

My child requires special educational support. How do I find the appropriate school?

You need sufficient background information in order to make the proper choice in the best interest of your child.

Crucial for your choice of the proper school form is your assessment of whether attendance at an inclusive school or a special education school is more beneficial for the future development of your child.

If your child is preparing for its first day of school, it is important to collect all of the information and assessments from the institutions and people who have accompanied your child through its preschool experience. At the completion of primary school you will receive a comprehensive overview of your child's abilities and skills and a recommendation for further schooling. Nevertheless, you should acquire an impression of the special education facilities at the secondary school of your choice, as well as the corresponding special education school.

If you have further questions or are still unsure about your decision, please contact the appropriate location found in the list at the end of this leaflet.

Who decides whether my child requires special education and how it needs to be supported?

Before your child begins school, you can apply for an examination for special educational needs while registering your child at your local primary school. The school will fully inform, involve and advise you. You will also be extensively advised during the school-entry medical examination performed by the department of public health.

If, while attending school, the scholastic facilities are not adequate enough to support your child in its education, the school administration can call for a review of the special educational requirements at any time. Even in this case, parents will be fully informed, involved and advised by the school administration.

Additionally, children and youth may have the right to receive assistance at school through the framework of integration for handicapped people, in order to make their attendance at school possible. Parents may apply for assistance at the Office for Participation and Social Affairs. The type and extent of assistance will be determined according to the child's individual needs.

Who can help?

Initial contact should be made at the primary/secondary school or preschool. Following is a list of further contacts:

Schule am Bürgerbusch

Focus on learning
Ms Behrens, Telephone: 0441 302537
Fax: 0441 3047870
info@schule-am-buergerbusch.de

Schule an der Kleistraße

Focus on mental development
Ms Stodiek, Telephone: 0441 955060
Fax: 0441 9550-611
sekretariat@schulekleiststrasse.de

Schule Borchersweg

Focus on the development of physical and motor skills
Mobile service "Seeing"
Mr Völkel, Telephone: 0441 2058621
Fax: 0441 2058630
info@schule-borchersweg.de

Schule Sandkruger Straße

Focus on mental and social development
Mr Schubert, Telephone: 0441 219668-80
Fax: 0441 21966-89
schule-sandkruger-strasse@web.de

Regional Educational Center for the Hearing Impaired

(Landesbildungszentrum für Hörgeschädigte)
Focus on hearing
Mr Noël
Contact person for information:
Mr Behrens
Telephone: 0441-9505-305, Fax: 0441 9505-130
poststelle@lbzh-ol.niedersachsen.de

Primary School (Grundschule) Bürgeresch

Offers remedial classes (Förderklassen) in language
Ms Kühme-Jahnke
Contact person for remedial classes in language
Ms Sante, Telephone: 0441 82795 or 82761
Fax: 0441 8853188
info@gsbuergeresch.de

School Authority of Lower Saxony

(Niedersächsische Landesschulbehörde)
Regional Division Osnabrück
Oldenburg Office
Telephone: 0441 9499823, Fax: 0441 94998-98
www.landesschulbehoerde-niedersachsen.de

City of Oldenburg

(Stadt Oldenburg)
Office for Participation and Social Affairs
(Amt für Teilhabe und Soziales)
Service telephone: 0441 235-4444
servicecenter@stadt-oldenburg.de

Department of Schools and Education

Inclusion in Oldenburg schools
Telephone: 0441 235-2336, Fax: 0441 235-2638
schule-inklusion@stadt-oldenburg.de

Department of Public Health

Child and Youth Health Services
Telephone: 0441 235-8645
gesundheitsamt@stadt-oldenburg.de

BeKoS

Advisory and coordination office for self-help groups
Telephone: 0441-884848
Fax 0441 883444
info@bekos-oldenburg.de

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Please direct general questions to the Service Center, telephone 0441 235-4444

Inclusion in Oldenburg Schools



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Leaflet for parents

Information

The *City of Oldenburg and the Committee for Inclusion in Oldenburg Schools* have prepared this leaflet to provide you with basic information about the option of inclusive education for your children. This information is the basis for parental counseling from schools, the Department of Public Health, the Office for Participation and Social Affairs and the Department of Schools and Education.

The Committee for Inclusion in Oldenburg Schools (Arbeitsgruppe Inklusion an Oldenburger Schulen) supports the city of Oldenburg in the implementation of inclusion. Members of this committee include representatives from schools, the city school board, the city parent's council, the state school board, voluntary welfare agencies for youth and handicapped, associations, self-help groups, politics, administration and science.

What is inclusion?

Everyone should have an equal opportunity to participate in society – regardless of their origin, social and financial status, handicap or exceptionalities.

Everyone has the right to feel special. Diversity is enrichment for our society - for pupils, parents and teachers, too.

Removing barriers and discrimination, as well as recognizing the individual needs of personal development are our tasks.

What does the timetable for inclusion in schools look like?

Many pupils with special educational needs have already been integrated into public schools. What's new is that as of school year 2013/2014, parents and children have a right to inclusion. The School Act, however, plans a transitional period until school year 2024/2025, during which all schools are not yet required to be equipped for inclusion. However, there is general consent in the City of Oldenburg for the rapid implementation of inclusion. Therefore, all schools have been offering inclusive schooling to every extent possible since 2013/2014. In the coming years, schools will be modified and equipped to continually improve the conditions for inclusion.

Within the framework of inclusion, primary schools in Oldenburg have been accepting pupils with special educational needs beginning in the first class since 2013/2014. This is compulsory for pupils with special educational needs focusing on learning. With regards to the other areas of focus: emotional and social development, language, cognitive development, physical and motoric development, visual and hearing, parents and guardians have the right to choose and can decide if their child should be taught at a primary school or a special education school.

Since 2013/2014, secondary schools have been taking on more pupils with special educational needs, beginning in the fifth class. As parents, you have the right to choose in all cases of special education and can decide whether to enroll your child at a general secondary school or a special education school.

Do pupils who learn easier have disadvantages in inclusive lessons?

All pupils profit from an inclusive education. Focusing lessons on individual learning paths and requirements makes it easier to plan and carry out supporting and additional learning activities.

Numerous studies in schools indicate that well-performing pupils have no disadvantages in an inclusive learning environment. Inclusive lessons provide for an exceptional environment of cooperation and mutual appreciation of all pupils.

What does a parent's right to choose mean? Can I choose which school form my child attends?

If your child requires special educational support, the implementation of inclusion gives you the right to choose between a primary/secondary school and a special education school.

In principle, all students are entitled to an education at the primary school in the town where they live, or admittance to a secondary school in the form of 'Oberschule' and 'Gymnasium', accordingly. Admittance to a 'Gesamtschule', or a particular secondary school (in the form of 'Oberschule' or 'Gymnasium') cannot be guaranteed. Depending on the school registration situation, another school or school form may need to be chosen.

By school year 2024/2025, all schools in Oldenburg will be offering an inclusive educational environment and the same opportunities will be open to children with special educational needs, without restriction. Until then, some cases may require referral to another general primary/secondary school, if serious arguments against an inclusive education at the local school of choice exist.

Do I also have the choice of sending my child to a special education school instead of an inclusive school?

If the need for special education exists, you can choose between schooling at a general primary/secondary school or special education school.

The only exception is in cases of special emphasis on learning in the first through fourth classes. Beginning with school year 2016/2017, all children requiring extra assistance in learning will be taught at their local primary schools and no longer in special education schools. Starting in 2017/2018, pupils requiring extra assistance in learning will be increasingly integrated into the 5th classes and onward of general secondary schools.

How does the registration process work?

In Oldenburg, your child is initially registered for school in the same manner as all other children. This means registering your child at the primary school in the area where you live (primary school district). Secondary school registration takes place at the school of your choice. So-called 'special emphasis schools' (Schwerpunktschule) do not exist in Oldenburg.

Given that the individual needs of pupils with special educational requirements differ and not all schools are structurally equipped to take on every possible case (barrier-free, special care rooms, etc.), the question of whether or not your child can attend lessons there without restrictions will be answered on location. Should it not yet be possible, you will receive a recommendation as to the next closest suitable school.