

# IMC Weekendschool: invite children to learn about ‘later’ today

For 26 years, IMC Weekendschool has been offering supplementary education to those children who need it most. Their education concept, ToekomstExpeditie (‘ExpeditionFuture’), is offered at 62 locations nationwide each week. A grassroots initiative highlighting education as a collective responsibility, with guest lessons and financing provided by civil society.

IMC Weekendschool bridges a worrisome gap in mainstream education. Kids are often told to “study for later” without someone showing them what ‘later’ could look like. Moreover, in the country’s most impoverished areas, opportunities are anything but equal. IMC Weekendschool invites children from these areas to experiment with potential futures. Receiving hands-on classes from experts in various fields has proven valuable for pupils at all levels; it advances their motivation, future prospects, self-confidence, and civic engagement.

The initiative started in 1998 with one small class on Sundays, organised by founder and strategic director Heleen Terwijn, in Amsterdam Zuidoost. Today, the organisation offers a weekly programme to 3.300 children at weekend schools, primary schools and newcomer schools, across the country. The thriving alumni network numbers nearly 4.000 members.

The driving force behind this success are IMC Weekendschool’s volunteer guest teachers; ordinary people who passionately share their profession. They take the pupils to experience real-life work situations. “These are formative encounters”, according to Amsterdam Zuidoost District Council Chair Tanja Jadnanansing. “They show children who they could be.”

Since 2014, ToekomstExpeditie has been introduced at a growing number of regular primary schools in the Netherlands’ poorest neighbourhoods. The aim is to gradually make this educational concept a fixed component in primary school curricula. For mainstream teachers, the added value is obvious:



“The class changes as soon as a guest teacher enters; children start fizzing with curiosity. These classes bring the ‘standard’ curriculum to life; abstract subject matter like mathematical scaling is made tangible when kids spend the afternoon being real-life architects.”

“We create future together,” is IMC Weekendschool’s motto. When it comes to tomorrow’s society, we all have a responsibility. The organisation therefore works with an engaged network of over 550 financial partners and 8.000 volunteers each year.

“Don’t underestimate the extent to which you can contribute to education by joining us,” is Heleen Terwijn’s call to Zuidas. “Help us build this future. Realise these children’s eagerness to learn. Every encounter supports them in seeing opportunities for themselves.”

This important work is made possible by the support of IMC Weekendschool’s financial partners. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Read more about the options on [imcweekendschool.nl/doe-mee](https://imcweekendschool.nl/doe-mee) and reach out: +31 (0) 20 280 17 00 or [patricia.vandenbroek@weekendschool.nl](mailto:patricia.vandenbroek@weekendschool.nl)