



Information for parents on the voluntary subject *Humanistische Lebenskunde*

Humanistische Lebenskunde (Humanistic Life Skills) at elementary school

Dear parents and guardians,

At schools in Berlin and Brandenburg, *Humanistische Lebenskunde* is offered on equal footing with religious education and is currently attended by over 70,000 pupils. You can decide whether or not your child takes part in this voluntary program.

What is *Humanistische Lebenskunde*?

Humanistic Life Skills is a values-orientated subject based on humanistic world views and scientific knowledge about people, nature and society. The lessons provide a space for everything that concerns children and focuses on their interests, experiences, questions and problems, their feelings and thoughts. For the youngest children, it's a particularly good opportunity to discuss their impressions of the new school environment, as well as possible conflicts or insecurities. The curriculum includes topics such as friendship and responsibility, children's everyday life and the adult world, war and peace, children's and human rights, as well as questions about the meaning of life. Our teachers encourage and support the students to think about themselves and the world and to develop points of view from a non-religious, humanistic perspective.

What happens in class?

Playful and creative learning through role play, painting, handicrafts and the inclusion of a wide range of media are possible even with the youngest pupils in order to approach a topic with all the senses. Younger children in particular experience the world not only through hearing and seeing, but also enthusiastically with their whole body, through movement, dance and play. In this way, they get to know themselves and the others in the group, learn to respect each other and to listen to each other. Dealing with their feelings, resolving conflicts peacefully and developing a sense of community are essential experiences. Acquiring these and other social skills is an important aim of the lessons in *Humanistische Lebenskunde*.

As no grades are given in this subject and the framework curriculum is flexible, teachers can respond to the children's concerns and needs without time or performance pressures.

Who is responsible for *Humanistische Lebenskunde*?

The Humanist Association Berlin-Brandenburg (Humanistischer Verband Berlin-Brandenburg KdöR) is responsible for the subject. It qualifies, commissions and supervises the teachers of *Humanistische Lebenskunde*.

Who can take part?

The lessons of *Humanistische Lebenskunde* are generally open to all pupils. The prerequisite for participation is written registration by parents or legal guardians. From the age of 14, any student can declare their willingness to take part.

We look forward to welcoming your child to *Humanistic Life Skills* class.

The enrollment form can be obtained from the school and is also available in various languages on our website: www.lebenskunde.de (Page: [Anmeldung zur Humanistischen Lebenskunde](#)).

Contact:

Humanistischer Verband Deutschlands, Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg KdöR, Humanistische Lebenskunde, Wallstraße 61-65, 10179 Berlin, Tel. 030 61 39 04 60, info@lebenskunde.de, www.lebenskunde.de