



Friends Guide Book on SCHOOL REINTEGRATION *PUBLIC document –2010 version*

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Introduction on the Guide Book

Why a Guide book on Reintegrating Children into Public School?

- To ensure that Friends Programs offer sustainable, public school solutions to children, youth and adults
- To help organizations plan and organize reintegration into public school
- To share the knowledge and experience of the FI staff, so that certain obstacles may be avoided.

Who uses the Guide book on Reintegrating Children into Public School?

The Guide Book on Reintegrating Children into Public School is to be used by all persons working on or planning to work on a Non-Formal Education Program as part of a Friends Program (staff or volunteers), whose objective is to reintegrate children into a formal, public school system.

This document is the public version of the guide book. For information about the full Guide Book and about collaboration with Friends-International, please contact Friends-International.

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1. General understanding on public school reintegration

Objective of Reintegrating Children into Public School

The primary objective of conducting a Non-Formal Education Program is to encourage, promote and support the reintegration of children into the formal, public school system.

All children/youth should be reintegrated into a grade that is appropriate with their knowledge level and their age.

Many people may ask why you would want to reintegrate children into a public school system when the Non-Formal Education program you have set up provides more individualized and often more 'fun' schooling.

Friends-International considers that to support sustainable development within the countries that we work, we need to support government initiatives as the Governments are responsible for ensuring a quality primary and secondary education to their people.

Furthermore, for any child to aspire to higher education and a 'good' job, they will need to have the official, education requirements of their country. By denying them a formal education, we are denying them a future!

Target Group to for reintegration into public school

Primary

- Children/ youth part of Friends-International target group
- Their care givers

For more details see the Friends Programs Charter

Secondary

- Ministry of Education
- Schools (teachers, school directors)

2. The Principles of Reintegration to public school

All children have the right to access a public education, in respect of their gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, political ideals, ethnic background, nationality, health situation, legal status, and social backgrounds;

All decisions are taken for the best interest of the child/youth.

Beneficiaries join services on a voluntary basis. Once they have decided to try to reintegrate the public school system, they will to be encouraged and supported to do so.

NFE centers provide services for children's need in a holistic manner.

Program staff show respect to the beneficiaries, they do not have a judgemental attitude

Program staff are positive and dynamic, they believe in everybody's capacity to learn.

Program staff are "professional friends"

Program staff learn from the children and youth with whom they work

Systems for reintegrating children in public school can always be improved and need to be adapted constantly

Public school reintegration is conducted in accordance with the laws of the Ministry of Education.

3. How do we prepare and ensure Reintegration into Public School?

3.1 Preparing the Child

3.2 Preparing the Parents/Caregivers

3.3 Preparing the administrative process with the Ministry, Departments and Schools

3.4 Provision of materials to the children

3.5 Follow-up in the Public School and in the Family

4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

M&E is an important part of any program, showing:

- what has been achieved or not and thus supporting future work plans, schedules in terms of progressing on what worked and making amendments to what did not work;
- What has been learned and what needs to be reinforced.

5. What should I do When I don't know what to do?

- **I don't get excited or upset**
- **I ask my team members, my team leader, my project manager**
- **If I am not in an emergency situation:** I tell the children/youth/adults that I will check and come back to them. I do not tell them things I am not sure about or that are untrue
- **If I am in an emergency situation and nobody can advise me:**
 - I do what I consider is the best for the child/youth. The priority is the physical and mental safety of the child/youth
 - On the same day or on the next day I ask my team leader or my project manager to discuss about the situation so I know how to react next time.

6. Reference and resource documents

- Friends Programs Charter
- Friends-International Child Protection policy and procedures

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