



Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium, Bonn



Gymnasium der Stadt Bonn mit internationalem Profil

Bilingual deutsch-französischer Bildungsgang und bilingual deutsch-englische Bildungswege

Mission Statement

Mutual Understanding and Comprehension in European and International Cooperation

We aim to foster present and future responsibility and solidarity of the individual both in their everyday life and in a European and international context. Our main focus on language learning with multilingualism and interculturalism as its objective enables sophisticated participation in the culture of others from the perspective of the individual thus enhancing a peaceful future in an increasingly globalised world.

Mathematical and scientific, cultural and vocational orientation are further key areas prioritized at our school contributing to a well-rounded education of our students.

Independent, active and self-determined learning which arouses curiosity, encourages critical thinking skills and maintains and preserves the joy of learning, the promotion of our students' talents and their commitment to achieve and to take on challenges as well as the formation of democratic values and social competence through an ethical, social and historical orientation and opportunities to participate form the basis of a holistic education at our school.

Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium as a Learning Site

School Profile

Education at our school is target-oriented and defined by transparent standards corresponding to the curriculum which is based on the requirements for the Abitur in the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, a demanding programme designed for pre-university studies.

Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium is the only school of its kind in Germany which enables students to work towards three university entrance certificates simultaneously: the German Abitur, the French Baccalauréat (AbiBac) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB DP). In addition, the CertiLingua certificate (CL) is awarded if, beyond multilingual and bilingual competences, proof of participation in an international cooperation project is provided. Furthermore, students are granted the opportunity to earn further language certificates such as the Diplôme d'Études en langue française (DELF) and the Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE).

In 1999, Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium was the first school in North Rhine-Westphalia to be awarded the European Language Label. In 2017 it was awarded the LabelFrancEducation by France for making significant contributions to promoting the French language which was confirmed 2021. For our special commitment to European issues, we were awarded the label European School in the year 2021 and became an Erasmus+ accredited school in 2022.

Multilingualism

Since 2004 all students learn the two modern foreign languages English or French from 5th grade on with a particular emphasis on one of them. We are committed to an on-going development of systematic bilingual learning opportunities. Language teaching is therefore linked with other subjects from early years on. In the bilingual German-French course of education French as the working language in Geography and History is gradually introduced in the intermediate level. In the English stream shorter German-English bilingual units are taught in 8th grade and German-English bilingual electives in Philosophy and History are offered in 9th and 10th grade respectively. In 9th grade students choose either Spanish or Latin as their third foreign language or opt for the science course Mission to Mars which is partly taught in English. Students who opt for Latin or the course Mission to Mars in the middle school can choose Spanish as a new foreign language in the first year of the upper school.

Due to the great number of students interested in studying English more intensively an English-bilingual class was offered as a pilot project in the school year 2020/21.

Interculturality

Learning foreign languages is particularly successful when students learn their authentic application. This is backed by extensive exchange programmes: All students in a French-German bilingual class participate in a student exchange in 6th or 7th grade in which they spend one week attending school in France and hosting a French student from this school for as long. Students in an English-German class participate in a similar program in Scotland or England during 8th grade. Moreover, we participate in international encounters within the framework of Erasmus+ as well as in student encounters like Model International Criminal Court or Model European Parliament. Our school also fosters exchange on a cultural level, for example at international choir meetings. Individual international student exchange programmes spanning at least six months are promoted during 11th grade. Our pupils meet students from other cultural backgrounds with curiosity, openness and tolerance and thus contribute to a vivid cultural life.

Furthermore, annually changing foreign language assistants from Spain, France, Great Britain and the USA support language proficiency and understanding of other cultures at our school. Though the majority of our students are German, there is an enormous cultural diversity in our student population. Since 2014 students of our international classes get special training in German for two years to prepare them for the German school system.

Scientific and Mathematical Orientation

We want to enable our students to make rational judgements based on scientific knowledge, assess the interrelation of theory and practice, critically examine the achievements of natural sciences and current trends and thus take responsibility for shaping the world. Since 2011 Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium is an officially acclaimed MINT (Mathematics, Information Technology, Natural Sciences, Technology STEM)-friendly school due to its various intra- and extra-curricular learning opportunities in these fields of study. These offers include the science course Mission to Mars, courses in Chemistry, Physics and Biology at an advanced level during the two final years, a chemistry, an explorer and an information technology club as well as an accelerated mathematics club for particularly gifted students.

Additionally, students of all grades participate in different mathematics and science competitions such as the mathematics and the chemistry olympics every year. The award MINT-friendly school was confirmed in three recertifications in 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2023.

Cultural Orientation

We provide students with a variety of cultural experiences and aesthetic education allowing self-expression and the development of creativity and new perspectives. Among the wide range of opportunities offered at our school is an advanced arts course, a vocal course, a project course, choirs for different age groups, orchestras and various theatre, art and music clubs. Concerts, performances and exhibitions appreciated by the school community take place throughout the year at Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium. To ensure access to cultural events for students of all ages, we have established a cultural programme which links visits to exhibitions, readings, theatre, cinema, concerts and opera with the curriculum of the language subjects in all grades. Moreover, we integrate the museums' educational services as well as the services of other cultural institutions and our cooperation partners in our planning and teaching.

Vocational orientation

Together with its cooperation partners Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium provides a wide range of opportunities for vocational counselling and guidance both in and outside class. Already from grade 5 on students are for example actively encouraged to take part in the annual Girls' and Boys' Day, a nationwide day of action that allows for boys and girls to explore typically female and male professions.

An analysis of the students' potentials and individual strengths reveals their skill profile, competence development and areas for growth during middle school. Moreover, they gain insight into different professions during several hand-on work experience days, an optional three-day placement and a compulsory two-week work placement. Consistent with our school profile internships can also be carried out abroad.

In the upper school this programme is supplemented by a career orientation certificate developed by our school. This allows our students to document their participation in various activities concerning career and tertiary educational orientation. Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium received an award for providing excellent opportunities in this field in 2014 which was confirmed in 2018 and 2022.

Independent learning

Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium promotes independent, experience-related, active and student-oriented learning, which arouses curiosity and strengthens intrinsic motivation. Individual learning support is provided that enables students to monitor their own results. We make students aware of strategies and techniques of learning how to learn and ensure that subject-specific and interdisciplinary competences are acquired. Support for independent learning is achieved through the organization of teaching time, which contributes to a deceleration of the school day. Supplementary lessons serve to promote the languages, further support is available through remedial courses and learning coaches.

Learning sites such as the Centre de Documentation et d'Information (CDI) and the self-learning centre offer opportunities for research-based learning and enable our students to creatively develop their own strategies.

Furthermore, Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium shares its own school retreat centre in the Eifel, an area of natural beauty approximately one hour from Bonn, with its partner school (Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Gymnasium, Bonn) to which all 5th through 9th graders take an annual weeklong trip. This centre also serves as a site for independent and project-oriented learning.

In 9th grade all of our students participate in the Model European Parliament organized at our school. It is one of several projects at Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium in which students acquire research and communication skills, thinking skills, social skills and self-management skills.

Promotion of talents

We are committed to promoting the special talents and gifts of our students. Among the opportunities we provide for them is the explorer's club which allows high achievers to get to know research methods of scientists allowing them work on their own projects during the school day. Moreover, we offer the highly-gifted the possibility to participate in courses at higher grade level in specific subjects, to take two elective courses simultaneously or to take part in a programme of the University of Bonn, in which university performance certificates are acquired during the school years. Our students successfully participate in various language, mathematics, scientific, history and arts competitions. Furthermore, we offer a wide range of projects requiring a high level of organisational skills and independence as well as several extracurricular activities in the fields of sport, music, art, theatre, health care and social commitment.

Formation of values

We promote the development of values and attitudes such as solidarity, tolerance, participation and responsibility in our students and foster their conscious involvement in this process. While taking in account their personal situation at our school this requires a responsible confrontation with the past, present and future of our society as well as the demands and consequences of social and economic processes both in and outside the classroom.

The development of social competence and responsibility for the community is part of the Lions Quest Programme at Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium in 5th and 6th grade. In addition to this programmes that focus on the training of social skills and fostering non-violent communication are offered to groups if required.

Moreover, FEG has a long tradition of participating in "Aktion Tagwerk – Dein Tag für Afrika", a national charity event for Africa that a vast number of students and teachers gets engaged in.

We offer several opportunities for our students to actively participate and take responsibility at our school. Students become active members of the Fair-Trade-Club, they initiate projects and events, others train to become members of the First Aid club or to support sports activities, selected 8th and 9th grades are trained as mentors and conflict mediators each year to accompany lower grades on class trips, help to communicate between teachers and students, and serve as role models to younger pupils. Student coaches help younger students to learn how to learn.

Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium as a place to live

We believe that there is a connection between education and well-being of all members of the school community. A four-day introductory programme for our 5th grades, close cooperation with parents, support and clear structures ensure a successful start. During the breaks, there are opportunities for younger students to do sports in the playground or to read in the school library. Lunchtime and homework supervision for 5th and 6th graders allow younger students to eat, revise and play together at the end of a school day. Older students use their own schoolyard, a special room and the pedagogical centre during their breaks.

Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities in the form of student clubs organized by different teachers of our school that meet during lunch break or after school. These activities include but are not limited to the school orchestra and choir, a theatre club, a graphic design club, several language clubs, and a very popular student rowing association. Annual cultural and sports events bring the school community together on several occasions. A lot of time spent on joint school trips and extracurricular activities contributes to the well-being of our students. Our school also has a very active student council that organizes several activities and events for the entire student body every year. Parents and legal guardians are also actively involved in shaping our school life through the formation of various work groups and the organisation of parents' festivals at our school.

Support for problems beyond the classroom is provided by mentors trained in conflict resolution, class teachers or heads of year, coordinators, liaison teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists. In middle school well-being of students is supported by preventive measures like anti-bullying programmes, assertive courses for girls and addiction prevention support. All members of the school community are committed to appreciative, transparent and constructive communication.

For all areas that make our school a living space, we get support from several of our cooperation partners who complement and support our work.

The further development of Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium is not just shaped by requirements of the educational authorities and current developments, findings and demands from research but also by suggestions from various committees, such as the Student Council, the Parent Board, the Staff Conference, Faculty Conferences or the school's management team. Suggested changes and amendments are frequently and intensively discussed and after the review process is completed decided upon in the School Conference, a committee equally composed of representatives of pupils, teachers and parents.

Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium as a Workplace

The qualitative development of our school decisively depends on teachers, trainee teachers and other staff for whom Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium is also a workplace.

All employees at the Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium treat each other with respect and appreciation. The school management is not only in regular exchange with the committees, but also with the teaching staff. The strong involvement of the teaching staff in decision-

making processes, the development of goals and values and the initiation of processes is a particular strength of our school. This is implemented through timely, transparent and systematic information, planning and organisation, careful preparation, evaluation of surveys or school-relevant data and invitations to joint meetings in which upcoming issues are discussed. In addition, consideration of the potential and interests of the teachers allow a sensible distribution of tasks and to enable further qualification, which benefits the further development of the school. Regular teacher training opportunities for the entire teaching staff on upcoming topics as for example on the digital transformation or on special tasks of our school, are jointly initiated, decided, prepared and evaluated. Personnel deployment at our school is planned transparently and carefully to ensure conducive working conditions. The time structure of the school day, developed jointly by the school committees, benefits the teachers in their work through deceleration. The same applies to the use of classrooms, which provides a separate room for class teachers. With regard to the equipment and structural design, we work closely together with the school authority and our contact for human resources is the district government.

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