

Braunschweig  
Löwenstadt



# This way for your next steps

Secondary schools  
in Braunschweig  
2019-2020 school year



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# Introduction



## Dear Reader,

Within the City of Braunschweig there are 40 schools with secondary-level courses for school-age children. Each of them is unique as regards the composition of their focal points, what special provisions they offer, foreign languages and many other features.

At the latest in Year Four of primary school [*Grundschule*], following either a move to Braunschweig, a transfer between schools within the city or the Secondary Diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*], parents or guardians and schoolchildren need to decide which of the various secondary schools best suits their needs.

This brochure is aimed at parents or guardians, schoolchildren, advisory services and naturally anyone else interested, and is designed to make choosing a future school easier. It affords a more incisive view of the Braunschweig school system, by providing an initial overview of the profiles of the individual secondary schools so as be able to compare them with one another easily. In addition, it contains descriptions of the different school types, information about the transition to a secondary school and practical information on schooling-related issues.

In the following you'll find an overview of both state-run and private lower secondary schools [*Hauptschulen*], upper secondary schools [*Realschulen*], grammar schools [*Gymnasien*], specially provisioned schools [*Förderschulen*], comprehensive schools [*Integrierten Gesamtschulen*] and vocational training schools [*Berufsbildenden Schulen*]. You can also download the brochure in PDF format at [www.braunschweig.de/schulbroschuere](http://www.braunschweig.de/schulbroschuere).

May you find this brochure informative, and have a successful school year.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ulrich Markurth". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ulrich Markurth  
Mayor

# Information

## Decision-making aids

When the time comes for a child to move up from primary school [*Grundschule*] to a secondary-level school [*weiterführende Schule*], those with parental responsibility for them can decide for themselves which school type and which school their child should attend. Various assistance resources are available to help choose the right school for the child:

- In Year 4 of primary school [*Grundschule*], those with parental responsibility will be offered at least two advisory meetings. There they are advised on their child's progress, performance, academic and social skills, available secondary-level schools and courses of study.
- In addition, primary schools offer briefing sessions on the various forms of secondary-level schools, school diplomas [*Schulabschlüsse*] and school switching options.
- Secondary-level schools run briefing sessions, open days and other resources which help with the decision-making process.

For all schoolchildren and those with parental responsibility for them, various criteria such as wraparound care or foreign language tuition play an important role in the choice of school. They can also be a good guide when it comes to the final decision. This brochure is designed to help you gain

an initial overview, compare various school types and schools against particular criteria and essentially to provide information. For more ample information it is advisable to refer to the website of each individual school.

## Registration process

For secondary schools [*weiterführende Schulen*], the whole City of Braunschweig is considered a school district. This means that there are no restrictions on the choice of school. Those with parental responsibility are responsible for registering their child with the school of their choice within the given timeframe. The primary school will notify you of the registration timeframes in good time. They are usually in April or May. The registration timeframes for comprehensive schools [*Gesamtschulen – IGS*] are before those of the other general education schools. To register your child, you will need the Year 4 half-year result [*Halbjahreszeugnis*]. The registration timeframes for full-time study at vocational training schools [*Berufsbildende Schulen*] in Braunschweig vary from school to school, and can be found on the website of each individual school.

On the registration forms for comprehensive schools [*IGS*] you may list five schools of your choice. Should a comprehensive school have more children registered

than available places, the latter shall be awarded on a lottery basis. This can mean that schoolchildren are given a place in a comprehensive school other than the one they wanted to attend, or do not get a place. In this case those with parental responsibility for the child must register them in a different school type of their choice. As regards lower secondary schools [*Hauptschulen*], upper secondary schools [*Realschulen*] and grammar schools [*Gymnasien*], registration with a particular school may be denied if demand exceeds the number of available places. Because Braunschweig school district guarantees a place on the desired study course in a school of the desired school type, the child will in any case get a place in the desired school type.

### Special Educational Needs

Those with parental responsibility for schoolchildren with diagnosed or documented special educational needs can decide without restriction whether they should attend a specially provisioned school [*Förderschule*] or a mainstream secondary school [*weiterführende Schule*]. When switching to a mainstream school it is helpful to notify the school in advance – ahead of the registration timeframe – of the child’s planned attendance (**free of any commitment**). This is so that where necessary, rooms can be fitted out or other necessary assistance arranged in time for the child’s first day at school. The relevant form entitled “Der Wechsel an die weiterführende Schule: Übergänge gestalten” can be found on the website of the Lower Saxony Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs (<http://www.mk.niedersachsen.de/startseite/aktuelles/presseinformationen/der-wechsel-an-die-weiterfuehrende-schule-uebergaenge-gestalten-134900.html>).

Where there is reason to believe that a child

may have special educational needs, either those with parental responsibility or the teaching staff can arrange for an assessment to be run. Should the assessment result bear out these concerns, the school management initiates the process for the drafting of an expert report on special educational needs. Those with parental responsibility will be closely involved in this process. On the basis of the report, the decision as to whether a child is recognised as having special educational needs rests with the Lower Saxony county education authority [*Landesschulbehörde*].

### Cross-accessibility and Second Paths to Courses of Study

The choice of school type and school diploma [*Schulabschluss*] is not irrevocable. If it turns out that a child is struggling (under-challenged or overstretched) at the chosen school, it can be possible to switch between school types. Either those with parental responsibility or schoolchildren of legal age can apply to switch. It is advisable to consult with the teaching staff beforehand. Ultimately the class conference decides, on the basis of the child’s progress and performance, whether switching is an option for them. For those attending a comprehensive school [*IGS*] it is not absolutely necessary to switch school types, since the distinction between general and specialist performance is a guide as to schoolchildrens’ individual abilities. Even after the end of the secondary I level at any general education school, where the corresponding requirements are met, students can still gain (further) school diplomas [*Schulabschlüsse*]: by registering with either a [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*] or a vocational training school [*Berufsbildende Schule*]. The latter offer various study courses and all school diplomas [*Schulabschlüsse*]. This second option also allows adults to catch

up if they have missed out on their school diploma. In Braunschweig, students can gain the general higher education entrance qualification [*Abitur*] and the specialised higher education entrance qualification [*Fachhochschulreife*] free of charge via college or evening classes. While many of those attending evening classes are in employment,

those attending college classes cannot work regularly alongside their studies, since classes take place all day on a full-time basis. There are other, private institutions where you can to catch up if you have missed out on a diploma. However, they generally charge tuition fees.

## Foreign Languages in Schools in Braunschweig

<p><b>Lower Secondary School</b> [<i>Hauptschule</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English as compulsory foreign language 1</li> <li>• It may be possible to choose a 2<sup>nd</sup> foreign language</li> </ul>
<p><b>Upper Secondary School</b> [<i>Realschule</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English as compulsory foreign language 1</li> <li>• Possible to choose a 2<sup>nd</sup> foreign language as a compulsory subject from Year 6 onwards</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grammar School</b> [<i>Gymnasium</i>]</p>	<p><b>Secondary level I:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English as compulsory foreign language 1</li> <li>• Compulsory foreign language 2 from Year 6 onwards (possible from Year 5 onwards at Wilhelm-Gymnasium)</li> <li>• At grammar schools with a focus on languages, compulsory foreign language 3 from Year 8 onwards</li> <li>• Possible to choose foreign language 3 as an option from Year 8 onwards</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary level II:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Year 11 it is compulsory to study two foreign languages, either by progressing with one learned at secondary level I or by starting to learn a new one from Year 11 onwards</li> <li>• From Year 11 onwards students must start to learn a new foreign language and progress with it through to the <i>Abitur</i>, <b>in cases where</b> they only learned one foreign language at secondary I level</li> <li>• From Year 12 onwards, students must progress with at least one foreign language</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comprehensive school</b> [<i>Integrierte Gesamtschule</i>]</p>	<p><b>Secondary level I:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English as compulsory foreign language 1</li> <li>• Possible to choose a 2<sup>nd</sup> foreign language as a compulsory subject <b>from Year 7 onwards</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary level II:</b> see Grammar School</p>

To be able to attend the upper level of grammar school later on, there is no requirement to study a second foreign language as a compulsory subject at secondary level I of a lower secondary, upper secondary or comprehensive school. A second foreign language, which is the requirement for the general qualification for university entrance, can be learned from Year 11 onwards at comprehensive schools, grammar schools and vocational training schools alike. However, to move up from lower secondary school or upper secondary school to grammar school at secondary level I, it is compulsory to learn a second foreign language.

A detailed overview of languages on offer at schools in Braunschweig can be found at [https://www.braunschweig.de/leben/schule\\_bildung/schulportal/schulen/fremdsprachenangebote.html](https://www.braunschweig.de/leben/schule_bildung/schulportal/schulen/fremdsprachenangebote.html).

## Financial Support Through the Education and Inclusion Package

The Education and Inclusion Package [*Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket – BuT*] is designed to make it possible for all children and young people to take up what is on offer for them at school and in their free time. Low-income households can apply for benefits from the Education and Inclusion Package. This allows children and young people to take part in school activities such as school trips and outings, school lunches and sport and music club activities. It can also be used to fund private tutoring, transportation to and from school and school materials.

Children, young people and young adults from families receiving a type of unemployment benefit [*Arbeitslosengeld II*], income support, welfare payments, asylum seeker's allowance, housing benefit or child benefit credit qualify for *BuT* benefits. Children from low income households which do not receive any of the benefits mentioned can also get support from the *BuT*.

Further information, registration forms and contact details for enquiries can be found at [www.braunschweig.de/but](http://www.braunschweig.de/but).

## Financial Support Through the School Resources Fund

Braunschweig's school resources fund [*Schulmittelfonds*] provides help with the cost of school supplies for children and young people from families who need and qualify for it. Those who qualify for it are children and young people attending a general education or vocational training school and whose families receive particular benefits. You can get further information on the types of support available from your school.

## Advisory Services

On the following pages you will find an overview of the free advisory services in Braunschweig, which can also advise you on schooling and help you to address difficulties with school attendance. Some advisory services specialise in helping newcomers. As well as giving pointers concerning your new surroundings, they offer assistance with schooling and education.

**School Education Advisory Service  
[Schulbildungsberatung – SchuBS]**

Schild 4

38100 Braunschweig

Telephone: 0531 470 3216 (Ms Hartwich)  
0531 470 3271 (Ms Firley)

[schubs@braunschweig.de](mailto:schubs@braunschweig.de)

[www.braunschweig.de/schubs](http://www.braunschweig.de/schubs)

The Braunschweig School Education Advisory Service [Schulbildungsberatung Braunschweig] – SchuBS for short – is aimed at those with parental responsibility for schoolchildren who are new in Braunschweig and seeking a secondary school. It supports those with parental responsibility via an advisory service on subjects related to the Lower Saxony school system and the Braunschweig schools setup. If you wish, a recommendation can be given in terms of school type and a possible academic career path plotted. SchuBS can also indicate which schools have places available.

**Office for Migration Issues  
[Büro für Migrationsfragen]**

Auguststraße 9-11

38102 Braunschweig

Telephone: 0531 470-7360

[migrationsfragen@braunschweig.de](mailto:migrationsfragen@braunschweig.de)

[www.braunschweig.de/leben/soziales/migration](http://www.braunschweig.de/leben/soziales/migration)

The Office for Migration Issues [Büro für Migrationsfragen] advises migrants on various subjects in connection with migration and integration, including schooling. Where necessary it can arrange to do so through an interpreter.

**Children's, Youth and Family Services  
Division - General Parenting Assistance  
Department**

**[Fachbereich Kinder, Jugend und Familie -  
Abteilung Allgemeine Erziehungshilfe]**

Eiermarkt 4-5

38100 Braunschweig

Telephone: 0531 47084-15

[kinder.jugend.familie@braunschweig.de](mailto:kinder.jugend.familie@braunschweig.de)

[www.braunschweig.de/leben/soziales/erziehungshilfe/allgemeine](http://www.braunschweig.de/leben/soziales/erziehungshilfe/allgemeine)

The General Parenting Assistance Department [Abteilung Allgemeine Erziehungshilfe] of the Children's, Youth and Family Services Division [Fachbereich Kinder, Jugend und Familie] provides advice free of charge to children, young people and those with parental responsibility on school matters and also parenting issues, family problems and various other concerns.

**Paediatric Services  
[Jugendärztlicher Dienst]**

Hamburger Straße 226

38114 Braunschweig

Telephone: 0531 470-7077

[gesundheitsamt@braunschweig.de](mailto:gesundheitsamt@braunschweig.de)

[www.braunschweig.de/leben/gesundheit/](http://www.braunschweig.de/leben/gesundheit/)

[gesundheitsdienst/kindergesundheit/kinder.html](http://gesundheitsdienst/kindergesundheit/kinder.html)

Advice for those with parental rights, schoolchildren and teaching staff on issues around the physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people.



### **Skills Agency [*Kompetenzagentur*] Braunschweig**

An der Neustadtmühle 3  
38100 Braunschweig  
kompetenzagentur@braunschweig.de  
www.kompetenzagentur-braunschweig.de

The *Kompetenzagentur* advises young people from 15 years old upwards on the transition from school to work: Career guidance, vocational training and awareness of one's own abilities. It provides support through the job application process and shows young people where there strengths lie.

### **Psychological and social advisory services for foreign families – Braunschweig Public Health Office [*Psycho-Soziale Beratung von ausländischen Familien – Gesundheitsamt Braunschweig*]**

Hamburger Straße 226  
38114 Braunschweig  
Telephone: 0531 47070-19 or -72  
www.braunschweig.de/leben/gesundheit/  
gesundheitsdienst/beratungsangebot/  
interkulturell.php

Multilingual advisory services, where necessary through an interpreter, in particular for health-related issues (ex: disability, mental health problems, learning difficulties), and also on parenting matters.

### **Regional Advisory and Support Centre for Inclusiveness in Schools (*RZI*)**

**- Central office Braunschweig  
Husarenstraße -  
[*Regionales Beratungs- und  
Unterstützungszentrum Inklusive  
Schule (RZI)*]  
- Behördenzentrum Braunschweig  
Husarenstraße -]**

Husarenstraße 75  
38102 Braunschweig  
Telephone: 0531 48438-38  
frau.k.mueller@nlschb.niedersachsen.de

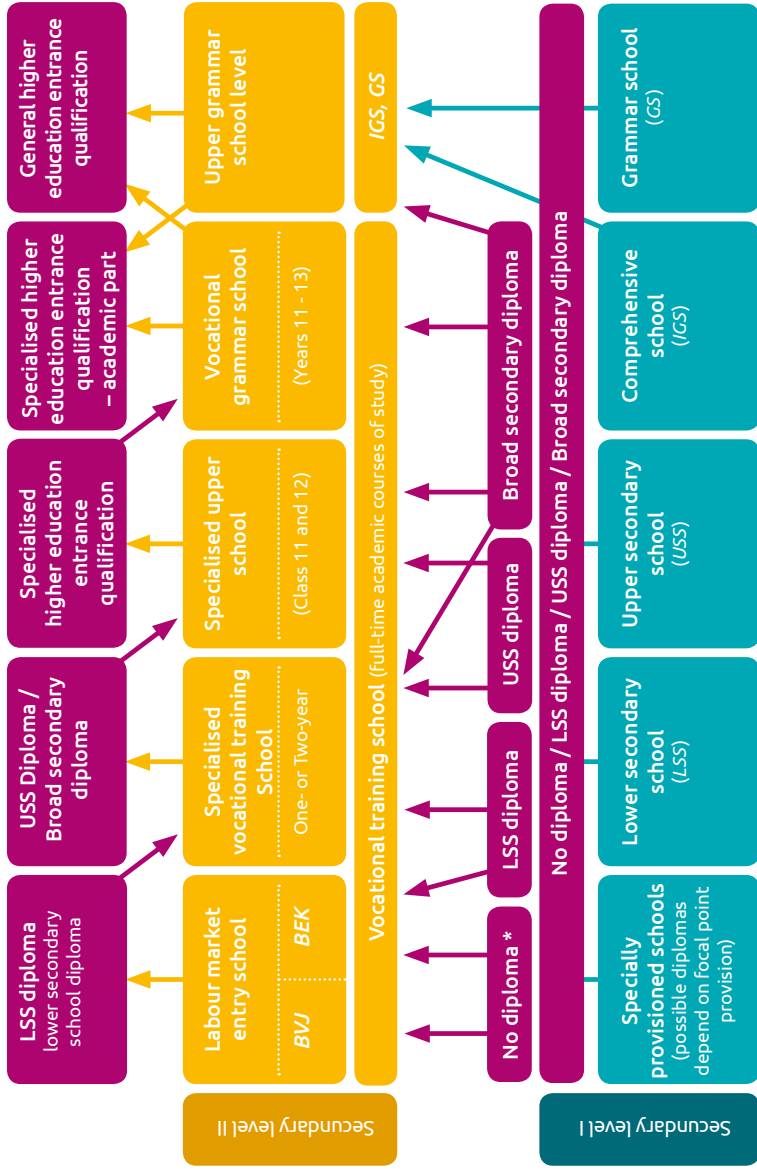
The RZI is the central contact point of the Lower Saxony county Education Authority [*Landesschulbehörde*] for schoolchildren, parents and those with parental responsibility, teaching staff, schools, study seminars and private schools with issues around inclusiveness in schools.

### **Secondary school options in Braunschweig**

On the next page you will find an overview of possible school options within the Braunschweig schools setup. Their inclusion does not claim to be exhaustive and only outlines the education courses presented in this brochure. Accordingly, we will not include courses leading to professional qualifications.

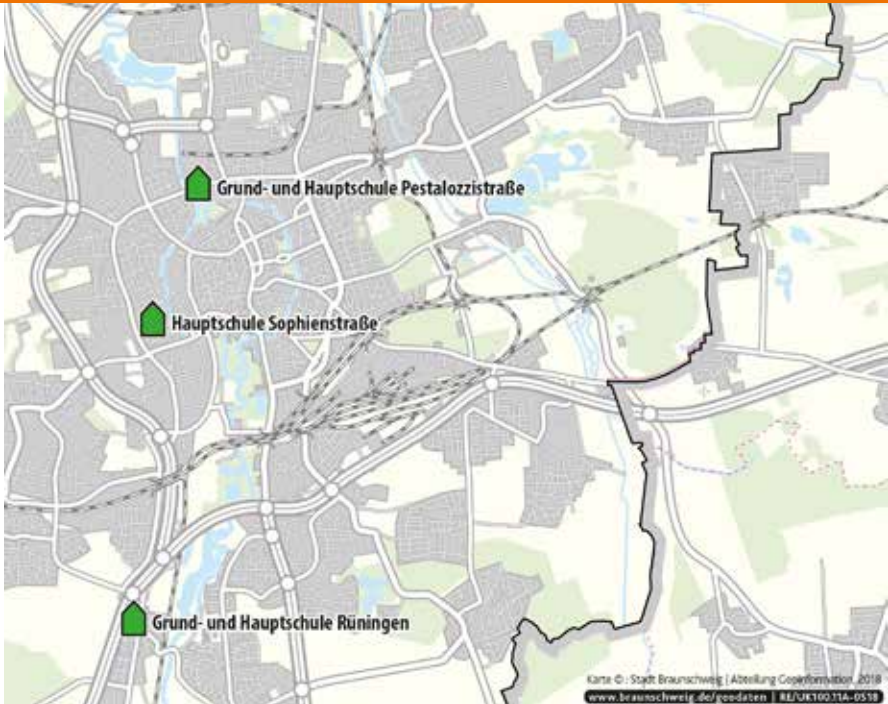
At vocational training schools [*berufsbildenden Schulen*] in particular, there are various regulations governing eligibility for attendance. The *BBS* itself, and also the careers guidance service at the Employment Agency [*Agentur für Arbeit*] can assist you with any queries.

## Secondary Education options in the City of Braunschweig



\* Applies to schoolchildren who over at least 9 years have attended primary school [*Grundschule*] and then secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*] without a gaining a diploma. It is possible to switch between school types, provided that the requirements of each school are met.

# Lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*]



Overview map: lower secondary schools

At lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*], where schoolchildren get a basic general education, it is made possible for them to work towards their individual career path. Lessons are arranged in such a way that they are geared around the reality of life and the demands of work.

From Year 5 onwards English is foreign language 1. From Year 6 onwards schoolchildren can choose a second foreign language, if their performance is so good that it allows them to move up to move up to [*Gymnasium*] after Year 6. From Year 9 onwards, Maths and English are taught in

For those wishing to switch to a lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*], there are schools available that are run by Stadt Braunschweig. In addition, they may opt for schools run by governing bodies other than Stadt Braunschweig.

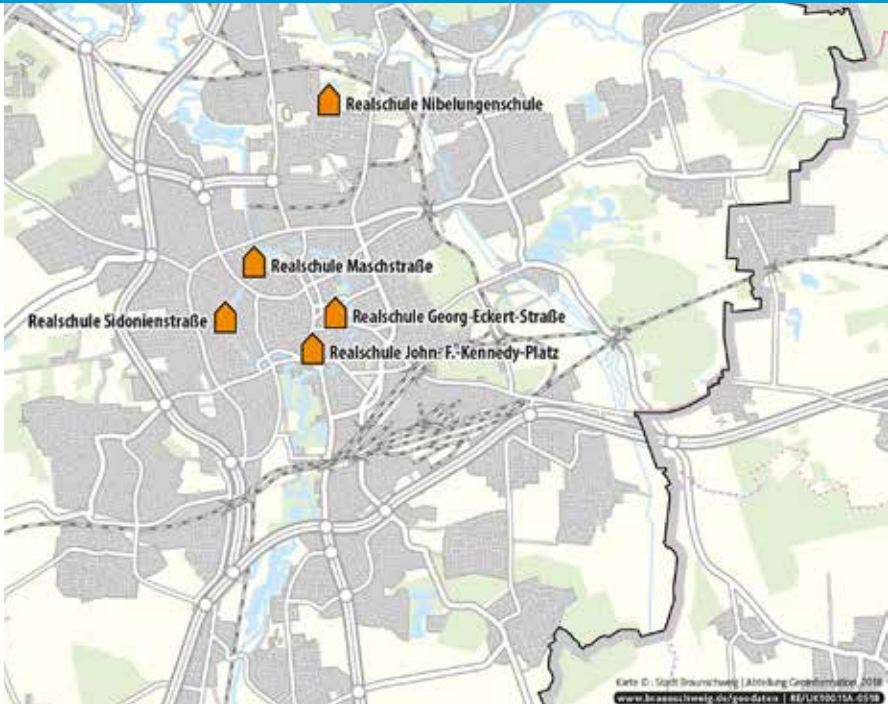
specialist courses G und E. While lessons in specialist course G correspond to basic level, those in specialist course E are of a higher level. In this way the individual's strengths can be better taken into account. From Years 6 and 8 onwards, pupils take an option whereby it is compulsory to choose between subjects, allowing them to focus on the one that best matches their interests. From Year 7 onwards, on at least 60 days career-oriented measures will be implemented. In Years 8 to 10 there is close cooperation with vocational training schools [*berufsbildenden Schulen*]. During these Years, some of the lessons take place in vocational training schools and businesses.

Lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*] runs from Year 5 to Year 9. There is an optional Year 10. After Year 9 the secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*] can be gained. After Year 10 the secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*], secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*] and the broad secondary diploma [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss*] can be gained. To do so schoolchildren must pass the secondary school diploma exam [*Abschlussprüfung*].

### Possible school diplomas [*Schulabschlüsse*]

- ✓ Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Broad secondary diploma [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]

# Upper secondary school [*Realschule*]



Overview map: upper secondary schools

Upper secondary school gives schoolchildren a broadened general education. Unlike at lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*], career path orientation happens across the board. In addition, study orientation is arranged. Upper secondary school prepares schoolchildren to go on to apprenticeships and University studies alike.

From Year 9 onwards, schoolchildren choose profiles. Basically there is a foreign languages profile and at least one Business, Technology or Health and Social Studies profile to choose from.

From Year 5, English is the first foreign language. A second foreign language can be chosen from a list of courses (of which one

For those wishing to switch to an upper secondary school [*Realschule*], there are schools available that are run by Stadt Braunschweig. In addition, they may opt for schools run by governing bodies other than Stadt Braunschweig.

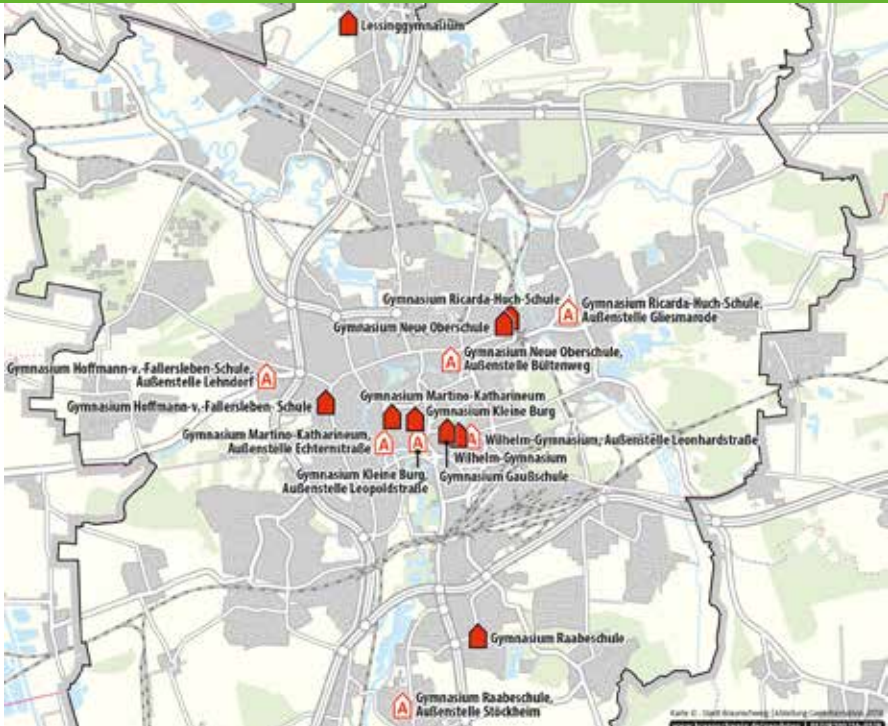
must be chosen) from Year 6 onwards. From Year 9 onwards Maths and English can be taught in specialist courses G und E. While lessons in specialist course G correspond to basic level, those in specialist course E are more advanced. In this way the individual's strengths can be better taken into account. From Year 7 onwards, career-oriented measures will be implemented. Accordingly, from Year 9 onwards schoolchildren work towards focal points. From Year 8, these measures will be implemented on at least 30 days.

Upper secondary school runs from Year 5 to Year 10. After Year 10 the secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*], secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*] can be gained. To do so schoolchildren must pass the secondary school diploma exam [*Abschlussprüfung*]. Those leaving upper secondary school after Year 9 can qualify to gain lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*] certification via an equivalency note in their results.

## Possible school diplomas [*Schulabschlüsse*]

- ✓ Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Broad secondary diploma [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]

# Grammar School [*Gymnasium*]



Overview map: grammar schools

Grammar school provides schoolchildren with a broad in-depth general education. There they can acquire skills which can prepare them for University studies and apprenticeships alike. Grammar school leads on from secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*] and secondary level II [*Sekundarstufe II*] – (upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*]).

## Secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*]

Secondary level I consists of Year 5 – Year 10. It enables schoolchildren to develop all the knowledge, abilities and skills that are needed to successfully complete the upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*]. There are both compulsory and optional classes. In Years 8 to 10, in addition

For those wishing to switch to a grammar school [*Gymnasium*], there are schools available that are run by Stadt Braunschweig. In addition, they may opt for schools run by governing bodies other than Stadt Braunschweig.

to this some grammar schools offer profile classes which allow focal points to develop in particular areas (ex. Life sciences or musical/artistic studies). Career orientation measures are implemented from Year 7 onwards. The foreign language started on at primary school [*Grundschule*] – generally English – is pursued in Year 5. From Year 6 onwards it is compulsory to study a second foreign language. A third foreign language, if offered at the school, can be studied in Year 8 as one of a list of subjects (one of which must be chosen), or as an optional subject.

At grammar school there is no secondary school diploma exam at the end of Year 10. Progression to the introductory phase of the upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*] is automatic. Those leaving grammar school after at the end of Year 10 can qualify to gain lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*] certification via an equivalency note in their final results. Regardless of the minimum requirements in terms of achievement<sup>1</sup>, certification for the broad secondary school diploma [*Erweiterte Sekundarabschluss I*], the secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*]

– upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*] and the secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*] can be granted.

## Secondary level II [*Sekundarstufe II*] (Upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*])

Secondary level II consists of Years 11 to 13 and is composed of a one-year **introductory phase** (Year 11) and a two-year **qualification phase** (Years 12 and 13). These are offered at grammar school [*Gymnasium*], comprehensive school [*Gesamtschule*] and also at the vocational grammar school section of a vocational training school [*berufsbildende Schule*]. The admission criterion is the broad secondary school diploma I [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]. The upper age limit for admission to the upper grammar school level is 19 years. Those above this age limit may alternatively attend classes at a vocational grammar school [*berufliches Gymnasium*], college [*Kolleg*] or opt for evening grammar school classes (see. p. 5).

The upper grammar school level promotes



a multidisciplinary approach with joined-up thinking, independent thought and learning. The **qualification phase** in particular prepares schoolchildren for work involving sciences. Career orientation measures are implemented with development of individual focal points in the fields of vocational training and study orientation. In the **qualification phase** schoolchildren get to pick their focal point. All schools offer focal points of languages and maths/life sciences. Depending on what is on offer at each school, there may be options for focal points involving music/arts, social sciences or sport. From Year 11 onwards only one foreign language is compulsory, provided that a second foreign language was studied at secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*] from Year 6 onwards. If this is not the case, as the child did not previously attend grammar school, a second foreign language must be studied throughout upper grammar school level. The academic part of the specialised

higher education entrance qualification [*Fachhochschulreife*] can be gained at the earliest at the end of Year 12, and the general [*allgemeine*] higher education entrance qualification [*Abitur*] can be gained at the earliest at the end of Year 13.

<sup>1</sup> For further information on diplomas, see „Verordnung über die Abschlüsse im Sekundarbereich I der allgemein bildenden Schulen einschließlich der Freien Waldorfschulen (AVO – Sek I)“, [www.mk.niedersachsen.de](http://www.mk.niedersachsen.de)

## Possible school diplomas [Schulabschlüsse]

- ✓ Lower secondary school diploma  
[Hauptschulabschluss]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I  
[Sekundarabschluss I] – Lower secondary  
school diploma [Hauptschulabschluss]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I  
[Sekundarabschluss I] – Upper secondary  
school diploma [Realschulabschluss]
- ✓ Broad secondary diploma  
[Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I]
- ✓ Specialised higher education entrance  
qualification [Fachhochschulreife] –  
academic part
- ✓ General [allgemeine] higher education  
entrance qualification  
[Hochschulreife/Abitur]

# Comprehensive school [*Integrierte Gesamtschule (IGS)*]

For those wishing to switch to a comprehensive school [*integrierte Gesamtschule*], there are schools available that are run by Stadt Braunschweig. In addition, they may opt for schools run by governing bodies other than Stadt Braunschweig.



Overview map: comprehensive schools

As an alternative to the three-tier school system – but like lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*], upper secondary school [*Realschule*] and grammar school [*Gymnasium*] – comprehensive school provides schoolchildren with **either** a basic, broad or in-depth and broad general education. Schoolchildren can also acquire skills that prepare them for University study. The comprehensive schools in Braunschweig comprise Years 5 to 13 (secondary level [*Sekundarstufe*] I and II). From the lower secondary school diploma

[*Hauptschulabschluss*] right up to the general University entrance exam [*Abitur*], schoolchildren can gain all the types of secondary school diploma which can also be gained at secondary schools [*weiterführende Schulen*] generally. Schoolchildren do not need to decide which type of school diploma [*Abschluss*] they want to opt for at the beginning of Year 5, but rather at the end of secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*], when the decision will be taken depending on the child's individual development and performance. English is the compulsory

foreign language. At comprehensive schools in Braunschweig, a second foreign language can be chosen from a list of subjects (one of which must be chosen) from Year 7 onwards. Since there is a limited number of comprehensive school places in Braunschweig, they will be awarded on a differentiated lottery basis in Year 5. Those wishing to switch to a comprehensive school in the years thereafter can only do so if a place has been freed up.

## Secondary level I [Sekundarstufe I]

An important feature of comprehensive school revolves around living and learning together. This is the result of teaching schoolchildren with different learning requirements and performance levels together according to the curriculum. To achieve this, in particular in Years 5 and 6, the level taught will be tailored to suit the abilities of each individual child (internal adjustment). External adjustment, which takes the children's various different learning requirements into account, is carried out from Year 7 onwards, first for Maths and English, then from Year 8 for German as well, and from Year 9 onwards for life sciences via specialist courses at two different levels (basic and advanced). For the other subjects there is no splitting off into courses. This means that the schoolchildren are all taught in the same class. To bring about streaming according to interest and ability, children can choose one of a list of subjects (one of which must be chosen). Via the different forms of streaming, schoolchildren can be individually and effectively supported and challenged. In this way, any weak points can be addressed. The schoolchildren's academic and personal development takes place over six years, during which time they remain together as a group. This is because no child ever has to repeat a year, and they all move up to the next year together. All comprehensive schools in Braunschweig

have the following in common:

- Schoolchildren only get results with marks/grades from Year 9 onwards. Up until then, performance is documented via six-monthly reports.
- They are contractually bound all-day attendance schools [*gebundene Ganztagschulen*], meaning that schoolchildren must attend school all day at least three days a week. The timetable is organised so that on all-day attendance days lessons alternate with extracurricular activities so that there is also time for independent learning, relaxation and leisure pursuits between lessons.
- Teacher-pupil ratio: Throughout secondary level I, where possible, there are two permanent teaching staff members to each class.

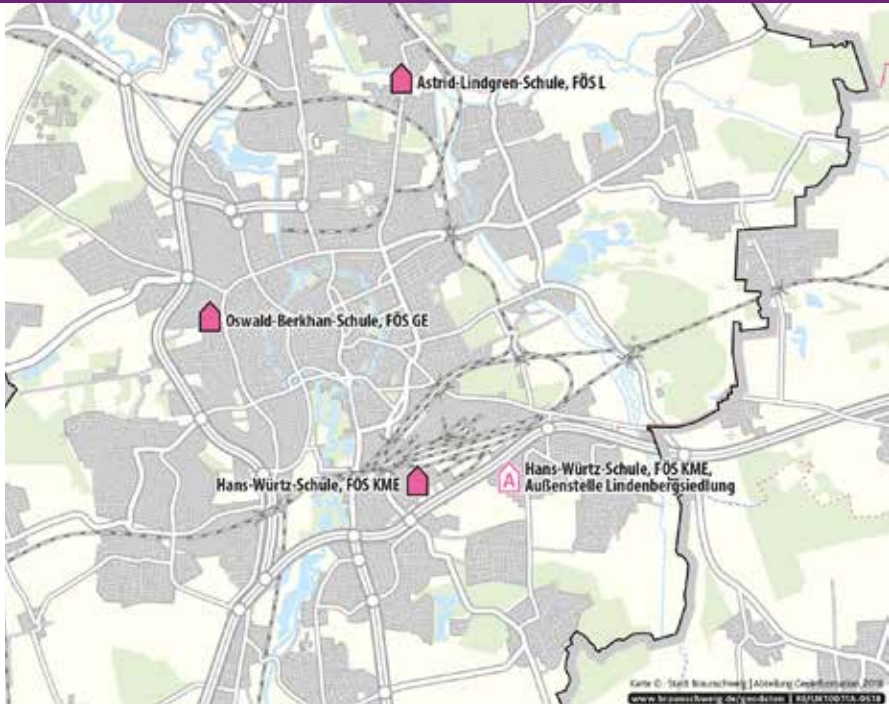
## Secondary level II [Sekundarstufe II], (upper grammar school level [gymnasiale Oberstufe])

The same guidelines as for the upper level at grammar school apply (see p. 14).

## Possible school diplomas [Schulabschlüsse]

- ✓ Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Broad secondary diploma [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]
- ✓ Specialised higher education entrance qualification [*Fachhochschulreife*] – academic part
- ✓ General [*allgemeine*] higher education entrance qualification [*Hochschulreife/Abitur*]

# Specially Provisioned school [*Förderschule*]



Overview map: specially provisioned schools

By law, schoolchildren with diagnosed or documented special educational needs have the right to special support resources. Those with parental responsibility can decide without restriction whether these resources are made available in a specially provisioned school or a mainstream secondary school. Specially provisioned schools can be distinguished from each other according to the focal point of their support for those with special educational needs:

- Emotional and social development
- Mental development
- Hearing (hearing impairment, deafness)
- Physical development and motor skills
- Learning ability
- Vision (visual impairment, blindness)
- Verbal ability
- Hearing and Vision (deafness-blindness)

For those wishing to switch to a specially provisioned school [*Förderschule*], there are schools available that are run by Stadt Braunschweig. In addition, they may opt for schools run by governing bodies other than Stadt Braunschweig.

All specially provisioned schools comprise at least Years 1 to 9. Some also have a Year 10. Those with mental development as a focal point comprise 12 Years.

Children attending a specially provisioned school need not necessarily do so on a long-term basis. An important part of their remit is about striving towards transition to a mainstream school and preparing schoolchildren for it.

With the exception of specially provisioned schools with the focal point of learning ability and mental development, the features of specially provisioned schools are similar to those of the different types of secondary school (lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*] and upper secondary school [*Realschule*]). This means that the timetable, ways of assessing children's performance, diplomas, etc. are like those in mainstream secondary schools. At the same time the curriculum and support provision plan will be tailored to the needs of the schoolchildren. Regardless of what courses are on offer, in almost all specially provisioned schools schoolchildren can gain the mainstream diplomas (the lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*], upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*] and the broad secondary diploma I [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]). The exceptions are

specially provisioned schools with the focal points of mental development and learning ability. The latter offer the option of gaining either the specially provisioned schools diploma with the focal point of learning ability [*Abschluss der Förderschule im Schwerpunkt Lernen*] or the lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*].

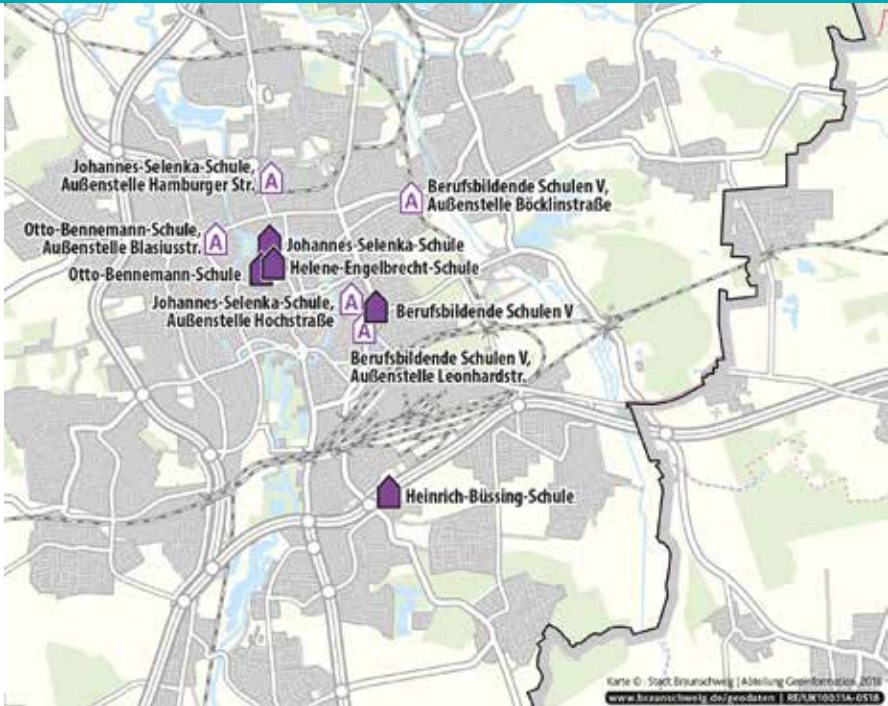
In Braunschweig there are specially provisioned schools with the focal points of mental development, physical development and motor skills, hearing, emotional and social development and learning ability. Some of them are run by governing bodies other than Braunschweig City Council.

### Possible school diplomas [*Schulabschlüsse*]

(depending on the focal points of the special provisions and the courses of study on offer)

- ✓ Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Broad secondary diploma [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]

# Vocational Training school [*Berufsbildende Schulen*]



Overview map: vocational training schools

Vocational training schools offer secondary level courses, and along with them the option of gaining various secondary school diplomas separately from a vocational qualification or apprenticeship. In this section we only outline courses for which no prior vocational qualification is required and which make it possible to gain a (more advanced) secondary school diploma.

Vocational training schools offer vocational training alongside general education. As such, each vocational training school offers different disciplines (Business, Technology, among others). The courses are organised so as to be permeable to one another. This means that, for example, the broad secondary school diploma I [*erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*] can

be gained either in the labour market entry class [*Berufseinstiegsklasse*] of the lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*] or subsequently as part of the two-year specialised vocational training school [*Berufsfachschule*] module of the broad secondary school diploma I [*erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]. This in turn qualifies the holder to attend the upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*] of the vocational grammar school [*berufliches Gymnasium*] or standard grammar school [*Gymnasium*].

### Vocational preparation year [*Berufsvorbereitungsjahr – BVJ*]

The schoolchildren eligible to complete the *BVJ* are those of compulsory school age who have attended school for nine years, but left without a lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]. The course duration is one year. At schools which also have a hands-on provisions setup for the attainment of the **lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]**, the more able schoolchildren can gain it as part of the *BVJ*. However, the *BVJ* is first and foremost centred on promoting stability in young people, which is done in a very personalised

way. Personal development is fostered and social skills developed so as to better prepare young people for an apprenticeship or entry-level job. Specialised practical classes in two occupational fields form the focal point. In addition, schoolchildren attend specialised theory classes and standard classes. Young people completing the *BVJ* honour their school attendance obligation.

### Labour market entry class [*Berufseinstiegsklasse – BEK*]

The schoolchildren eligible to complete the *BEK* are those who have attended a secondary school diploma class at secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*] but not gained the diploma or only gained it at a low level, and those who have completed the *BVJ*. The aim of the *BEK*, which has a duration of one year, is to gain or improve on the **lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]**. Lessons are dispensed as per the Year 9 standards of a lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*]. Vocational lessons are dispensed in each subject and provide an insight into aspects of apprenticeships in the different occupational fields.



## Specialised vocational training school [*Berufsfachschule – BFS*] – one-year and two-year duration

The requirement for admission to the one-year *BFS* is prior attendance of a lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*] or upper secondary school [*Realschule*], with the pupil having left with a secondary school diploma [*Abschluss*]. The *BFS* provides pupils with a vocational general education in line with the chosen specialism, which is consistent with the content of year one of an apprenticeship. Completing the one-year *BFS* can allow pupils who start off with a lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*] to gain the **secondary diploma I** [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]. Those with an upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*] can gain a broad secondary I diploma [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]. Subsequently they have the option of proceeding straight into year 2 of an apprenticeship suited to the chosen subject, combining work and studies. In the two-year *BFS*, following the

vocational general education of year 1, in year 2 an higher-level academic secondary school diploma can be gained (either the **secondary diploma I** [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*] or the **broad secondary diploma I** [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]).

## Specialised upper school [*Fachoberschule – FOS*]

FOS comprises classes 11 and 12. For those with a secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*] the requirement for admission to class 11 is the production of an internship agreement totalling at least 960 hours throughout the duration of class 11. After class 11 pupils move up to class 12 of the *FOS*. The latter provides pupils with a broad yet in-depth specialised education that is both practical and theoretical, as well as a general education. Those meeting the requirements at the end of class 12 gain the **specialised higher education entrance qualification** [*Fachhochschulreife*].

## Vocational grammar school [*Berufliches Gymnasium*]

Vocational grammar school comprises school Years 11-13 and leads to the **general university entrance exam [Abitur]**, and to the **academic part of the technical college entrance exam**. Pupils with a broad secondary school diploma I [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*] or who qualify to attend the upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*], can be admitted to the introductory phase (Year 11) of vocational grammar school. Unlike at the upper level of a standard grammar school [*Gymnasium*], there is no age limit for admission. Like at the upper level of a standard grammar school or comprehensive school [*Gesamtschule*], pupils receive a broad yet in-depth general education in preparation for University studies or for a demanding apprenticeship. Unlike at a standard grammar school, there is in addition a first introduction to the world of work via the development of vocational focal points. This takes up one third of lesson time. In Lower Saxony there are vocational grammar schools offering the following subjects: Business, Technology, Health and Social Care.

## Possible school diplomas [*Schulabschlüsse*]

- ✓ Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Lower secondary school diploma [*Hauptschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Secondary diploma I [*Sekundarabschluss I*] – Upper secondary school diploma [*Realschulabschluss*]
- ✓ Broad secondary diploma [*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*]
- ✓ Specialised higher education entrance qualification [*Fachhochschulreife*] – academic part
- ✓ Higher education entrance qualification [*Hochschulreife*]
- ✓ General [*allgemeine*] higher education entrance qualification [*Hochschulreife/Abitur*]

# Glossary

## **All-day school attendance school**

**[Ganztagschule]:** At all-day schools, in addition to lessons, extracurricular activities are on offer at least three days a week. At **open** all-day schools, extracurricular activities are optional. They take place after lessons. At **partially contractually bound** all-day attendance schools, all-day attendance is compulsory at least two days a week. Lessons and extracurricular activities generally alternate with one another. This alternating pattern is also found at **contractually bound all-day attendance schools**, where all-day attendance is compulsory at least three days a week.

## **Bilingual class [Bilingualer Unterricht]:**

A lesson in a subject that is not a language (ex: Biology, Geography) given in a foreign language.

## **Compulsory school attendance**

**[Schulpflicht]:** It is compulsory for children to attend school for 12 years. If after the end of secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*] the 12 years have not yet elapsed, attendance remains compulsory into secondary level II [*Sekundarstufe II*]. Children can honour their obligation by attending either upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*] or a course at a vocational training school [*berufsbildende Schule*]. Attending a vocational school [*Berufsschule*] as part of an apprenticeship combining work and studies is another way for them to do so.

## **Internal adjustment**

**[Binnendifferenzierung]:** The level at which a class is taught is tailored to suit the pupils' various different abilities. The aim of this is to support and challenge pupils as much as possible, so that the least able are not overstretched and the most able not under-challenged. This type of adjustment can be achieved in different ways, ex: by setting exercises with different levels of difficulty.

## **Introductory phase [Einführungsphase]:**

Year 11 is the introductory phase of the upper grammar school level and of vocational grammar school. Lessons prepare pupils for the subsequent qualification phase.

## **Language learning class**

**[Sprachlernklasse]:** Schoolchildren who are new in Germany and have little or no knowledge of the German language attend language learning classes, generally for one year. Lessons are mainly geared around verbal language acquisition. After an acclimatisation and observation phase in the language learning class, they gradually increase their participation in standard lessons. There are language learning classes at primary schools [*Grundschulen*] and at secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*], aside from specially provisioned schools.

**Optional subject [Wahlfach] and choice-based compulsory subject**

**[Wahlpflichtfach]:** An optional subject is one that pupils may study if they wish to. A **choice-based compulsory subject** is one from a list of subjects, one of which must be studied. For example, at grammar school [*Gymnasium*] it is compulsory for pupils to study a second foreign language. They can, however, choose which language they wish to learn.

**Qualification phase [Qualifikationsphase]:**

The qualification phase of the upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*] and of vocational grammar school [*berufliches Gymnasium*] comprises Years 12 and 13. Pupils choose a subject as a focal point beforehand. Lessons are given in courses rather than in a single class.

**Secondary levels [Sekundarstufen]:**

Secondary level I [*Sekundarstufe I*] consists of Years 5 to 10 at lower secondary schools [*Hauptschulen*], upper secondary schools [*Realschulen*], specially provisioned schools [*Förderschulen*], upper schools [*Oberschulen*], comprehensive schools [*Gesamtschulen*] and grammar schools [*Gymnasien*].

**Secondary level II [Sekundarstufe II]**

consists of the upper grammar school level [*gymnasiale Oberstufe*] at grammar schools, comprehensive schools and vocational training schools [*berufsbildende Schulen*], as well as at schools that offer evening classes and also colleges [*Kolleg*] (see p. 5).

**Specialised course/Specialised course adjustment [Fachleistungskurse/**

**Fachleistungsdifferenzierung]:** The development of specialised courses allows pupils to be taught at the right level to match their abilities in particular subjects. This is designed to prevent them from being overstretched or underchallenged. Classes in specialised course G correspond to basic level in the curriculum, while those in specialised course E are advanced level. Pupils have

the option of switching courses every six months. Specialised courses are taught at lower secondary school [*Hauptschule*], upper secondary school [*Realschule*], upper school [*Oberschule*] (see below) and comprehensive school [*Integrierte Gesamtschule*].

**Specially provisioned course "German as a second language" [Förderkurs „Deutsch als**

**Zweitsprache"]:** The pupils who may attend these classes are those whose language of origin is not German, who attend standard classes but who do not yet have sufficient knowledge of the German language. The duration of the course is up to one year with five to eight hours of lessons per week.

**Subject-specific higher education entrance qualification [Fachgebundene**

**Hochschulreife]:** This can be gained at a vocational upper school [*Berufsoberschule*] and allows the holder to go on to University studies, but only in the subject studied at vocational upper school.

**Support and challenge [Fördern und**

**fordern]:** A number of different options and measures stem from this concept, which is designed to address pupils' weak points and build on their strengths. General provision for the school is also expanded on.

**Transition:** Switching from one school type to another.

**Upper school [Oberschule]:**

Upper school comprises Years 5 to 10. Depending on the school, lessons are either taught mainly as a single class with specialised courses in some subjects (see above) or separately in school type streams: lower secondary [*Hauptschulzweig*], upper secondary [*Realschulzweig*] and where applicable grammar [*Gymnasialzweig*]. There are upper schools with and without grammar streams. There is currently no upper school in Braunschweig.

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