

The Finnish school through the eyes of Russian mom

Our columnist eve Rezvan talked with Anna Dantseva, a mother of two children. Anna works as a top Manager of a large international company and almost 20 years living in Finland.

— **Anya, the Russian press appeared a variety of materials, praising the Finnish educational system. Only the lazy does not lead to our example, chronically reformed school. As a mother of two children who go to Finnish school, say: it is actually?**

— When it comes to Finnish school, I like to quote my husband:

A great advantage of the Western system of education is that it is relaxed. The downside is that she's too relaxed.

What you have written, 75% correct. The Finnish system brings all to an average level. Greater emphasis on to help the Laggards. If the child does not have time, it provides additional couple of hours in a week, baby will help.

Since then, as Finnish students were in the first lines of rankings in the PISA results, many countries have looked critically at its educational system. In Russia, this reflection has only just begun.

Source: emaze.com

If a child is smart, capable, and learning is easy for him, here come the remaining 25%. Such a child is given insufficient load. Those who are thinking about studying at a University on a major specialty like a doctor or a lawyer, often take tutoring and additional classes. Now comes the debate on how to rectify this situation at the school level. Math teacher of my older son gives to high performing children of the book with additional tasks. But to do them or not — depends on the willingness of students.

In Junior high the job is small. But no one in the child's knowledge is not hammered. Passed the subject, wrote the pilot. To penetrate, to repeat, to remember — only on the conscience of the student. And parents.

The timetable of one of the semesters for grade 7. In two months it will change again, and the children will study very different things.

In high school, quite cool to get. The child for the year 5 semesters, each consisting of its set of items. It turns out that the schedule changed five times a year. For example, two months you teach history or science, then four months this item is no. The lesson lasts 70 minutes. They included the teacher's explanation and tests, which is often the case. Again, it is assumed independent work of the child. The lesson was given a large piece of material, and you're at home learn & digest.

Now I think to enter in the high school integrated subjects.

Teachers are given full freedom, they can combine the items in one lesson. For example, to thematically combine literature, history and science. In principle, they have a plan what to give your children for the entire course, but how to do it — each teacher decides for himself.

We should say about religion. The subject of "Religion" dedicated to the creeds professed by the family of the student. If the parents do not want to make any religious aspect in the education of their children, the teacher can devote training time to anything, at its sole discretion.

Finnish students in 1968.

Source: flickr.com

It turns out that they are less under pressure, but try to involve the children's world, to develop mental abilities, thinking and the ability to think comprehensively. Everything is built on self-awareness of students. Given the theme, and you owe it yourself to "gnaw" on all sides. But children are different.

If the child inquiring mind, then maybe it will be good. And if you want to sit with your child to do homework, then all is not so rosy.

— **How do you keep track of what your children know and what you don't?**

— Level tracking household chores done or not done. Math check. Finnish and German checks senior the younger. There are estimates for the audit work. But I can't, otlyvy that they are doing on the Finnish program, to compare with what is taught I.

The overall impression of Russian parents living in Finland, "God, what a mess. Educate morons". I tried, very unsuccessfully, to ask to bring me from Russia additional books on mathematics. But I can't use them because it's different here.

Here is a tutorial new topic in two pages is parsed by the example. Don't know, does the teacher at school, or children, following our example, have to think for yourself. Homework — half of the page. While three quarters topic — jobs that can be done at home or in class if there is time. But you can not do. Control works consist of a base part which corresponds to what was covered in class, and part of the job more difficult. If you didn't do those voluntary additional tasks, it is likely that you will not be able to solve that little part of control work and will not receive the maximum score.

If the child does homework, the "failure" he will not. But to be among the best, efforts should be made to children and parents.

The overall assessment for the subject consists of several components: the results of the control made more quests, well-designed notebook, the activity in the classroom. For maximum score you have to be successful in all these parts. In addition, teachers often compare children among themselves. You can write well in the native language or history, but a maximum estimate is obtained, because a number of children wrote more and better.

— Whether the school of social inequality?

Unlike America or Britain where there is "good" and "bad" areas, Finland is being built so that the cloaca was not. The stratification is still there, and to resist this is difficult, especially when the economy is not thriving. But where to give the plots for individual houses, in the same building of apartment buildings and student dormitories. In one area specifically mix of people from different backgrounds. Not to say that it was superuspeshnogo, but the ideas of universal equality are implemented this way too. They work at the level of the students. Of course, the doctor earns six thousand euros, and a nurse or two thousand, but to make children ashamed of their parents or, on the contrary, boasted of them — there is no such.

Even here there is no school levies from parents. As we have: the children go on a trip, so a certain amount of money parents should pay. At every parents' meeting gathered on the something money. Here you see that such things cause parents stress, especially if they have a small salary and they can't afford to constantly pay.

Therefore, practicing completely different schemes. For example, the teacher or the teacher collaborates with companies-sellers of sweets. When it comes time to raise money for the next trip, the teacher gives low-income parents, these candy, so they sell them to friends or anyone else and earned the trip.

The same system is practiced in the hockey sections. They are not cheap — around 1 000 euros per season. Wishing to reduce fees for classes are handed out for the sale of Souvenirs, scarves and stickers with the logo.

Hockey in Finland is extremely popular, but to drive the child to the hockey section is expensive.

Source: wikimedia.org

In the same spirit of bringing up children. Want to get something, you earn it. For example, the music class performs in the University, at companies like "Nokia" or at the fish market that takes place twice a year, and gets paid for it. Then earnings paid class trip and activities. The class my son played in the University, and all children received two movie tickets.

It also helps the government, sponsors or the city authorities. Thus, the joint efforts do not give low-income families suffer.

— How parents involved in school life?

— Mid-year teacher meets with each parent to discuss successes or difficulties of the child.

We have parent committees at the school level, not class. The school my children in the old working class district with its own traditions. We have an active parent Committee — they organize after school clubs music, dance, languages, work on the tree. Usually mugs are 20 euros per semester. Symbolic money. So basically it's volunteer work.

But not all schools. Somewhere there are no circles.

Modern Finnish students

Source: independent.co.uk

— Finland is a multilingual country. How to study foreign languages?

— For me the mystery, as they generally manage to teach them. In my understanding of the language — it's swotting. Here I don't see it. Children do not learn the language with the alphabet as we passed. Emphasis is placed on practice rather than on grammar.

Start with the basic things that are close to your life. And in the process somehow increased vocabulary. How the grammar does not explain, understand.

The first foreign language begins in third grade. English, German and French are the most common, available almost everywhere. There are still Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

The system is this: to place the group in a particular language, you need to get twelve applicants. At our school the Director did a great job with the parents, saying that in this country a child should know English as a native language. Therefore don't consider English a foreign language. [writing essays for money](#) You need the child to train and other languages.

This young resident of Finland has a Youtube channel and talks about his country, including about school life.

If you chose the first language to English, then in 4th grade you can choose another language. If not, you are obliged to English the second. Class 6 — mandatory Swedish, because the country is bilingual. Since 8th grade have the opportunity to choose one additional language. It turns out that

in school, you can learn the native language and four foreign.

In addition, if one parent is not native to Finnish, it is possible to send a child into elective classes in the native language of the parent.

And all this manage successfully to teach. Finn with higher education, speaking four languages is the norm. And any seller in the store fluent in English and Swedish. This is the basic school education plus TV. In duplicated form, are only children's films. Other programs in the original language, with subtitles or without. It also greatly helps in language learning.