

F.A.Q. – Bilingual Teaching at BRG 19

What is the VBS-System? What are Bilingual Classes?

In a nutshell, the VBS class, (or Bilingual Class,) **uses both German and English equally as languages of instruction**. Students are typically taught by a German-speaking teacher together with a Native Speaker Teacher. Assessment is also conducted in both languages.

Both English and German are treated as first languages, with the goal of students developing all skills and competencies equally in both.

Should you feel your child is linguistically competent in both languages, we would welcome your application for the Bilingual Class. Please be aware, however, that a final decision on your child's suitability for the VBS class is only made after an Orientation Talk at the school.

What is required for admission to the Bilingual 1st Year Class?

Admission to the Bilingual 1st year class differs from the standard classes in that it requires a successful Orientation Talk.

Following a successful Orientation Talk, the same admission criteria apply to the bilingual class as to the standard class. These include: AHS- Reife, catchment, siblings attending the school, and the primary school 4th-grade Report (Zeugnis).

Please note the following application stages:

- Register for an Orientation Talk at **ONE** VBS school before the 9th January 2026. Scan the QR-Code to register.
- Register for an Enrollment meeting with the Director.
Registration period: 7th January – 14th January 2026.
- Receive a positive result from the Orientation talk at your chosen VBS School. (19.1.-21.1.25)
- Attend the Enrollment Meeting with the Director after the February Half-term break.



PLEASE NOTE:



- **An Orientation Talk can only be attended at ONE school!**
- **A positive result from an Orientation Talk does NOT mean that your child definitely has a place at our school.** Your child must meet the same admission criteria as the standard class— AHS- Reife, catchment, siblings attending the school, and the primary school 4th-grade Report (Zeugnis)—in addition to being found suitable for the bilingual program.

Is it possible to join the bilingual program in a later school year?

Yes, but entry into a Bilingual Class from years 2 - 6 requires an Orientation Talk. This talk helps us determine if the programme is a good fit for your child at their current schoolyear level (i.e. is your child able to deal with bilingual education in the 6th schoolyear **AND** keep up with 6th form physics etc.) Admission is also contingent on a place being available in the class, and the final decision rests with the school director. Please note that entry into grades 7 or 8 is not possible.

What is an Orientation Talk and why is it required?

We require an Orientation Talk to ensure your child can successfully follow the Austrian curriculum and perform academically in both English and German.

During this meeting, students participate in group and individual activities to demonstrate their proficiency in both languages.

The meetings are led by our experienced bilingual teachers, who are fully familiar with the programme's requirements.

After all talks have been completed, you will be notified of the results, in writing.

How are the Bilingual classes assessed?

All instruction in the bilingual class is based on the standard Austrian curriculum. To ensure both languages are treated equally, the English as a First Language curriculum is based upon the Deutsch curriculum. All tests and assessments are conducted in both English and German, and students receive a standard Austrian report at the end of each year as well as a Bilingual Austrian school-leaving certificate.