

## Parental involvement in school

Do you remember your own schooldays? Certainly, they will be very different for your child than they were for you. Times change, and the school system in Germany is perhaps different from that in the country where you grew up.

We want to give you a few tips on how to support your child and help them pass successfully through this stage of their life.

### HOW DO SCHOOLS WORK IN BERLIN?



#### **You can have a say**

As parents, you can take part in the life of the school, get informed and get involved. This is set out in paragraph 47 of the Berlin Schools Act.



#### **You have a shared responsibility for child-raising**

According to the Schools Act, school is there to “raise and educate children”. You as parents of course remain responsible for the upbringing of your child. It is best for your child when parents and the school work together.

### WHAT DOES OUR FAMILY GET FROM MY BEING INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL?



#### **Your child will be more motivated to learn**

School is an important part of your child’s everyday life. Your child will get more enjoyment from learning if you show that you are interested.

If you help out at the school (for example, by bringing tasty food for the class party), your child will be proud of you.



#### **You receive information**

You will know what is going on at the school and will get new information in good time.



#### **You can better help your child**

If you are informed about what is going on at school, you can better help your child.



#### **You can get to know teaching staff, nursery school teachers and parents**

Through this you can find out what your child is talking about when they tell stories from school. And you will know who to contact when you need to talk.

You will get to know other parents. You can exchange views with them, perhaps even using your mother tongue. You can receive information and tips from parents who have been living here for longer or who might have older children at the school.

## WHERE AND HOW CAN I GET IN CONTACT WITH OTHERS?



### Parents' evenings

Go to the regular parents' evenings.

At the parents' evening, all the parents of children in a class at the school meet the staff and teachers. You will receive plenty of information there.

Tell the teaching staff in advance if you do not have a good command of German (yet). Ask others to speak slowly. Or bring someone with you to interpret.



### Parents' café at the school

Find out if there is an "Elterncafé" (parents' café) at your school.

That is a place open to all parents where they can meet up.



### Meetings or video chats with other parents

Get to know the other parents in your child's class better!

Ask the parents' representative to arrange a meeting outside school: at a café or via video conference.

Take a couple of minutes whenever picking up your child from school to chat with the other parents at the school gate.

Exchange contact data with other parents and stay in touch.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED MORE CONCRETELY?



### Parents' representative

You can get elected as a parents' representative.

As a parents' representative, you have a mediating function between parents, teachers and staff.

You will take part in the General Parents' Meeting (GEV), where the representatives of all classes and the school management are present.



### School fundraising association

You can become a member of the school fundraising association. It carries out projects to support the children at the school, for example by setting up a school library.

You can also get involved with ideas, active work or donations.



### Helping with and organising projects and parties

Why not help out when the class, school or fundraising association organise events? For this you do not need an "official" position nor to be able to speak perfect German.

Examples of such events: bake sale, sponsored run, class party, trips, themed days, extracurricular activities.

You can help, for example, by bringing a salad or drinks, building things or making music with the children, decorating the classroom, offering a sewing course, looking after an extracurricular skating group.



## WHAT RIGHTS DO WE HAVE AS PARENTS AT THE SCHOOL?



### Right to information

You have the right to receive information about the following: the curriculum, the forms of assessment and your child's development.



### Right to transparency and involvement

On prior agreement, you can take part in individual lessons.

You have the right to see your child's records.

You have the right to receive advice. If you have questions or need to get in touch, you can arrange a meeting at any time with the staff or teachers; if necessary, also with the management.

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