



INFORMATION ON THE SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON LEARNING

During the current phase of the coronavirus pandemic, schools in Berlin will continue to operate as in-person learning facilities. However, mandatory in-person learning has been suspended until 28 February 2022 inclusive. This means that pupils may attend school in-person or continue their learning from home subject to providing written notice of de-registration from a parent/guardian or themselves if they have reached legal age. Please also observe the following:

General

Schools are taking health and safety measures to ensure that pupils can continue to attend school in-person. In-person teaching will remain the rule. This is particularly important during early years learning, final year programmes and integration classes (so-called 'Willkommensklassen').

The in-person rule also applies to after-school classes and activities (so-called 'ergänzende Förderung und Betreuung'). In the event of staff shortages, these activities may be offered between 7:30 and 16:00 only, instead of between 6:00 and 18:00.

If pupils wish to learn from home until 28 February 2022 instead of at school in order to prevent the spread of the infection, their school must be informed of this informally in writing by either the pupil themselves, if they have reached legal age, or their guardian(s) - the school must be informed in advance or at the latest at the start of the first day of school, on which they will be learning from home.

These pupils must learn from home for at least one school week. There are no provisions for attending

school only for individual periods or days. The school administration will take decisions on exceptions. Pupils at vocational schools must additionally coordinate with their work placement.

Pupils can of course return to regular in-person teaching earlier than the date which they initially declared as their return date.

If pupils wish to continue to learn from home after the winter holidays, this must be recorded on the form as an authorised absence as follows: "... has chosen not to attend in-person learning from ... to ... inclusive." (in German: "... hat vom ... bis zum ... von der Option der Nichtteilnahme am Präsenzunterricht Gebrauch gemacht").

At-home learning activities

Pupils must complete the learning activities which their school sets them during their absence at home. They must also stay up-to-date on the content that has been taught in the in-person lessons. This content may also be important at exam time.

For children in primary education, parents must ensure that their children complete their learning activities at home. If a primary-level child is absent from school for more than five school days, parents should meet with the school to discuss the child's learning. This can be coordinated with the parents as a home visit, virtually or by phone.

This meeting might be particularly sensible for children attending an SEN school or whose learning conditions at home are complicated.

A meeting with the parents can also be held at the school if invited by the teaching staff.

Parents do not have a right to demand school-led at-home learning. Each school will decide which options can be offered and to what extent based on the level of staff available.

School grades

Primary education and secondary education first stage/Grundschule und Sekundarstufe I

Pupils who fail a written exam (Klassenarbeit) due to being absent will be given a date for a retake by 11 March 2022. If the pupil is also excused from attending the retake, their grade will be determined based on alternative pieces of work.

Upper secondary education/Gymnasiale Oberstufe

End-of-term exams (Klausur) in upper secondary education must still be taken in-person in order for a grade to be awarded. If grades cannot be determined during the so-called 'qualification phase' because the necessary work is not completed - whether or not the pupil has been excused - this may result in one of the following:

- The pupil will not be permitted to take their school-leaving exam (Abitur); or
- The pupil will be kept behind a year; or
- The pupil will leave their course of study.

Vocational schools and centres of further study/Berufliche Schulen und Oberstufenzentren

At these schools, examinations of all kinds are conducted in-person and according to the applicable hygiene and social distancing rules. Courses of

study at vocational schools will in principle continue to be conducted as mandatory in-person learning. For vocational courses and the Integrated Vocational and Practical Course/Integrierte Berufsausbildungsvorbereitung (IBA), this means that pupils are still required to achieve at least 70% in-person attendance. These schools will advise their pupils accordingly.

Job placements/Praktika

Job placements (occupational or in social services) constitute part of a pupil's learning. The rules on suspension of in-person learning until 28 February 2022 inclusive also apply to them.

Pupils from vocational schools and centres of further study who are on job placements or in a practical phase of their education will continue with their placements subject to taking necessary coronavirus measures. If it is not possible to offer placements or practical phases because of the pandemic, pupils will be required to undertake alternative pieces of work with practical relevance.

Progress tests (Vergleichsarbeit) in Grade 8

Progress tests (Vergleichsarbeit) in Grade 8 (VERA 8) begin before 28 February 2022 and are compulsory. Pupils learning from home will be given flexible alternatives for taking these tests.

School ID as proof of coronavirus status

Outside of the holidays, the school ID acts as proof of coronavirus status for those pupils who are not attending in-person learning until 28 February 2022 inclusive.

In-person learning is compulsory in the following cases

(Excluding risk groups)

- Examinations; however, under certain circumstances oral examinations can be taken as a

video call, including for pupils who are not in a risk group

- End-of-term exams (Klausur) in upper secondary education (Gymnasiale Oberstufe)
- Aptitude tests and entrance exams in the event that a school receives too many applicants, e.g. as part of transitioning to the next level of schooling
- Because of the particular profile of a pupil's school: elite sports schools, the Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach School for Music Excellence, the Berlin State Ballet School and School of Artistry

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