morning. Its purpose is to discuss problems encountered by the pupils at school. We use a board to write down the controversial topic we would like to present, and we add our first name beside it, under brackets

For every forum, we have a chairman whose role is to distribute speaking time evenly. If more than one pupil volunteer to be the chairman, our teacher Michèle chooses a secret number. The pupil who guesses the correct number gets to be the chairman. You cannot volunteer for the chair again until all the other pupils have had their turn at it. Michèle is the secretary of the meeting : she takes notes of everything we say.

As soon as the meeting begins, we read the proposed topics. The pupil who proposed the topic (remember, his/her first name is under brackets right beside it) clarifies and explains, then we vote to determine the order in which we will call the topics up (the topic with the most votes is evoked first). We call up every topic, discuss it and look for solutions together.

Finally, we vote by raising our hand for each and every proposed solution. Michèle tallies the votes. If half of the pupils plus one have voted "yes" on a solution, it is accepted. From that day on, we do our best to work according to the proposed solution.

Examples of forum topics : class organization (where we sit, and so on...); relationship problems (conflicts, quarrels,...); things we would like to do in class, or at school.

