

Excerpt from the

school navigator

Where to go after primary school?  
Guide to secondary schools in Herford

You can find the complete school navigator at:  
**[www.herford.de/schulnavigator](http://www.herford.de/schulnavigator)**

This translation was funded by the  
state programme,  
"KOMM-AN NRW" (COME TO NRW).



## **Dear parents,**

Your child is now in year 4. Soon they will be attending a secondary school. Many questions will surely be arising for you and your child at this time:

- What's next?
- What do the primary school recommend?
- How do we find the right secondary school together?

At half term, your child will receive a school recommendation which should help you in selecting a secondary school for your child. The Hanseatic town of Herford offers a diverse and vibrant selection of schools.

We have 3 grammar schools, 3 vocational secondary schools, 1 comprehensive school and 1 school for children with learning difficulties.

With this brochure, we will present the secondary schools that the Hanseatic town of Herford has to offer. Each school in Herford has its own profile, its own (learning) focus. Learning about these can help you make a decision on which school best suits your child.

Highly motivated and qualified teachers will guide your child to the school leaving qualifications with the best possible support. However, the teaching time, associated pedagogical concepts and extra provisions such as lunch, childcare or full-day care may also be of interest to you.

The task of the Hanseatic town of Herford is to build the foundations for a strong learning environment and, therefore, the education of our children with the expertise and facilities of our schools. Herford regularly invests in schools. In the last 6 years alone, this amounted to around 12 million Euros. The highest priority for this investment was the workrooms for biology, chemistry and physics. This is money well spent, as we are investing in the future of our children.

I am sure that you will find the suitable school for your child with optimal learning conditions in our town and we wish you and your child the best start at their new school.

Yours faithfully,

Birgit Froese-Kindermann  
Deputy for Education, Youth and Social Issues

# **FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL**

## **Primary school**

Your child has got to know primary school very well over the last few years. The teachers there know what your child struggles with and where they shine. Your child's primary school will give a recommendation on which type of secondary school is suitable to further encourage and support your child. In North-Rhine Westphalia, parents can decide which school their child attends. There are individual advisory services to help make this decision at all primary schools. You can speak to the teachers and other support personnel at the primary school about this recommendation. You should take the recommendation from the primary school seriously.

## **Open days**

It's a good idea to make use of open days with your child. All secondary schools offer these trial days in November, December and January. You can take a look around the classrooms and get to know the teachers. At some schools, trial lessons are also offered for the children. These first impressions are key. They can help you and your child make a decision about schools.

## **Registration**

With the half-term report and the primary school recommendation, you can register your child at the school of your choosing. The dates will be published in good time in the papers and on the Internet. The registration dates will also be given to you in writing by the school administration. In Herford, there is 1 comprehensive school, 3 vocational secondary schools and 3 grammar schools.

To register your child at a secondary school, you need the following documents:

- Birth certificate or family register
- Most recent school report with the recommendation from the primary school
- Education plans, if necessary
- Court ruling in the case of sole custody

The prerequisite for taking children into the 5th year of schooling is the successful completion of the 4th year at primary school.

All head teachers are available for advice throughout the registration days.

## **Qualifications**

There are different kinds of qualifications possible at the schools.

There are:

- The Hauptschulabschluss (secondary modern school qualification) at the end of year 9
- The Hauptschulabschluss (secondary modern school qualification) at the end of year 10
- General Certificate of Secondary Education at the end of year 10 (vocation extension certificate) - with and without professional qualification commendation
- Vocational baccalaureate diploma - School-based part
- Higher education entrance qualification

Each child should receive the best possible qualification according to their abilities. After year 10, pupils who have qualified may switch to a grammar school, comprehensive school or vocational college in order to achieve the vocational baccalaureate diploma or the higher education entrance qualification.

## **Advice**

The following can give you advice on the transition to secondary school:

- **School board for the Herford District**  
Amtshausstr. 3  
32051 Herford  
Telephone: 05221 13-1469

or the

- **Regional Education Guidance Centre for the Herford District**  
Ravensberger Str. 6  
32051 Herford  
Telephone: 05221 2 84 98 60

## **Special educational needs / inclusion**

Does your child have special needs? The shared learning of children with and without special educational needs currently takes place at four secondary schools in Herford:

- Ernst-Barlach-Realschule
- Gesamtschule Friedenstal
- Königin-Mathilde-Gymnasium
- Otto-Hahn-Realschule

Make use of the **open days** at these schools and ask specifically for “shared learning” and the support opportunities for your child.

## **School journey costs**

Pupils who live more than 3.5 kilometres from the nearest secondary school qualify for a ticket for public transport. You can get more information on school journey costs from the offices of the Hanseatic town of Herford, telephone 05221 189-646.

# WHICH SCHOOL IS BEST FOR YOUR CHILD?

**These types of schools exist in Herford:**

## **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**

- Broader and deeper general education
- Preparation for training or university studies
- Alignment of the learning tempo to the knowledge and abilities of the children

Comprehensive schools prepare pupils for vocational training as well as for university studies. Pupils with different learning abilities can learn together at comprehensive schools. At comprehensive schools, children can develop over a longer period and achieve all levels of qualifications. Pupils who need more time to learn can also find this at comprehensive schools.

In some subjects, lessons are given on a basic level and an advanced level in order to satisfy the different levels of knowledge and skills of pupils. Therefore, all children are challenged and supported according to their level of performance.

There is no **trial stage**, so children do not have to leave after year 6.

At the parents' request, it is possible to repeat a year if the pupil would be better supported by this.

**The general qualification for university entrance can be achieved after 13 years of schooling.**

At comprehensive schools, all qualifications from the upper and lower secondary schooling levels can be achieved:

- The Hauptschulabschluss (secondary modern school qualification) at the end of year 9
- The Hauptschulabschluss (secondary modern school qualification) at the end of year 10
- General Certificate of Secondary Education (vocation extension certificate) - with and without professional qualification commendation
- Advanced technical college certificate (vocational baccalaureate diploma) - School-based part
- General matriculation standard (general qualification for university entrance)

In the Hanseatic town of Herford, there are the following comprehensive schools:

- **Gesamtschule Friedenstal.**

## **VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

- Broader general education
- Promotion of practical skills
- Creating interest in theoretical contexts

Vocational secondary school offers an extended general education. Practical skills are promoted just as much as the interest in theoretical contexts. Vocational content in all subjects is taken into consideration with a view to taking on an apprenticeship.

### **Encouraging special talents**

Vocational secondary schools can support specific abilities and set additional focus for lessons. Complementary lessons are a fixed component of the programme at vocational secondary schools. Pupil support is supplemented during these lessons. For example, in German, maths, foreign languages, sciences and vocational subjects.

At vocational secondary schools, the following qualifications can be achieved:

- Certificate equivalent to the secondary modern school qualification at the end of year 9
- Certificate equivalent to the secondary modern school qualification at the end of year 10
- General Certificate of Secondary Education (vocation extension certificate) - with and without professional qualification commendation

The General Certificate of Secondary Education, with at least satisfactory performance in all subjects, entitles attendance at the upper level of grammar school **or** the comprehensive school **or** the vocational grammar school at the vocational college.

If the pupils' performance at the end of year 10 is particularly good, direct transition to the qualifications phase in the upper level of grammar schooling or comprehensive schools is possible. Studying a second foreign language from years 6 to 10 is required for this.

Years 5 and 6 are the trial stage at the vocational secondary school (see also page 7)

In the Hanseatic town of Herford, there are the following vocational secondary schools:

- **Ernst-Barlach-Realschule**
- **Otto-Hahn-Realschule**
- **Geschwister-Scholl-Realschule**

## **GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

- Deeper general education
- Dealing with complex problem-solving questions
- Preparation for university studies

Grammar schools offer deeper general education which qualifies the pupil for university studies as well as technical vocational training. Lessons are aimed at guiding them through dealing with complex problem-solving issues and critical thinking.

In a continuous course of education, it comprises the lower secondary schooling level (years 5 to 10) as well as the subsequent three years of upper secondary schooling.

In years 5 to 7, almost all mandatory subjects are normally taught as a class.

As of the 2018/2019 school year, grammar schools normally guide pupils to general matriculation standard after 13 years of schooling. Upon request, grammar schools have the possibility to graduate after 12 school years.

**Enquire at the grammar school you are interested in!**

**At grammar schools, all qualifications from the upper and lower secondary schooling levels can be achieved:**

- Advanced technical college certificate (vocational baccalaureate diploma) - School-based part
- General matriculation standard (general qualification for university entrance)

The upper grammar school level or the vocational grammar school continues the course of education in the lower secondary schooling level and normally finishes with the exam for qualification for university entrance.

In the Hanseatic town of Herford, there are the following grammar schools:

- **Friedrichs-Gymnasium**
- **Königin-Mathilde-Gymnasium**
- **Ravensberger Gymnasium**

## **TRIAL PERIOD IN VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AND AT GRAMMAR SCHOOLS**

Years 5 and 6 are the trial stage at vocational secondary schools and grammar schools. In this period, pupils go into the next year without transferring. At the end of year 6, the performance of the child, their grades and their expected development decides whether they remain in this type of school, if they repeat the year or if they must switch to another type of school.

If a change of school is pending, the school shall suggest the new type of school to parents at the latest six weeks before the end of the school year.

## **SUPPORT SCHOOL**

Pupils with special support needs can also learn at support schools. There are seven different foci for support:

- Learning
- Speech
- Emotional and social development
- Sight
- Hearing and communication
- Mental development
- Physical and motor development

Support schools with a focus on "sight", "hearing and communication" and "physical and motor development" are found outside the district area. You can get information on this from the school board.

A support school is a school for children who cannot be supported in general schooling or not supported enough. Unsure if your child should attend a support school? Speak to the teachers at the primary school and get advice. You can also get advice from the school board for the district of Herford or at the Regional School Counselling Centre for the district of Herford - see page 3.

Depending on the support needs, there are different schools in the district area with the following support priorities:

- **Albert-Schweitzer-Schule, Herford**  
Support focus: Learning - Primary and secondary level - All day schooling
- **Eickhofschule, Hiddenhausen**  
Support school for social and emotional development  
Upper secondary level
- **Wittekindschule, Hiddenhausen**  
Support focus: Speech
- **Johannes-Falk-Haus, Hiddenhausen**

Support focus: Mental development

### **Imprint**

© Hanseatic town of Herford



Department for Education, Youth and Social Issues  
Hanseatic town of Herford  
Education and sport department  
Rathausplatz 1  
32052 Herford  
Telephone 05221 189-731  
Fax 05221 189-533

**Those responsible according to  
press law:**

Hanseatic town of Herford  
The Mayor

**Editorial staff:**

Education and sport department,  
Elmar Boenig, Heidi Pahlmeyer

**Text:**

Elmar Boenig, Susanne Körner

**Date published:** 2018