

The preparatory class (VKL)

What is a preparatory class?

Children who come from another country to Baden-Württemberg and cannot speak German usually attend a preparatory class (abbreviation: VKL). It is also known as the welcome class. There they learn German so that they can soon attend the tuition in the regular classes. There is also a preparation course for adolescents who would like to begin vocational training. It is known as the VABO (Vorbereitung Arbeit und Beruf - Preparation for Work and Job). There too the emphasis is on developing German language skills.

In some schools, the preparatory class does not take place before, but in parallel to normal lessons. Each week the children or young people meet for a few hours in small groups. They spend the rest of the time in regular lessons, mostly in subjects such as mathematics, sport or art.

What is the advantage of the preparatory class?

In the preparatory class, pupils who do not speak German can be helped very well according to their needs. The content of the lessons can be adapted better than in the normal classes. Their improvement in the German language will be closely observed. The pupils practice writing, reading and speaking in German.

Do children have advantages through the preparatory class?

Attending the preparatory class helps children and adolescents to learn German as quickly as possible. Without knowledge in speaking, reading and writing, they would find it difficult to attend a regular class. They would understand less than other pupils.

By visiting the preparatory class, they can concentrate completely on learning German. This is very important for the regular lessons. The teachers of the preparatory class will know when a pupil can change to the regular class. This can be possible after several months. To make the change easier, the teachers in the preparatory class also talk about the topics that are explored in regular lessons.