



Example of Frankfurt School Search Report for Family A

Prepared by Polly Collingridge/Parental Choice



Background

Parental Choice was asked by the client to conduct research into schools in Frankfurt, concentrating specifically on the options available for his eight-year-old daughter, whose primary languages are English and Japanese. We were informed, however, that the family would prefer a local school that was able to support children with learning German, rather than an international school. The aim would be to accelerate her German language skills, which are currently less strong. The family are currently based in the UK, where their daughter is in Year 4 at a prestigious, academically selective independent school in Hertfordshire.

Additionally, we were informed by the client that his daughter is a keen ballet student (working towards Royal Academy of Dance Grade 2) and young musician (Grade 2 piano and violin) and that she would like to play in an orchestra and appear in performances. Therefore, our research also needed to encompass finding opportunities for her to continue these extra-curricular studies. Japanese lessons and activities were also important, as was the chance to play chess, if possible. In general, a school with a wide range of extra-curricular activities was preferred.

The client will move to Frankfurt in March 2019 and will be joined by the rest of the family in July 2019. Although hard to know for sure at this point, they see themselves living in Frankfurt for 3-4 years. It was also discussed that an all-through school (one that did not necessitate a move between primary and secondary school after just one year in Frankfurt) would be preferable to minimise the upheaval for the client's daughter. The client has currently identified the Taunus (e.g. the towns of Kronberg, Bad Soden, Bad Homburg, Oberursel) as a preferred area in which to live but, at this stage, are happy to be guided by the school options open to them.



Outline of actual report

The subsequent 20-page report provided information on:

- The German school system (primary and secondary options, the structure of the school year)
- The Frankfurt school system specifically (international, bilingual and state options)
- An outline of the pros and cons of two different options for the client's daughter: Option 1 was to attend an all-through bilingual school, and Option 2 was to attend an elementary public school offering language assistance for foreigners for one year, and then to move either to a bilingual school or a public gymnasium offering bilingual tuition at secondary level.
- Details of 7 different possible schools (some bilingual, some public) in or accessible to the area in which the family hoped to live. The information provided for each school included:
 - Background details about the school and its ethos
 - Language(s) of tuition/predominant language spoken amongst the children/languages taught
 - Student demographics
 - Extracurricular activities offered
 - Admissions procedure
 - Fees/extras
 - Contact details
- Details of local extra-curricular activities as briefed, specifically:
 - Japanese lessons and activities
 - Chess training for children
 - Dance schools offering ballet and other types of dance instruction
 - Music schools offering individual piano and violin tuition
 - Private music teachers

For further information please contact the following:

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