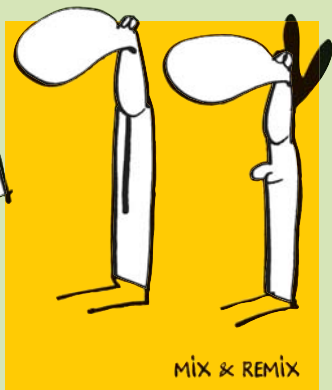


# Memento

For the use of parents  
and their children

...PARENTS  
HAVE  
HOMEWORK  
TOO...

...YOU HAVE  
TO READ THIS  
MEMENTO!...



REPUBLIQUE  
ET CANTON  
DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX

## Some useful addresses

Department of  
Education, Culture  
and Sport  
[www.ge.ch/dip/](http://www.ge.ch/dip/)

Police central  
administration  
[www.ge.ch/police](http://www.ge.ch/police)  
tel. 022 427 81 11

Police emergency  
tel. 117

Parents' associations

**primary:** [www.gapp.ch](http://www.gapp.ch)

**secondary:**

[www.fapeco.ch](http://www.fapeco.ch)

**post-compulsory:**

[www.fappo.ch](http://www.fappo.ch)

Action Innocence

[www.actioninnocence.ch](http://www.actioninnocence.ch)

tel. 022 734 50 02

for questions concerning the  
Internet and social networks.

SOS-children

[www.sos-enfants.ch](http://www.sos-enfants.ch)

tel. 022 312 11 12

helpline for children and  
young people.

Young people's  
information center

[www.pointjeunes.ch](http://www.pointjeunes.ch)

tel. 022 420 55 55

Information, prevention and  
community help service for  
young adults (aged 18-25).

Pro Juventute

[www.147.ch](http://www.147.ch)

tel. 147

Helpline

Psychological support  
for young people and  
parents

[www.telme.ch](http://www.telme.ch)

CIAO

[www.ciao.ch](http://www.ciao.ch)

answers to many questions  
posed by adolescents.

Carrefour addictions

[www.carrefouraddictions.ch](http://www.carrefouraddictions.ch)

tél. 022 329 11 69

Support for parents in  
Geneva

[www.ecoledesparents.ch](http://www.ecoledesparents.ch)

tel. 022 733 12 00

Legal age and  
recommended age for  
access to films shown  
in cinemas

[www.geneve.ch/filmages](http://www.geneve.ch/filmages)

## Introduction

To allow all citizens to live in harmony and to protect young people from high-risk behaviour, but also to support parents in their role as educators, the authorities have passed laws.

They form an indispensable framework for young people, who need affection as they grow up but also boundaries.

Geneva's education law stipulates in particular that school must educate young people, encourages parents to share in this responsibility and offers them support in their role as educators.

This memento is designed as a link between school, young people and parents. By drawing attention to a number of essential laws and regulations it helps to provide landmarks and encourage dialogue, which is essential for the implementation of educational rules that take into account the duties and rights of children and adolescents.

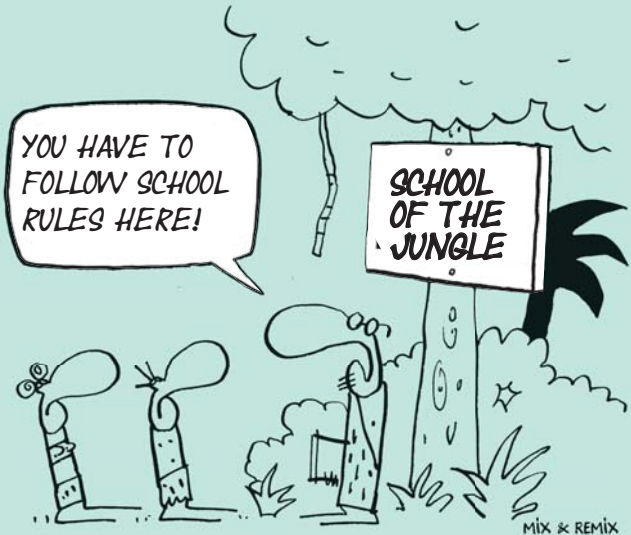
Adults must remind them regularly of the existence of this legal framework, within which parents are at liberty to set their own boundaries. It is in this sense that we wish to combine our efforts.



## 1 | Compulsory schooling

**The Federal constitution guarantees to everyone the right to adequate basic education, free of charge, in state schools. Compulsory schooling begins at the age of 4 and generally lasts for 11 years.\***

Young people registered at school are obliged to attend regularly and parents are required to send their children to school; they may be liable to a fine if they do not fulfil this obligation. They must also ensure that their children comply with school rules and in particular that they go to school in clothing appropriate to the situation and the location.



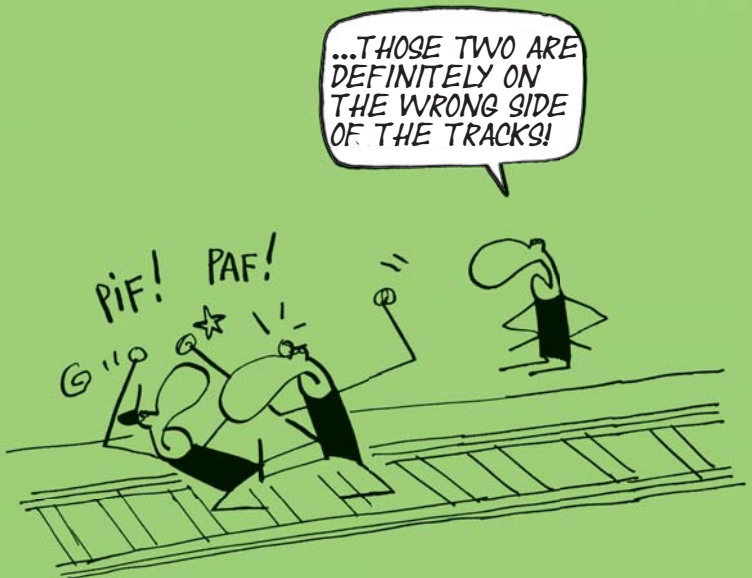
**\*In Geneva, the constitution stipulates that education is compulsory up to the age of majority.**

## 2 | Public highway and public transport

**The behaviour of young people, like that of adults, must show respect for others and the environment.**

In particular, it is not permitted to spit, urinate, play dangerous games, discard waste paper or other rubbish on the public highway, or to soil or deface the walls of public or private buildings.

Any person who damages equipment or travels on public transport without a valid ticket is liable for criminal and administrative sanctions.



### 3 | Internet and social networks

**The law applies to the Internet as to any public space. It is not permitted to distribute or store documents that damage a person's character (abuse, defamation), violate accepted standards of behaviour (for example pornographic images), infringe copyright, or incite to violence, racism or other criminal behaviour.**

In addition, it is not permitted to take and use photos or videos – particularly with a mobile phone – or record sounds without the permission of those concerned. The pirating of software and reselling of music recorded online are punishable by law. Involvement in “chat” (discussion) sites, social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc) and other “blogs” necessitates certain precautions, in particular:

On a “chat” site

- **Never reveal your identity, a photograph of yourself or your coordinates (use a pseudonym or “alias”);**
- **Do not arrange to meet an unknown correspondent;**
- **Do not accept proposals of a financial or sexual nature or which incite violence;**

On a social network

- **Set up your account so that only contacts known to you can have access to your posts;**
- **Never agree to make contact with people you do not know;**
- **Respect image rights and the right to privacy;**
- **Do not register on Facebook, Twitter, etc, before the age of 13.**



## 4 | Cinema, TV and video games

**The legal age for admission to a cinema must be respected. Minors and accompanying adults in breach of this rule are liable to sanctions.**

Television channels and distributors of DVDs and video games now more frequently indicate the age below which use of the product is not recommended. The law authorises the parents of a child who is a minor to return any object purchased by the latter without their consent and to receive a refund.



## 5 | Going out at night and public establishments

**Young people under the age of 16 not accompanied by an adult who has authority over them may not stay outdoors or in a public establishment after midnight.**

It is advisable to keep your identity card with you at all times.

## 6 | Alcohol and tobacco

**It is not permitted to sell or pass on alcohol to young people under the age of 16.**

**It is not permitted for young people under the age of 16 to smoke.**

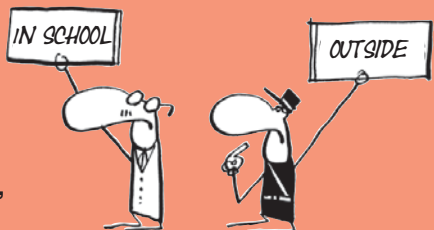
**Beer and wine: sale and transfer authorised from the age of 16. Alcopops, premixes, cocktails, aperitifs and distilled spirits: sale and transfer authorised from the age of 18.**



## 7 | Other drugs and narcotics

**The production, possession, transfer, sale, purchase and consumption of all drugs, even in small quantities, is prohibited.**

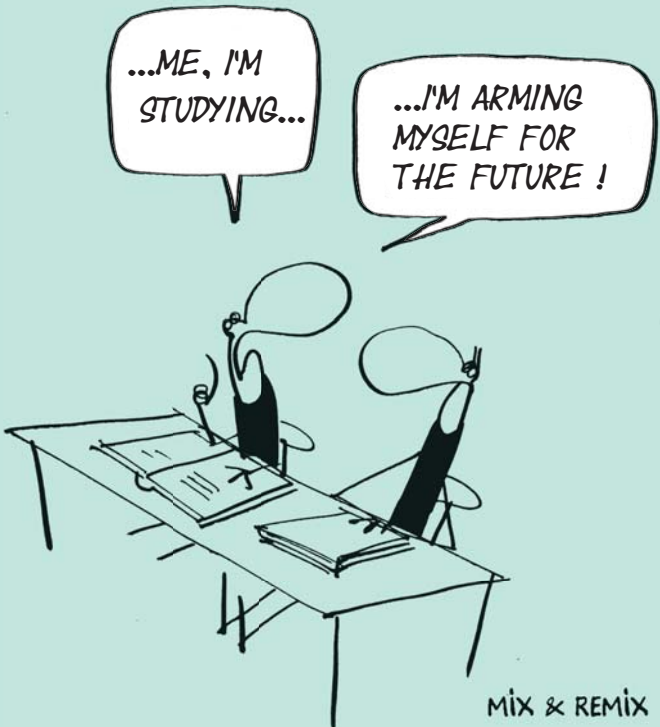
This concerns so-called "soft" drugs (cannabis, hemp, marijuana, etc), synthetic drugs (ecstasy, etc) and "hard" drugs (cocaine, heroin, etc).





**Firearms, automatic or “flick” knives, pepper sprays or other objects designed to cause injury (knuckle-dusters, coshes, nunchuks, etc) are not permitted.**

The possession of everyday objects whose use may result in injury must be subject to special precautions and may where necessary be prohibited within the school grounds.



**In addition to visible violence (fighting, vandalism, etc), no one has the right to exert psychological pressure on another person or threaten them physically in order to obtain something from them or impose attitudes, actions or gestures upon them against their will.**

Young people and adults are punishable under the law if they commit the following offences in particular, either as perpetrators or accomplices:

- Sexual aggression;
- Intentional harm, injury through negligence;
- Fighting, taking part in a brawl;
- Threats, insults;
- Damage to property: vandalism, tagging, etc;
- Theft, possession of stolen goods, theft as part of a gang, theft with violence, racketeering;
- Harassment, online harassment.

It is important that any victim of aggression should speak about it to their parents or a trustworthy adult and that they should be taken seriously. It is also indispensable to notify the police of any instances of racketeering, cyberviolence or sexual aggression to ensure that such actions do not go unpunished. Causing damage to the property of others is also prohibited.



Communal information

Personal notes

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# Being parents: an essential role

"Parents and children owe each other such support, consideration and respect as the good of the family community requires."

## Swiss civil code

Being a parent is not always easy and reading this brochure may raise a number of questions. If you would like to talk about these, it is always possible to approach adults present in the school (teachers, educators, school nurse, social workers, counsellors, psychologist, school authorities, etc), the police, or a range of associations and institutions.

