

The Declaration of School Peace 2020

National school peace was first declared in 1990 on the hill of the Turku Art Museum. A total of 4000 students, teachers, and principals attended the historic event. The goal of the declaration was to improve well-being and safety in schools across the nation. This day, the nineteenth of August 2020, marks the 30th anniversary of school peace. In honor of this, school peace will now once again be declared in Turku, this time at the Veritas Stadium.

A school must be a place in which one can feel safe, a place full of friends and adults that one can trust. You can provide happiness to others by helping those in need and by being fair. The right to school peace belongs to everyone, and thus we all have an obligation to shape our schools into safe environments. One should keep in mind the catchphrase of The Three Musketeers, "One for all, all for one." This year's theme, equality, is the most important aspect of school peace. You can promote equality by taking a friend by their hand and being there for them. This year's slogan, "hand in hand" represents this. The slogan was chosen before the coronavirus had spread to Finland. With this slogan, we want to portray that although it is sometimes recommended to maintain social distance for immunological reasons, it is also important to support your friends and to maintain mental closeness with them during difficult times.

What does the theme of the year, equality, mean to you?

It makes no difference what you're like, where you're from, or what kind of clothes you wear. You'll always be worth as much as everyone else. An open and positive attitude towards new people is the foundation of social well-being. We can incorporate the teachings of moominmamma into school peace by focusing on the good in every individual. By taking your friend by the hand, you show them that you're there for them and that you're ready to help them whenever they need it. In addition, doing so will bring you happiness.

The development of school peace isn't a job to be done by one person. It's a job that requires everyone's collective effort. This doesn't mean that you have to be friends with everyone at school. However, you do need to accept everyone for who they are. It's good to remember the president's wise words: "What is important isn't physical closeness, but mental closeness and friendship."

We wish you all a happy, friendship-filled schoolyear where we all stand alongside each other hand in hand!