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Children & Adolescents / school education

How do I register my child in a school?

Are you new to Germany?

Your child may go to a school. After **6 months in Germany at the latest**, you must register your child at a school. There is **compulsory education**.

There are special classes to learn German. You can find more information [here](#).

To find out which primary school your child has to attend, you can use the [primary school finder](#) for the city of Mannheim.

There are specific days for registration.

You will need the following **documents**:

- Your identity card, birth certificate or proof of arrival
- Registration certificate
- All documents concerning your child (passport/ID card, birth certificate, references, medical certificates, etc.)

Please bring your child to school for registration.

Dates for enrolment and registration at primary schools in Baden-Württemberg:

- Baden-Württemberg reference date: **30/06** (Your child must be 6 years old by that day)
- School enrolment: **09.+10.02.2023**
- School enrollment: **Organised by the respective primary school**

Information on enrolment (primary school) can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Enrolment and registration dates for other schools (secondary schools) in Baden-Württemberg:

- Registration dates are **08.+09.03.2023**. Check with the school several weeks or months before this date.
- Note: For **vocational schools**, there are **other times** when you can register. Check with the school early.

You do not know which school your child should go to?

Ask your social counselling/integration manager, [youth migration coun](#)selling or [migration coun](#)selling.

You can also obtain information at the “Rathaus” (town hall) or directly at the schools in your place of residence.

Does your child still not speak German?

If your child **does not yet speak German**, there are several possibilities:

VKL - Preparatory Class

Age: from 6 to 15 years

Duration: between 1 and 2 years (some children learn German faster, others need more time)

Focus: Learning the German language

Thereafter: Transfer to a regular class - either to primary or secondary school

Miscellaneous: VKL classes are available at all school types

 <https://www.mannheim.de/de/bildung-staerken/vorbe...>

VABO - Pre-qualification year for work/occupation

Age: between 15 and 17, 11 years (from 18 years on, the visit is only possible if there are free places)

Duration: 1 to 2 years (some children learn German faster, others need more time)

Certificate: A2 or B1

Focus: Learning the German language

Thereafter: Change to a VAB class

Miscellaneous: VABO classes are only available at vocational schools

If your child is **18 years and older**, he or she can also attend a **language course** .

 <https://www.mannheim.de/de/bildung-staerken/vorbe...>

Is your child between 6 and 10 years old?

Grundschule (primary school)

Age: from 6 years (deadline - your child will be 6 years old by 30.09.)

Requirement: Primary school ability

At the end of the daycare center there is the elementary school entrance examination. A doctor examines your child. He will check to see if your child is ready for school or needs special support.

Duration: 4 years (1st Year until 4th Year)

Thereafter: Transfer to a secondary school

In the 4th grade, parents receive a recommendation from the teachers. It states which secondary school your child should go to.

Miscellaneous: The primary school is near/within the district of your place of residence. In primary school, your child learns to read, write and calculate.

Primary schools in Mannheim>

<https://www.mannheim.de/de/bildung-staerken/die-e...>

Primary school support class

Some children are not ready for primary school at the age of 6. As a rule, however, they can no longer stay in the kindergarten.

However, they can then attend a primary school support class.

The primary school support class is also at the primary school.

In the primary school support class, children receive special support. They are encouraged in their development.

The aim of the primary school support class is that the child is ready for grade 1. Class is.

Talk to the kindergarten, primary school and paediatrician if your child is not ready for school at the age of 6.

Is your child 10 years and older?

Then it goes to a **secondary school**

At the **end of the 4. At the end of the first grade**, the teachers make a **recommendation** as to which secondary school your child should attend.

If you attend and graduate from secondary school, you will receive a **“Zertifikat” (certificate)** / **“Zeugnis” (report card)**. With a certificate, you can prove what you have learned. You need it, for example, for **applications when looking for work or training**, or when **changing to another school**.

Hauptschule (basic secondary school)

Age: from 10 years

Duration: 5 years (5. Grade 9 to 9. Year)

Requirement: Attendance of a primary school or preparatory class (VKL)

Certificate: “Hauptschulabschluss” - general school leaving certificate

Focus: prepares for an apprenticeship or work, one learns theoretical and practical knowledge

Thereafter: Vocational training, “Realschule” (standard secondary school) or “Berufliche Schule” (vocational school)

Werkrealschule

Age: from 10 years

Duration: between 5 years (5. Grade 9 to 9. Grade) and 6 years (5. Class to 10. Year)

Requirement: Attendance of a primary school or preparatory class (VKL)

Certificate: either “Hauptschulabschluss” or “Mittlere Reife”

Focus: preparing for working life, promoting practical talent, aptitudes and performance

Thereafter: Vocational training, “Berufliche Schule” (vocational school) and “Gymnasium” (grammar school)

Realschule (standard secondary school)

Age: From 10 years

Duration: 6 years (5. Class to 10. Year)

Requirement: Attendance of a primary school or preparatory class (VKL)

Certificate: Standard secondary school leaving certificate

Focus: vocational education and extended general education, preparation for vocational training and work

Thereafter: Vocational training, “Berufliche Schule” (vocational school) or “Gymnasium” (grammar school)

Gymnasium (grammar school)

Age: from 10 years

Duration: between 8 and 9 years (5. Grade 12 to 12 or 13 Year)

Requirement: Attendance of a primary school or preparatory class (VKL)

Certificate: “Allgemeine Hochschulreife (Abitur)” – general university entrance qualification and the highest school leaving certificate in Germany

Focus: in-depth general education, special and in-depth subjects and courses, independent learning

Thereafter: Vocational training, study at a university or college

Gemeinschaftsschule

Age: from 10 years

Duration: between 5 and 9 years (5. Grade 9 to 9. Class or up to 10. Class or 13. Year)

Requirement: Attendance of a primary school or preparatory class (VKL)

Certificate: “Hauptschulabschluss”, “Mittlere Reife” or “Abitur”

Focus: Lessons at different levels and individual support

Thereafter: Vocational training in the event of attaining a “Hauptschulabschluss” and “Mittlere Reife”, studies in the event of attaining “Abitur”

Does your child have additional needs?

Special Educational Guidance Centre (SBBZ)

Age: From 6 years

Requirement: Children who have an increased need for support, an impairment or a disability

Thereafter: Workshop or similar, supporting vocational training

Certificate: partial secondary school certificate

Special feature: The teachers are specially trained. There are different focal points of support (learning, psychological development, hearing, physical and motor skills development, language)

If your child has additional needs, talk to your [migration counselling service](#) or the [youth migration counselling service](#)

 <https://www.mannheim.de/de/bildung-staerken/sonde...>

Graduate from senior school

In principle, senior school-leaving qualifications can also be obtained at a **later date**. For example, after obtaining the “mittlerer Bildungsabschluss” (“Mittlere Reife”) described above, the student could also obtain an Abitur at a grammar school. This is also possible, for example, at vocational schools, various vocational colleges or the evening school.

Even if you **do not have a school-leaving certificate**, you can obtain one at a later stage. Or you have a **foreign school leaving certificate** that is not recognised in Germany. Even then, you can obtain your school leaving certificate via a **second educational path**.

You can find more information [here](#).

Subsequent acquisition of the **Mittlere Reife (Realschule)** and the **Abitur (Gymnasium)**

Evening Schools Mannheim

📍 [Ul, 1-19, 68161 Mannheim](#)

☎ [06211076501](tel:06211076501)

@ info@abendschulen-mannheim.de

🌐 <https://www.abendschulen-mannheim.de/>

Subsequent acquisition of the **lower secondary school leaving certificate**

Internationaler Bund Mannheim

📍 [Neckarauer Strasse 106-116, 68163 Mannheim](#)

☎ [062181980](tel:062181980)

@ frank.hartroth@ib.de

🌐 <https://www.internationaler-bund.de/angebot/10801>

Parents' evening & Parents' council

Parents' evening

All parents are invited to a parents' evening. You can **communicate** with **other parents** and the **teacher** and get a lot of **information**. It is good if you take advantage of these meetings. The dates will be communicated in a letter to parents. It is important to read the **letters to parents**.

Parents' Council

There is a Parents' Council in every class. This is **elected** by all parents during a parents' evening. The tasks and rights of the parents' council are regulated by law. The Parents' Council deals with **problems** that other parents tell them. The Parents' Council **represents the other**

parents before the school.

Advice, assistance and further support

There are different types of schools in Baden-Württemberg. Which school your child goes to depends on how old he or she is, but also on his or her school performance.

You can also find detailed information at [Bildungsnavi](#).

You can also find multilingual videos at [Wegweiser-BW](#).

Intercultural Parent Mentors

The "Intercultural Parent Mentors" programme has been running in Mannheim since April 2018. The volunteer parents are trained by the non-profit Parents' Foundation Baden-Württemberg and act as neutral contact persons, mediators and on issues related to the topics: Upbringing, education and school.

They thus form an important bridge between school and parents within the framework of the educational partnership.

You can find more information in the [flyer](#) and in the [orientation guide for parent*mentors and schools](#).

School social work (Schulsozialarbeit)

There are school social workers in many schools. These can **support children and young people** at school. School social workers advise and help with **school and private problems, annoyances** or other **worries**. The service is **voluntary** and the school social workers work **in confidence**. This means that they must not tell anyone about the problems.

Otherwise, there are also counselling teachers (in German: "Beratungslehrer") or trust teachers (in German: "Vertrauenslehrer"). Check with your school.

Tutoring (Nachhilfe)

If you have **difficulties** in some subjects at school and need additional **support**, you can register for tutoring. The tutoring is carried out by a **tutor** and takes place **outside the classroom**. The tutoring usually takes place in small groups or by way of individual supervision. You can repeat content here or get extra tasks to practice.

Tutoring costs **money**. If you are **entitled to "BuT"**, the costs for tutoring can be paid under **certain conditions** (confirmation from the school that your child urgently needs tutoring). To do this, you need to fill out an [education and participation application](#) and a [confirmation from the school](#).

If you need help, ask your Integration Manager, Social Advice Service, [Youth Migration Advice Service](#) or [Migration Advice Service](#).

Childcare from 0-6 years (until joining school)

Kita (day care centre) or kindergarten

At the day care centre, your child can learn the German language and find contact with other children. Take advantage of this opportunity; it is important for your child's future. Attending a Kita is also good preparation for school.

There are groups for children from 1 to 3 years. Here, the children are supported in their development by specially trained staff in small groups. It is particularly important for these employees to be attentive and caring. Most groups are for children from 3 years old until they start school. Here the children can play, paint, do handicrafts and learn with other children. In the last year of kindergarten, the children are also prepared for their entry into school.

Here you can find the city's KiTa-Finder, an interactive map that helps you find a KiTa place in your area:

 [KITA Finder Mannheim \(gis-mannheim.de\)](https://gis-mannheim.de)

To obtain a kindergarten place for your child, please make a KITA reservation. The Parents' Service Centre (MeKi) will be happy to help you.

Attending a day care centre or day care facility costs money. You can find out the costs directly from the town hall or the specific facility. Families with several children often receive discounts. The costs for a day care place can be covered. The Service Agency for Parents (MeKi) can also advise you on this.

You can find more information here:

 [Pre-registrations for childcare | Mannheim.de](#)

 [Day care facilities for children | Mannheim.de](#)