

BOOKLETS

Detailed information is provided in the booklets "Lower secondary level in Bremen: an introduction to general and academic secondary schools" and "The transition from Primary School to Year 5". They are available free of charge at primary schools and from the Senator for Children and Education.



ADDRESSES

If you require any further information, contact your child's school or the Senator for Children and Education directly.

Contact persons at the office of the Senator for Children and Education

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the admission procedure work?

Up to ten percent of places are awarded to hardship cases in the admission procedure. All other places at academic secondary schools and up to one third of places at general secondary schools are preferentially awarded to pupils with achievements above the default standard. The places at general secondary schools are preferentially awarded to pupils from the allocated primary schools. If the number of parents who listed a school as one of their choices exceeds the number of places at the school, places are allocated by lot.

When does the hardship provision apply?

Hardship cases can be recognised under certain conditions:

- Children with physical disabilities,
- Children with unreasonably high social burden or
- Children with siblings at the same school if non-admission would lead to family problems.

You can find more information online and in the booklets. The hardship application must be submitted directly to your chosen secondary school before the application deadline.

Is my child above the default standard?

You can tell how successful your child is from their learning development reports. A score from 1 to 10 is given for several skills per subject to indicate how well your child has learned them. This provides an overview of their strengths and development needs. Performance is considered above the default standard if, after the first half of Year 4, most scores are 9 or 10 for German and Mathematics.

Which foreign languages will my child learn?

English is the first foreign language at both types of school. A second foreign language can be chosen at general secondary schools from Year 6. The second foreign language is mandatory at academic secondary schools.

What does inclusion mean?

Inclusive education is provided for children with learning difficulties or special needs in Bremen. This means that all children learn together in the same class. By learning with and from their peers, everyone can make the most of their potential. In addition, this allows lots of scope for social and content-based learning: teaching something to someone else is an especially good way of learning it.

Lernen in
Bremen

Die Senatorin für
Kinder und Bildung
Freie
Hansestadt
Bremen

From primary school to
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Information for a successful transition

THE TRANSITION TO GENERAL OR ACADEMIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

When your child is in Year 4, you have to choose a type of secondary school. You have the choice between general secondary schools (Oberschule) and academic secondary schools (Gymnasium). All general education qualifications up to the general university entrance qualification (Abitur) can be obtained at both types of school.



You can freely choose the secondary school for your child

You can freely choose the school location. This also applies to the type of school if you attended the consultation session at the primary school.



Take advantage of all three choices

Be sure to include three different schools. Your first, second, and third choices represent a ranking. Due to the limited number of places, it can happen that your child is not accepted at your first-choice school. They then only participate in the further admission procedure if second and third choices have been given. Otherwise, they will be assigned to another school after consultation with the education authority.



Take advantage of all consultation services

Choosing a secondary school is a responsible decision that schools can help you with. Your primary school offers parent consultation days halfway through the school year. You can also get the application forms here. Information evenings and open days are held in both general and academic secondary schools in December and January.



GENERAL OR ACADEMIC SECONDARY SCHOOL?

General secondary school (Oberschule)

- The general university entrance qualification (Abitur) is acquired after 13 years
- Performance-oriented school for all pupils
- Joint learning at different ability levels
- All aptitudes are both challenged and encouraged
- Class size: 25
- A year team will consistently support the year group from Year 5 to Year 10

Academic secondary school (Gymnasium)

- The general university entrance qualification (Abitur) is acquired after 12 years
- Increased learning pace for higher-achieving pupils
- Joint learning at a single ability level
- Greater time demands: up to 35 hours of lessons per week
- Class size: 30
- A second foreign language is mandatory from Year 6

OVERVIEW OF DATES

Consultation services

Consultation days at primary schools and information events at general and academic secondary schools.



Application deadline

Please submit the application form to your primary school by 11th February, 2025. If you would like to transfer from a private primary school to a public school, please submit the application form to the Senator for Children and Education.



Admission procedure

If enough places are available at your first-choice school, your child will be accepted there. If not, a decision will be made for each school following the admission procedure.



Decision

You will receive a notification of admission from your new school known as the "Aufnahmebescheid". If none of your wishes could be taken into account, you will receive a letter from the education authority instead. This authority will then offer you a place at another school following a consultation.



Preparing for the new school

The school where you have been offered a place will provide you with information about the next steps. You will have the chance to find out more about the school at a parents' evening for Year 5.

