

Information on our intensive classes for lateral entrants without German language skills

Registration for the intensive class at the Justin Wagner School takes place exclusively via the Admission and Counselling Centre (ABZ) of the State Education Authority in Darmstadt. Once you have been allocated a place, we will contact you to arrange an appointment for your child's enrolment.

Students who are new to Germany and come to us in the intensive class (IK) are assigned to class IKa and have at least 22 hours of German lessons per week. As soon as participation in the next intensive class is possible, they are transferred to class IKb, and later also to class IKc. These changes are decided in the IK teachers' conferences and are based on our language tests and the performance of the students in class. They usually take place at the end of the semester or school year.

In the intensive class IKb and IKc, students are assigned to the subject lessons of a regular class for individual lessons. These lessons are firmly anchored in the timetable. This allows the children and young people to practise their German language skills, integrate into the school, get to know their classmates and teachers and thus grow into a mainstream class right from the start. Allocation to regular classes during the intensive class period is carried out by the school management in consultation with the class conference. In doing so, the existing knowledge of German, the willingness to learn and perform shown in class as well as the age are taken into account as far as possible. The allocation can be changed if it becomes apparent that the student can be better integrated and supported in another class.

After around 1 ½ - 2 years in the intensive programme, students usually reach language level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and are sufficiently proficient in German to be able to participate fully in regular lessons in a mainstream class. This marks the end of the intensive programme.

At the end of the intensive class IKc, the class conference decides on the final regular class allocation after detailed consultation with the school management. The following questions are taken into consideration:

1. what language level was achieved in the intensive class?
2. what was the work behaviour shown so far in the intensive class and in the individual lessons in the regular class?

The following questions are answered regarding work behaviour:

- Does the learner actively participate in the German language lessons?
- Does the learner show that he or she understands the lesson content in German only and actively endeavours to expand his or her vocabulary?

- Are all tasks in class and at home completed carefully and neatly?
- How strong is the learner's motivation for effort and achievement both in and outside the classroom?

3. in which branch of school and in which year group can successful participation in lessons be expected and does the age of the pupil match this?

The class and branch allocation decided in the class conference is binding. After the end of the intensive programme, it is possible to change school branch and class in accordance with the legal requirements, usually after 1-2 more years in the German school system at the earliest.

Our diverse community at the Justin Wagner School is a treasure for us, because the exchange of similarities and differences enriches our encounters every day. We have common rules that we also remind each other of so that we have a safe and fear-free place to learn and try things out. Our goal in the intensive classes is to learn and use many important words and the (really difficult) grammar of the German language. We want to speak German so well that we can understand others and that others can understand us. This is the quickest way for us to settle in Germany. In doing so, we accept and tolerate our differences so that this succeeds in the best possible way.