

## **Information on our intensive courses for students aged 10 to 16 with no knowledge of German**

Registration for the intensive class, which offers a very intensive German course at the Justin-Wagner-Schule, 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 admission.

Pupils 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 pupils' performance in class. They usually take place at the end of the semester or school year.

In the intensive class IKb and IKc, pupils sometimes visit a mentor class (Patenklasse) 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 grow into this „Patenklasse“ class right from the start. Allocation to the „Patenklasse“ during the intensive class period is carried out by the school management in consultation with the class conference. The existing knowledge of German, the willingness to learn and perform shown in class and the age of the pupil are taken into account as far as possible. The allocation can be changed if it becomes apparent that the pupil can be better integrated and supported in another class.

After around 1 ½ - 2 years in the intensive programme, pupils 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 regular class („Regelklasse“). This marks the end of the intensive programme.

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

1. what language level has been 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 sponsor class?

The following questions, among others, 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 properly?
- How pronounced is the learner's motivation to make an effort and achieve both inside 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 course 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.

In the period after the transition to the „Regelklasse“, pupils are required to attend further courses in German as a foreign language and German as a second language in order to improve their German language skills and take part in further language examinations.

Our teacher Mrs Roga is responsible for coordinating the intensive classes and examinations. Our school management member Mr Stilgenbauer is responsible for the intensive classes. Both are happy to answer any further questions you may have.