



Rights and obligations

For
Parents



English - Englisch

Dear parents

Your child is currently attending compulsory school and is learning new things every day. It is not only supported by the school, but also by you. Until your child entered kindergarten, you were solely responsible for his or her promotion and development, now you share this task with the school. You and the school are obliged to work together.

But what does that mean in concrete terms? Perhaps you have already thought about which topics you can have a say in and what you are responsible for. Or maybe you were unsure about the school's responsibilities. You will find answers to such questions in this flyer. It provides an overview of the most important rights and obligations of school and parents in cooperation.

Children and adolescents benefit from a good relationship between school and parents. For this reason, the commitment to good cooperation is very worthwhile. It is very important to me that everyone is committed to this together, so that a good working relationship can be achieved!

Stefan Kölliker

President of the Education Council and
Head of the Department of Education



Most important facts at a glance

Together with the school, you bear the responsibility for the education and upbringing of your child. That is why cooperation is needed.

The cooperation is in the interest and for the benefit of your child. Together, you and the school can do the best to support its promotion and healthy development.

A regular exchange between you and the school is important. In discussions, you and the school inform each other about topics that are important for your child's school situation.

Appreciative and respectful communication strengthens trust. This forms the basis for a good relationship between you and the school.

There are legal regulations for the cooperation. These determine what you as parents are responsible for and what the school's responsibilities are.



Parents – Rights and obligations

Rights

- You can attend your child's lessons at any time if you register with the teacher in advance.
- You are entitled to obtain information and advice from the teacher on your child's performance and development.
- The school involves you in important decisions concerning your child (e.g. repetition of a class or implementation of special educational measures) and talks with you in advance. You have the possibility to appeal against decisions of the school.
- It is your right that the school offers lunch. If your child uses this service, the school may require a financial contribution from you.

Obligations

- You are responsible for ensuring that your child attends school. If it is unable to attend school, you must notify the teacher before classes begin. On two half days per school year, you can take your child out of class without giving reasons ("joker days"). An early written notification to the teacher is sufficient.
- You are responsible for
 - the way to school. If this is not reasonably possible, the school will provide transport.
 - the appropriate behaviour and correct clothing of your child.
 - the choice of profession and school after compulsory education. The teacher supports your child and works together with you.
- You are responsible for informing the school about everything that is important for the education and upbringing of your child. For example, it is important for the school to know if your child does not feel well at school, has problems with homework or is burdened by a special situation at home.
- You are obliged to take part in discussions (e.g. the assessment interview) with the school and to support the school in the implementation of school measures (e.g. attendance at a speech therapy session).

School – Rights and obligations

Rights

- The school has the right to organise school operations independently within the framework of cantonal regulations. For example, it divides the children and adolescents into classes and school units, draws up the timetable and determines school-free days and special teaching events.
- The school has the right to make important decisions for the promotion and development of your child, such as the placement of your child in secondary or secondary modern level or the implementation of special educational measures.
- Teachers organise their lessons independently within the framework of cantonal regulations. They can give homework and take disciplinary measures.
- The school may impose fines on parents who significantly violate their obligation to cooperate or fail to ensure that their child attends school.

Obligations

- The school is responsible for providing adequate and free tuition. All children and adolescents are to be given appropriate support.
- The school is responsible for the pupils during the lessons. This also includes breaks, any intermediate lessons and special classroom events.
- The school must maintain contact with you and inform you actively and early on about all important issues. At least once a year, it must organise a school visit day.
- The teacher must keep you informed about your child's performance and development and must conduct an assessment interview with you at least once a year.

Further information

A detailed information brochure on the rights and obligations of schools and parents is available for download at www.volksschule.sg.ch → Contents for parents.

On the website you will also find:

- Information sheets on topics related to the St.Gallen primary school, such as the St.Gallen school system or assessment;
- Information on the wide range of advisory services available in the canton of St.Gallen, such as the regional careers advisory centres or school social work;
- Regional event calendars with further education events for parents and caregivers.

Do you have questions or would you like to learn more about a topic? Your child's teacher is the first point of contact. The school management is also available for a conversation.

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