

Bilingual Primary School

Tuition in German and English



Schwalbach a. Ts. – Campus Frankfurt





Dr. Gerhard Obermayr
Headmaster

*«The aim of the school
is education and learning
in the spirit of
European integration.»*



Julie Cunningham
Deputy Headmistress Primary School

Bilingual Primary School

Dear parents and pupils,

Opened in 2009, the Obermayr International School in Schwalbach is a bilingual (German/English) primary school. The aim of the school is education and learning in the spirit of European integration. The school is fully accredited by the state of Hessen. Bilingual classes are taught by both German and English native speakers. School is from 8 am. to 3 pm. We also have an extensive after-school programme of activities till 6 pm (except Friday till 5pm).

The school is situated within easy reach of Frankfurt on a 40,000 m² green campus. It offers spacious classrooms, a computer studies room, a sunny atrium, sports facilities, extensive grounds and facilities where we organise our vacation camp's three times a year. Obermayr European Education also offers a nursery, kindergarten and pre-school facilities on our campus in Schwalbach as well as in Wiesbaden and Taunusstein. These cater for children aged from 7 months to 6 years.

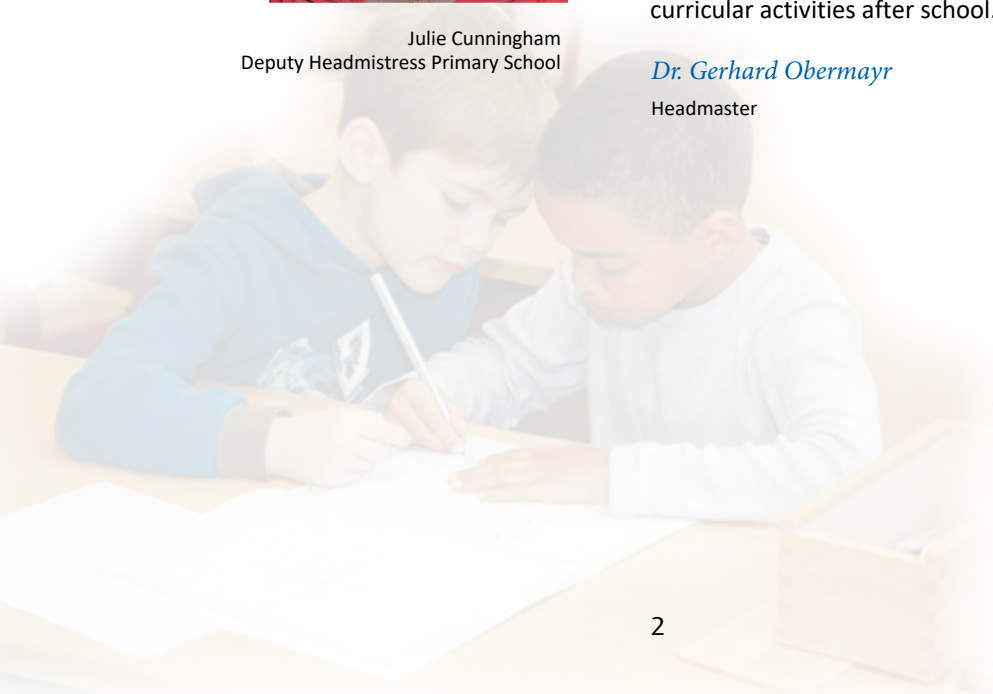
Our bilingual primary schools in Schwalbach and Wiesbaden function in accordance with the Hesse Elementary Education Act §17 HSchG. Furthermore, the bilingual primary school puts into practice the agreement made between the European Heads of State in 2002, to encourage children in the European Union to learn not only their own language but also foreign languages from an early age.

The bilingual primary school is designed as an "all-day school". Each lesson lasts 40 minutes and the school week consists of 34 lessons of which about 50% is taught in English and 50% in German.

Tuition follows the recognised "Immersion" method and uses the one person one language approach (OPOL). In addition to the extended English tuition, an on-site mensa which provides lunch and extra-curricular activities after school.

Dr. Gerhard Obermayr
Headmaster

Julie Cunningham
Deputy Headmistress Primary School



The concept



Entrance
International School

The concept

In accordance with the Hessen school regulations the bilingual primary school teaches in the two languages of German and English using the recognised "immersion" method. The classrooms consist of a wide variety of pedagogical material.

The teachers create an atmosphere which enhances learning in the class room. The material used helps to reinforce the understanding of the topics handled in class and supports the child to learn and use his or her own initiative. The child is offered different possibilities to understand facts and issues and learns how to concentrate and check his or her own results.

The classes consist of an average of 22 pupils, thus allowing individual coaching and support. In addition to cognitive learning, emphasis is also put upon skills, such as team work, sportmanship and an early introduction to other languages and cultures.

All-day School

The bilingual school is an all-day school. The lessons are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participation in extra-curricular activities is voluntary, and takes place from 3 p.m. until 6 pm (except Friday till 5pm).

Timetables

The timetable allows effective learning organisation.

The 34-35 lessons per week are from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The long break from 12.45 includes lunch in the school mensa and time to play.

Daily Schedule after Lessons

Extra-curricular activities start after 3 p.m. Some of the activities offered are: games, handicrafts, sports, music and computer studies.



The timetable
allows effective learning organisation



Atrium



Maths is fun!



Classroom



Sports room

What does “immersion” mean?

Immersion means “totally plunging into” (a new language). In the bilingual education system the new language is “the working language” and the method of communication. One class teacher speaks only German, while the other class teacher only English, in accordance with the principle “one person-one language”. Everything that the “foreign language speaking” teacher says is stressed additionally with gesticulations, mimicry or pointing (showing objects). The child then understands the language, connecting the language piece by piece to the situation. This method reflects the natural way that children learn language, regardless of whether it is the first or second language. Immersion is a recognised method for teaching children. It is a strong motivator and does not pressure the child to perform. Immersion is not overwhelming for any child.

Children in pre-school and primary schools often enjoy immersion lessons more than German language lessons due to the fact that the immersion method is extremely versatile. The main objective of the teacher is to convey the content of the lesson and not the language. The language is a transmitter. Any initial lack of knowledge the children may have concerning the subject taught disappears within the first two years.

The “mother tongue” (first language) is not neglected but positively influenced. The children can learn a second foreign language in the 5th grade, earlier than is usual at the moment (6th grade or 7th grade). In this way the children gain time to intensify their knowledge of the second foreign language.

Fears that “the children won’t learn proper German” or “this way of learning is too demanding”, or “the children won’t learn the subject matter” are not justified. Often exactly the opposite is the case and these children perform better than those taught only in German.

Subjects

The subjects English, Science, Social Science, Art and Physical Education are taught in English. The percentage of English language lessons is around 50%.

The subjects German, Mathematics, Science, Music and Religion are taught in German. The percentage of German language lessons is around 50%.

The Content



Language Abilities

Bilingual education gives the pupils a better language competence in later years. Contact in primary schools with the new language should be without pressure, authentic and constant to ensure successful language learning. The new language should be consistently used.

Marks

There are two rules used when marking the lessons in the second language.

1. The pupil should not suffer any direct disadvantage due to the fact that tuition is in English. The lessons in English will not be marked more strictly than those in German. The willingness to speak should be encouraged.
2. It is important to respect the natural development of the language. The immersion method assumes that the second language is learned according to the same pattern with which the first language was learned, for the reason that the “language age” (the length of time the language has been learned) has to be taken into consideration.



Daily Schedule

Zeit	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag
8:00 - 8:40	Deutsch	Science	Musik	Deutsch	Religion
08:40 - 9:20	Deutsch	Science	Musik	Deutsch	Religion
9:20 - 9:40			Pause		
9:40 - 10:20	Mathematik	English	Sport	Mathematik	English
10:20 - 11:00	Mathematik	English	Sport	SA (NA)	SA (JC)
11:00 - 11:20			Pause		
11:20 - 12:00	English	Sachunterricht	Mathematik	English	Deutsch
12:00 - 12:45	English	Sachunterricht	Mathematik	English	Deutsch
12:40 - 13:45			Mittagspause		
13:40 - 14:20	Social Science	Schreibschrift	WP (NA)	Art	Sport
14:20 - 15:00	SA (JC)	SA (NA)	SA (NA)	Art	Sport

Bilingual Timetable

Grade Subjects	1		2		3		4	
	Ger	Eng	Ger	Eng	Ger	Eng	Ger	Eng
Religion	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	-
German	7	-	7	-	7	-	7	-
Social Science	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	2
Mathematics	5	-	5	-	5	-	5	-
Art	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	2
Sachunterricht	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Music	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	-
Physical Education	-	4	-	4	-	4	-	4
English	-	7	-	7	-	6	-	6
(WP/SA)	(4)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Total per Language	18	16	18	17	18	16	18	16
Total	34		35		34		34	

Ger = tuition in German
WP = Wochenplan

Eng = tuition in English
SA = Schulaufgabe

Fees and Legal Status



Schwalbach am Taunus
40,000 m² grounds

Place of Tuition

The bilingual primary school is located in Schwalbach am Taunus, Am weißen Stein, and stands in 40,000 m² of grounds.

Admission Requirements

All children who meet the requirements to attend primary school can be admitted to the school. An interview and an entrance assessment are held in the school. Admission is decided upon by the Headmaster.

Legal Status

The bilingual primary school is a state-approved school with special educational character.

Fees

School:

4,800.00 €* per year 430.00 €* per month

Food /Care:

1,800.00 € per year 150.00 € per month

Total:

6,960.00 € per year 580.00 € per month

Registration fee:

260.00 € (a one-off payment)

Fees for learning materials are additional. The materials remain the pupil's property. A small charge is made for art, handicrafts, special topics and photocopies.

The amounts marked with * are tax deductible as extra expenses for the legal guardian, if he or she pays taxes in Germany.

Information and Advisory Service

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BiPriS = Bilingual Primary School
BiSMS = Bilingual Secondary Modern School
BiGS = Bilingual Grammar School
BiGS+ = Grammar School bilingual *plus*
GSsF = Grammar School Sixth Form

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taken in our schools.

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