

The orientation phase and learning at two levels at the Realschule

What is the orientation phase?

The teachers observe how the children learn in year 5. Here, the assessment of abilities takes place for all pupils at the intermediate level, which leads to the Realschulabschluss (intermediate certificate of secondary education). Pupils can realise their potential in this phase and show that they can cope with the demands of the intermediate level.

Higher-achieving and lower-achieving pupils receive appropriate support in lessons. At the end of this phase, it is then decided whether the pupils continue their studies in **year 6 at G level (= basic level, corresponds to the level of the Hauptschule) or M level (= intermediate level, corresponds to the level leading to the Realschulabschluss).**

The pupils' academic performance decides the level at which they generally learn in all subjects. If they do not reach the intermediate level, the parents and the pupil will be invited to a consultation meeting.

Is it possible to change levels from year 6 onwards?

Level changes are possible every half-year, depending on academic performance. The school and the parents decide together if the pupil should change level.

How does learning at two levels work?

The Realschule decides according to local conditions whether to teach both levels within a class group or offer separate classes for different levels. It is also possible that the children in a class are taught separately in individual subjects, depending on their level.

In a school alliance between a Realschule and a Werkrealschule/Hauptschule, level G will in future only be offered at the Werkrealschule/Hauptschule after the orientation phase.

What advantages does this have?

- The children are not split up too early
- Every child has time to develop
- There are more ways to find the right path

The path to the right school-leaving qualification is not fixed. Even with a lower certificate of secondary education, you can continue learning later. The aim is to give every child the best possible chance.