

Intercultural assistants (IKAs)

Some children and young people with a migration background have problems at school. They are not familiar with the school system from their home country. Or they have problems in everyday school life. Sometimes there are also difficulties with the language. Or the parents are not familiar enough with the local school system and are unable to support their children. Often there is also too little communication between the parents and the teachers.

The **intercultural assistants (IKAs)** can help and advise with all these questions and problems.

They have been employed at many schools in the district of Germersheim since 1 September 2016. They are available at primary and secondary schools. There, they support pupils, teachers and parents in everyday school life. The IKAs mediate between individuals. And they support integration into the school.

The aim of the IKAs project is to ensure that as many children as possible graduate from school. By providing targeted support with integration, the children and young people are given a perspective.

The IKAs:

- support children with a migration background in everyday school life
- explain rules of behaviour or how to deal with work assignments
- support integration into school
- work on the pupils' social skills and language skills
- teach practical life skills (such as how to use scissors, pencils, etc.)
- support the schools' work with parents (discussions, letters to parents, visits to the authorities)

The intercultural assistants are employed by independent youth welfare organisations. The IKAs' services are free of charge for pupils and their parents. The costs are borne by the district.

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