

General information about school

Compulsory education

All children in Germany have a right to education and an obligation to go to school.

This obligation amounts to 9 years in all.

That also means that your child always has to arrive on time when school starts. If the child is not able to go to school, for example because of illness, parents must give notice of absence.

Contact person/ parent- teacher conversation

The most important contact person for you is the class teacher of your child. If your child has problems to do its homework or if you have got some questions about topics the pupils deal with in the lessons, you could ask the class teacher for a conversation. After school you could clarify by phone or personally when it's the right moment for having a talk.



Example for an agreement by phone:



„Hallo Frau/ Herr....
 Hier ist Frau/ Herr... Ich möchte mit Ihnen über
 mein Kind sprechen.
 Es geht um ... (z.B. Probleme bei den
 Hausaufgaben).
 Wann haben Sie Zeit? Wann kann ich zu Ihnen
 kommen?
 Vielen Dank. Auf Wiederhören.“

In addition at least once a school year a day for parent- teacher conversations takes place. There you can talk about problems your child has in school or with the teachers. You will get a written invitation for the conversation day in advance. Then you can indicate if you want to have a conversation and to whom you would like to speak to.

You previously should think about what you would like to ask the teacher.

For example: „Is my child collaborating in the lessons?“ or
 „Does my child provide a good performance in maths?“

If you aren't able to keep the appointment, you have to cancel it in time!

Parents' evening

Repeatedly in a school year all parents are invited to a parent-teacher meeting. There the class teacher discusses important matters with the parents, for example upcoming events or problems in class. Therefore it is important, that all parents take part in these meetings. Often the parent representatives are elected there. They represent the interests of all parents and you can talk to them about questions and problems.



Way to school

Before your child goes to school, you should practice the securest way to school. Later on your child can go to school alone or together with classmates. If your child has got a long way to school (over 2,5 km) and goes by bus, you will get back a bulk of the travel expenses. Therefore you have to make an application for pupil transportation. Printed forms for this you get in the school or at *Landratsamt Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge* in Pirna. If the application has been filled in completely, the stamp of the school and all necessary proofs are present, you have to give it to school or directly to *Landratsamt Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge*. Then your child will get the ticket for school. For this ticket you have to pay a co-payment.



Homework

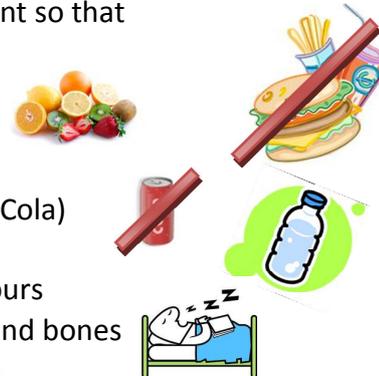
It's very important, that your child does its homework, because this way the children repeat and apply what they have learned. The homework your child has to do is written down in a homework notebook. For doing homework, your child needs a quiet place. It is good to let your child work as autonomous as possible but to give assistance if needed. It could be adjuvant to arrange constant times to do homework.



Breakfast

For schoolchildren a balanced and healthy diet is very important so that they can think and learn effectively.

- For this reason a schoolchild should eat a lot of fruits and vegetables, but just a little sugar and grease
- The child should drink a lot, but nothing with caffeine (Cola) and a lot of sugar
- The child should sleep enough, not less than 9 or 10 hours
- Plenty of motion is important. It strengthens muscles and bones



Give your child a healthy breakfast to school every day.
 (E.g. a sandwich, fruits and something to drink)

Public holidays

In Germany there are holidays – days the children have no school:

New Year's Day (1st January), Good Friday und Easter Monday, Labour Day (1st Mai), Ascension Day, Pentecost, German Unification Day (3rd October), Christmas (Christmas Eve, 1st und 2nd Christmas Day, 24th-26th December) and New Year's Eve (31st December).

Children of other religions could get a day off on special Holiday, e.g. for the muslim Eid al-Adha or other festivals.

As required, discuss this with the class teacher of your child.

After- school care

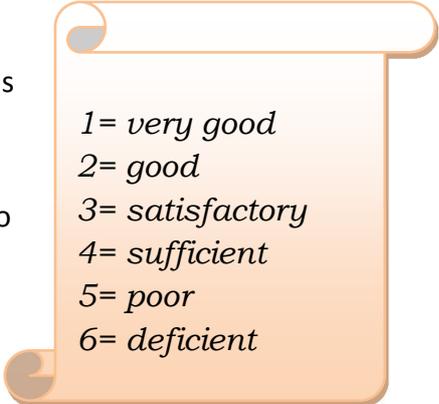
Some schools have got one or more after- school care clubs nearby. When school is over, the children can go there to eat lunch, do their homework, or to play together with friends.

An after- school care club can also be visited during holiday. If you want your child to go to an after- school care club, you have to register it. You are free to decide whether your child should go in an after- school care club and in which one. But an after- school care club is with costs.



Reports and marks

In the first class the pupils don't get any marks. Parents will get information about the performances and progresses their child has reached after half a year and at the end of the school year. From class 2 your child will get marks from 1 to 6. 1 is the best mark, 6 the worst. There are marks for expositions, like class tests, but also for vocally effected performances. After the first half of a school year your child gets half- yearly information about its efforts (Schulhalbjahresinformation). At the end of the school year the pupils get the report (Schuljahreszeugnis). In that you see all marks of the year summed up for each subject. Besides it says something about the behaviour of your child in school. Both have always to be signed by the parents.



1= *very good*
2= *good*
3= *satisfactory*
4= *sufficient*
5= *poor*
6= *deficient*

After primary school

After your child has been in primary school for 4 years, you will get information about which secondary school your child is able to visit. A lot of schools arrange an open day presentation, where you can have a look at schools near to your home, so that you can come to a decision for a school.

Forms of continuing schools:

- Secondary modern school: This school ends with class 9. With the leaving certificate your child can make an application for an apprenticeship
- Secondary school: The secondary school ends with class 10. With the leaving certificate your child can make an application for an apprenticeship or can change to a grammar school, if the performances are good enough.
- Grammar school: The grammar school ends with year 12. As graduation your child will get the A- Level, which qualifies for university admission.