

Information for parents

The Primary School



Migrant:innen
Eltern
Netzwerk
Bremen



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Contents

- 1 Ensuring a successful school start
- 1 School enrollment
- 1 What does compulsory school attendance mean?
- 2 What types of elementary schools are there in Bremen?
- 2 How long is elementary school?
- 3 Which subjects will my child learn in primary school?
- 5 Support with learning
- 5 The class teacher/s
- 5 Support
- 5 Portfolio
- 6 Homework
- 6 Report card
- 6 What school programmes should my child attend?
- 7 What is a “Hort”?
- 7 Assistance if there are problems at school
- 7 Inclusion and lessons
- 8 What happens after primary school?
- 8 What else do I have to consider as a parent?
- 9 Additional information





Parents with a migrant background have to confront structural and social barriers and they also struggle with prejudices in the German educational system. They often are unfamiliar with the school system and lack basic information about how best to support their children 's education.

The **Migrant:innenElternNetzwerk** Bremen is a network that represents the interests of parents in Bremen. It also provides an essential platform for migrant organizations, parents' associations, and committed parents and aims to make current information about educational topics available to all.

The **Migrant:innenElternNetzwerk** Bremen also actively works towards equipping parents with skills to help them shape their children's education.

This booklet will help parents and/or guardians to understand everyday school life, recognize their rights and responsibilities, and clarify unanswered questions on various primary school topics.

Ensuring a successful school start

Ensuring a successful school start means preparing to transition from the daycare center (Kindergarten) to a primary school (Grundschule). To better prepare for this transition, knowledge about practising how to get to school, promoting healthy sleeping routines, preparing a healthy breakfast, and media use are essential. You can find more information on this in eight languages here : <https://www.bildung.bremen.de/brosch-ren-flyer-3402>

School enrollment

School enrollment is a special event, it is your child's first day at school. As a rule, school enrolment takes place on a Saturday morning when the children are welcomed with a small celebration in the school. Teachers and pupils present something creative from their daily school life. Your child will need a school bag and materials for the enrollment, e.g., pens, books, and exercise books. The school will give you a list of these stationery requirements. It is also tradition for parents to give their children a school cone. The cone is a cardboard funnel bag that you can make yourself or buy. You can fill the school cone with fruits, sweets, and small gifts. After starting school, families can also celebrate the special day at home.

What does compulsory school attendance mean?

School attendance is compulsory in Germany, meaning that every child from 6 years has to go to school. Your child must be at school on all school days unless they are ill. Compulsory attendance also means that all children have the right to go to school. All children should have the opportunity to learn. Compulsory attendance lasts 12 years. Failure to comply with this can result in a fine.

What types of elementary schools are there in Bremen?

The public elementary schools in Bremen have these types of schools:

- A reliable primary school: Daily from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some schools offer afternoon study groups (AGs); these are leisure activities outside of class.
- All-day school: Daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or three days until 4 p.m. and two days until 2 p.m. All children have lunch.
- Open all-day school: The parents choose in advance whether their child will attend only the regular classes until 1 p.m. also participate in the afternoon classes (“Nachmittagsunterricht”). Depending on the school this can be till 3pm or 4 pm

All-day school children can be registered for early care from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., late care from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., and holiday care. Parents have to pay for these childcare services. Check with the school for conditions and costs. All public schools are free.

There are also private elementary schools in Bremen. Parents pay school fees monthly. If you cannot afford these fees, contact the appropriate school directly to apply for a reduction, exemption, or school scholarship. You can find more information about public and private elementary schools in Bremen from the Senator for Children and Education at www.bildung.bremen.de

How long is elementary school?

In Bremen, children attend elementary school for four years. During these years, the children learn important basic and social skills, e.g., dealing with classmates and teachers, following the rules, and solving conflicts.

- Does your child learn particularly fast and is bored? Then they can finish elementary school after just three years. This way, your child can continue to learn and will not be disappointed by the school.
- Does your child have significant learning difficulties, and you want them to repeat the class? Repeating a class gives your child more time to get used to school and learning. You can discuss this with the class teacher and submit a request to repeat a class.



Parents and teachers consult together about the best option for your child. In the class conference, the teachers discuss this and make the decisions.

Which subjects will my child learn in primary school?

- German: The children learn to read and write
- Mathematics: The children learn arithmetic, recognize shapes and their relationships
- General education: Here, the children learn about science, the environment, society, and social issues
- Art: Here, the children learn to paint, do handicrafts, and use materials
- Music: The children learn melodies & rhythms and about instruments and dances
- Sports: The children participate in movement exercises, ball games, and sports. In Germany, every child has to take part in physical education classes. It is compulsory for all children, which is regulated by law. Swimming is part of physical education and is compulsory. In the 3rd grade, girls and boys learn to swim together. Learning to swim is especially important for your child to be better protected against accidents in the water.

- First foreign language: Usually, it is English. Primary schools in Bremen begin with the first foreign language in the 3rd grade. The children learn to use this language through pictures, short dialogues, listening, understanding, and playing together
- Mother tongue lessons: Many primary schools in Bremen offer lessons in the mother tongue for children growing up bi-lingually. Ask the primary school directly about the languages in which these lessons are offered
- Religion: All children, regardless of their denomination, are allowed to attend religious education. Together they learn what people believe in and why cultural understanding is important. In elementary school, students deal with different religions and intercultural festivals
- Sexual education: In the 3rd or 4th grade, the teachers discuss body changes as we grow up, sexual identities, orientations, and family forms. It is also about sexual self-determination and protecting children from sexual assault through education. All children must attend these classes.

Note: All subjects work towards intensively promoting the German language. This is particularly important for children with multilingual backgrounds and important for a successful school career.



Support with learning

Some children have difficulties in learning. These children need special educational support in the case of dyscalculia, reading or spelling difficulties (dyslexia), and difficulties in the development of spoken language. You can talk to the teachers about support. For further diagnostics, you can also contact the ReBUZ www.rebuz.bremen.de

The class teacher/s

The class teacher (Klassenlehrer/in) is essential for your child. They are responsible for the class and are also there for the parents. Class teachers are usually in contact with your child every day, and they give the students a timetable with times and subjects that they have, from Monday to Friday. They also provide information about important dates in the **school calendar**, such as events, excursions, and vacations, and inform you of the best method to reach them (via email or telephone). The class teacher regularly gives the parents information about the parents' evenings and school projects. If you have any questions, please ask the teacher directly or make an appointment with them. This is especially important in the early days. Also, inform the class teacher if something within the family has changed, e.g., a new address, illness, or other special challenges.

Support

All multilingual children take part in a German language support programme to learn the German language well.

Portfolio

This is a booklet or documentation with the individual learning development of your child. Self-made pictures, presentations, and photos show how your child learns many topics at school and how their learning steps are developing.

Homework

Make sure your child does their homework. The homework is usually listed in the homework book. This book must be checked regularly. The teachers also note information for parents in the homework book. Parents can write their concerns for the teachers in the notebook. Ask the teachers if you don't understand what it says and also make sure to ask for examples, symbols, or ways you can understand it better.

Your child needs a quiet place, preferably with a desk for doing homework. Agree on a fixed time for this; this enables a structured daily routine. There are tasks that your child can focus on at home, e.g., memorizing a poem, solving math exercises, or reading regularly. Even if you find the German language very difficult, you can support your child. Show interest in what your child is learning. Your child can also show you what they do at school, and you can watch and practice the tasks together.

Report card

Your child will receive a progress report card at the end of each school year. The report contains a written description of all subjects, including social and work behaviour. German and Mathematics are also listed in a grid-like table with competence areas. In the report, you can see how your child's learning is progressing. The teacher will also explain the table to you during the consultation period. Otherwise, ask if there is anything you do not understand

What school programmes should my child attend?

School trips: Your child travels to a school camp (leisure facility) with classmates and teachers, usually within the Bremen area. The school usually offers the class trip from the 2nd grade, but this can vary. Participation in school trips is very important for the children to feel part of the class community. As parents, you can get involved and support the class, e.g., by going along as an accompanying person. For these trips, the class usually travels for some days.

School trips out into nature, e.g., to the forest or the seaside, and visiting libraries or cultural events such as a visit to the theatre. Often this is done with the support of the parents

School festival: Usually takes place once a year. The classes often present the re-

sults of their project work. The children can take part in various games and activities with their parents. It is an excellent opportunity for parents to exchange ideas with other families and to learn more about everyday life at school

School projects & competitions in the field of culture, environment, and sport

Clubs (AGs): Some schools offer AGs such as dance, physical education, crafts, chess, and sometimes languages

What is a “Hort”?

The Hort is a place where the children are taken care of after school and during the holidays (sometimes before school starts). There the children eat lunch, do homework and play. Educators are always there and support their children, e.g., by assisting with homework.

You must pick up your child from the after-school care center on time or sign a document allowing your child to come home alone if they are old enough to do so or sign if someone (such as the grandparent) is allowed to pick them up.

Before registering at the school, find out about after-school care options at the school or district. The after-school care facility costs money. You can apply for a payment exemption if you receive transfer payments (money from the job center).

Assistance if there are problems at school

Is your child not feeling well in class? Does your child experience conflicts with their classmates? Talk to the class teacher first. Then seek support from the school's specialist staff. Parent representatives are also possible contacts.

Inclusion and lessons

Children with disabilities can attend any primary school in Bremen. Inclusion means that all pupils are taught together, and its aim is that all children have the right to equal access to education.

Many schools offer additional services to support the children. Check in advance

with the REBUZ about which school specializes in your child's disability. Also, contact the school and ask for guidance. They will tell you, for example, how to apply for school assistance. It is best to do this six months before your child starts school. Classroom aides support your child in class if they cannot manage independently. They help the children complete their tasks in an organized and structured way. As well as help them to communicate with teachers and classmates. Should a difficult case arise, you can contact the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Selbsthilfe behinderteter Menschen Bremen (LAGS) at www.lags-bremen.de

What happens after primary school?

After the 4th grade, children go to secondary school. In Bremen, your child can go to a secondary school or a grammar school. You can find information on the transition **“From primary school to secondary school and grammar school”** in eight languages at: www.bildung.bremen.de/brosch-ren-flyer-3402

What else do I have to consider as a parent?

Obligation to inform: If your child is ill, you must immediately notify the school (and Kita). You must tell the teachers if your child has an infectious disease, allergies, or intolerances and also if they have to take medication. As soon as your child is well again, you must provide the class teacher with a written excuse or a medical certificate.

Photo permission: Teachers take photos during field trips, parties, and other school activities. Some pictures are exhibited or displayed on the school website. Parents must sign a written photo consent form stating whether or not their child may be photographed or filmed. It is forbidden to photograph or film anyone without their permission.

You can decide whether the school, after-school care center and other organizations may pass on, store, or delete your data, such as telephone number, address and e-mail. Let them know if you agree or not. Privacy regulations are rules for protecting people's data. It is forbidden to collect and disseminate data from individuals without written permission.

Additional information

- Do you have more questions on education topics?
- Would you like to exchange ideas with other parents around these topics?

Then please contact the Migrant:innenElternNetzwerk Bremen

Address:

Kulturzentrum Lagerhaus - Migration, Schildstr.
12-19, 28203 Bremen

Internet:

www.tjv-bremen.de

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0421-704001

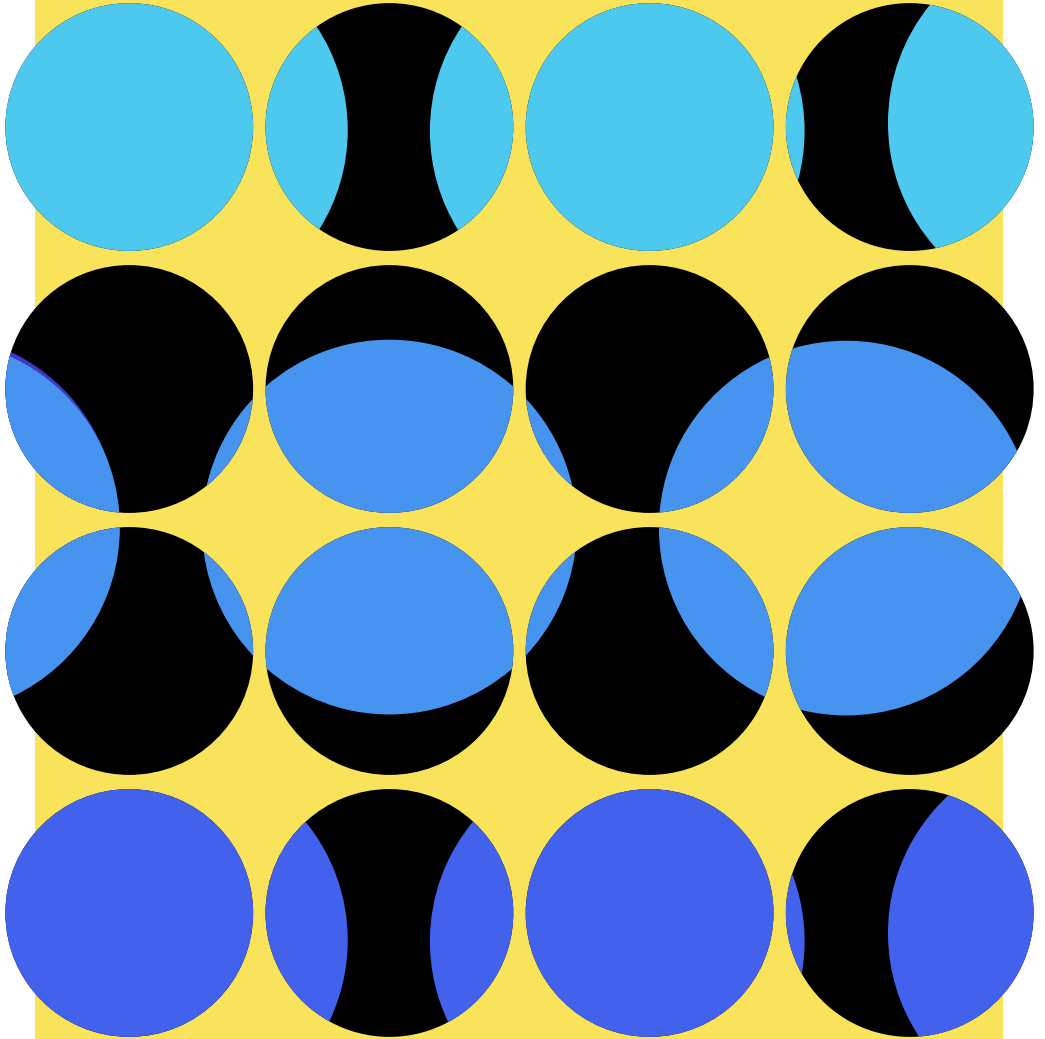


The Bundeselternnetzwerk der Migrantenorganisationen für Bildung & Teilhabe, ([bbt](#)) networks migrant organizations, parents' associations, and initiatives throughout Germany to strengthen their competencies and potentials. The bbt consists of five regional branches in Germany. The northern regional office (Regionalstelle Nord) is one of the five branches. It connects the bbt federal headquarters and the three migrant parent networks in Bremen, Hamburg, and Lower Saxony. The Regionalstelle Nord includes the Migrant:innenElternNetzwerk Bremen, the MigrantInnen-Elternnetzwerk Hamburg, and the MigrantElternNetzwerk Niedersachsen. The Regionalstelle Nord is coordinated by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Migrantinnen, Migranten und Flüchtlinge in Niedersachsen - amfn e.V.



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