VIENNA BILINGUAL SCHOOLING – Bilingual Classes in Primary Schools

The VBS-bilingual programme aims to implement English, as well as German, as the languages of instruction from the first day of school.

The VBS-programme begins in **primary school** and continues through both **lower** and **upper secondary** schooling. As this is a continuous educational programme, enrolment in a bilingual class is only possible during the official enrolment period for a Year 1/1st Grade class. Late enrolment during the course of the school year or between school grades is not possible for pupils already enrolled in an Austrian school.

In certain cases, exceptions can be made for bilingual children moving to Vienna from abroad during the course of their primary education. However, these children must have already been educated bilingually and their school reports must be comparable to those of Austrian primary schools.

Further opportunities to join the VBS-programme are afforded at the transfer from primary to **lower secondary** and from lower secondary into **upper secondary school**.

Bilingual Education

In a bilingual class, your child will learn to read and write in their first or dominant language (German or English). Bilingual classes may be divided into two language groups for this purpose.

All other lessons may be taught in German, English or bilingually in a co-teaching setting.

In a bilingual class all subjects are taught according to the Austrian curriculum and a special curriculum has been developed for the subject of English.

Enrolment Procedure for School Year 2027/28

1. Enrolment for Year 1/1st Grade of primary school takes place in 2 phases.
   For the first part of the enrolment process, please arrange an appointment with the Head Teacher of the primary school of your choice between **Monday, 9th November and Friday, 13th November 2026**.

   A list of primary schools with bilingual classes can be found at the end of this information.

2. To help the Head Teacher decide whether a bilingual class will provide the best learning environment for your child, an **Orientation Talk** will be carried out as part of the enrolment process.

3. During the Orientation Talk your child's language skills in both English and German will be assessed in a relaxed, child-friendly atmosphere by an experienced team of staff.

   This orientation talk was developed, in co-operation with school psychologists of the Board of Education for Vienna and external experts from the University of Graz, and has been approved by the Federal Ministry of Education (BMB).

   During the orientation talk, the following aspects of language are assessed:
   - social skills and emotional competence
   - communicative strategies (flexibility within the languages)
   - good language skills in **both** English and German

4. Following the orientation talk, the Head Teacher will decide whether a bilingual class would provide the best learning environment for your child. You will be informed of this decision at the end of the first week of the enrolment period. In the event that a bilingual class is not the best option for your child, they are entitled to a place at this school, if it is near to where you live. Otherwise, you may enrol them at an alternative school close to your home.

5. You will receive official notification of allocation to the school from the Board of Education by the end of the winter semester (late January 2027). Once you receive this notification, you must arrange another appointment with the Head Teacher for the second part of enrolment process, which includes a school-readiness test (*Schulreife*).

   The allocation of school places is the sole responsibility of the Board of Education for Vienna. This is in accordance with the relevant statutory guidelines, which take into account factors such as the presence of siblings already attending the school, the school route, the number of available places, and other special school organisational requirements.

Bilingual classes are located at the following VBS Primary Schools:

GTVS 6	**Sonnenuhrgasse 3-5** **1060 Vienna**	✆ (+43) 1 4000 561610	Claudia Abendroth Head Teacher
		✉ direktion.906041@schule.wien.gv.at	
		🌍 https://vs-astrid-lindgren.schule.wien.at/	
OVS 16	**Herbststraße 86** **1160 Vienna**	✆ (+43) 1 4000 562652	Gabriele Prokop Head Teacher
		✉ direktion.916031@schule.wien.gv.at	
		🌍 https://www.volksschule-herbststrasse.at/	
VS 18	**Scheibenbergstraße 63** **1180 Vienna**	✆ (+43) 1 4000 562910	Solveig Traxler-Rochhart Head Teacher
		✉ direktion.918051@schule.wien.gv.at	
		🌍 https://scheibenberg.schule.wien.at/	
VS 19	**Grinzinger Straße 88** **1190 Vienna**	✆ (+43) 1 4000 562970	Petra Tunzer-John Head Teacher
		✉ direktion.919031@schule.wien.gv.at	
		🌍 https://vbs-grinzing.schule.wien.at/	
OVS 22	**Meißnergasse 1** **1220 Vienna**	✆ (+43) 1 4000 563720	Bettina Leitgeb Head Teacher
		✉ direktion.922091@schule.wien.gv.at	
		🌍 https://ovsmeissnergasse.schule.wien.at	
VS 22	**Leonard-Bernstein-Str.2** **1220 Vienna**	✆ (+43) 1 4000 563850	Michaela Barnert Head Teacher
		✉ direktion.922331@schule.wien.gv.at	
		🌍 https://donaucity.schule.wien.at/	
OVS 22	**Schüttaustraße 42** **1220 Vienna**	✆ (+431) 4000 560160	Edith Beigel Head Teacher
		✉ direktion.922141@schule.wien.gv.at	
		🌍 https://volksschule-kaisermuehlen.schule.wien.at/	

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