

# The Subject *German* in Secondary School – Short Courses in German in Classes 7-10



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Preliminary note:

*Insofar as the following text uses the masculine form, it is assumed that this refers to both genders on equal terms.*

## I. St. Kilian's German School: a German and an Irish school – Guiding principles

As a German school in Ireland, St. Kilian's belongs to the network of German Schools Abroad, which is supported by the **Central Agency for German Schools Abroad** (Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen). In the 2015/2016 school year a German *Gymnasialer Bildungszweig* was introduced for the first time: this enables suitable students with either German as a foreign language or as their mother tongue to receive a comprehensive general education. From the 2018/2019 school year onwards, these students will be able to obtain **access to the final two years of a German Gymnasium or, in exceptional cases, obtain the**

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*Mittlerer Schulabschluss* (an intermediate school-leaving qualification at *Realschule* level). The *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang* is an **extension of the German School's educational offering** for the above-mentioned selected group of students. Students taking this course are taught **according to German *Gymnasium* standards**. In addition to the Irish curriculum, this includes German curricula, a specific timetable, special requirements, and the relevant directives and regulations of the *KMK* (Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs).

At the same time, St. Kilian's Secondary school is a **recognised Irish post-primary school**; it follows the Irish curriculum and prepares **all** students for the Irish state examinations (Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate).

German lessons are governed by the following **guiding principles**:

- Promotion of **tolerance and mutual understanding**, upholding the concept of inclusion, acceptance of diversity, education for a **peaceful balance of interests** and **conservation of the environment**, making a **contribution to international understanding**.
- Putting into practice the concept of a "school of encounter": teaching German culture and German language while at the same time dealing with other cultures; intercultural exchange.
- **Optimal support for all students according to their abilities; preparation for the best possible school graduation.**
- Support for students as they develop their **personality and self-confidence**, strengthen their **ability to analyse and evaluate**, and learn to think critically.
- Developing students into citizens with individual responsibility and, in particular, with the **ability to learn independently**.

## II. Subjects taught in German

**German is a compulsory subject.** All students take part in intensive German lessons and – depending on their performance – sit the *Sprachdiplom* language examinations. Students in the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang* only sit the *Sprachdiplom Level 2 examinations*.

For students with other mother tongues, German is taught as a foreign language (DaF). However, in accordance with the **DaF framework as established by the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad**, the time allocated to German is extended and the objectives are broader than in other Irish secondary schools.

As far as possible, and possibly in a differentiated way, students with German as their mother tongue participate in the German classes and also in the history lessons of the *Gymnasialer Bildungszweig*.

All students are prepared for the **Irish Leaving Certificate** examination in German at Higher Level; only in certain exceptional circumstances will students be permitted to sit the exam at Ordinary Level (see provisions below).

In addition, students are expected to take the *Sprachdiplom* examinations set by the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (exams up to Level C1 of the Common European Reference Framework), i.e. **Sprachdiplom I** and **Sprachdiplom II**. A **Bilingual Leaving Certificate** can also be acquired in accordance with the agreement between the German Government and the Government of Ireland (2006).

In addition to the German classes, there is a **Short Course, taught in German**, in 7th – 10th class for all students who are not participating in the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang* programme. This short course encompasses an in-depth study of German history, German politics and German culture. It is taught through German and is good preparation for students taking the Bilingual Leaving Certificate.

### III. The Structure of German lessons at St. Kilian's German School – Short Courses

Effective language teaching requires both **communicative skills** and **basic content**. St. Kilian's seeks to make use of the fact that the campus is shared by students with different mother tongues, by creating situations in which both foreign-language learners and native speakers can communicate through the medium of the target language. From secondary school level onwards, the school offers **content-based study** in the form of **short courses** alongside the German classes and customary foreign-language courses.

#### 1. Junior Cycle

At Junior Cycle level (7th – 9th class), St. Kilian's offers three German courses to which students are assigned: **DN, DF/DS, DM**:

DN (Deutsch <i>Neu</i> )	DF (Deutsch als Fremdsprache)  DS (from 9th class)	Combined Course (DM/Sek 1)
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<p>The <b>DN course</b> incorporates German Cultural Studies (Landeskunde). There are 6 lessons per week in the course.</p> <p>The course is intended for students who join the school at secondary level (1st year / 7th class) without any prior knowledge of German. It prepares students for the Higher Level <b>Junior Certificate</b> examination.</p> <p>At the same time, it lays the foundation for participation in the <b>Sprachdiplom I</b> in 10th class. Students with good exam results (B or better) at Junior Certificate level are expected to take this exam in 10th class.</p> <p>The course is complemented by the short course <b>Geschichte und Literatur</b> (History and Literature), which comprises two lessons per week in 7th and 8th classes and one lesson per</p>	<p>The <b>DF/DS course</b> is based on the primary school German course for foreign-language learners (DaF). There are 6 classes per week and the course includes German Cultural Studies (Landeskunde). The course is complemented by the short course <b>Geschichte und Literatur</b> (History and Literature), which comprises two lessons per week in 7th and 8th classes and one lesson per week in 9th class.</p> <p>The DF/DS course prepares all students for the <b>Junior Certificate</b> and also for <b>Sprachdiplom I</b> in 9th class.</p>	<p>This course is aimed at the following participants:</p> <p>a) <b>DM and DF students in the <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i> (Sek 1)</b>; these students do not take the <b>Sprachdiplom I</b> exam.</p> <p>b) <b>Mother-tongue students (DM) who are not part of the <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i> (Sek 1)</b>; these students take the <b>Sprachdiplom I</b> exam.</p> <p>There are 6 classes per week and the course is differentiated according to the German and Irish curricula.</p> <p>The students do not take the short course <i>Geschichte und Literatur</i>, but instead have <b>history lessons according to the German curriculum</b>. Further subjects of the <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i> are defined by the timetable.</p> <p>All students are <b>prepared for the Junior Certificate in 9th class</b>; <b>Sek I students</b> are also prepared for the German <b>exams in 10th class</b>, which allow students to access the two final years of a German Gymnasium or provide them with</p>
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week in 9th class.		an intermediate school-leaving qualification (at <i>Realschule</i> level): <i>Mittlerer Schulabschluss</i> .
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**Landeskunde (German Cultural Studies)** is an integral part of German lessons and focuses on cultural awareness. It comprises pragmatic aspects (e.g. lexical, structural and communicative skills) as well as factual and cultural information to enable students to assess the differences and the creative potential of the different cultures of Ireland and Germany.

### Complementation of German classes with the short course *Geschichte und Literatur* (History and Literature)

With the exception of the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang*, all students, from 7th to 9th class, take the short course entitled *Geschichte und Literatur*. This course is taught at different levels, depending on the language skills of the students. The primary focus of the course is **everyday life during the post-war period and at the present time**, the **special history and situation of Berlin**, and selected events from the **period of National Socialism**. The methodological focus is on **skills training**, especially with regard to reading comprehension, writing skills and analytical approaches. The subject also includes history-specific methodology and subject-specific terminology. A **comparative approach** is the guiding principle of the short course: taking into account their Irish, German and international experiences, students compare examples of their own everyday life with that of wartime and post-war children and in doing so develop a better understanding of their own situation against a particular historical background. The short course complements the regular English-language history lessons in the Irish curriculum.

At the **end of the short course** in 9th class (the one-hour course is condensed into a two-hour course and thus only taught in the first half of the year), the subject teachers assigned to these classes assist the German teacher in preparing for the **Sprachdiplom** examination or the Junior Certificate examination.

**Students do *not* have a free choice of courses.** They are assigned to the appropriate courses by the subject teachers. In line with the standards of St. Kilian's as a German school, pupils are expected to achieve the best possible Sprachdiplom.



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## 2. Transition Year

St. Kilian's offers three or four different German courses: **DN** (if such a course can be formed on the basis of sufficient registration numbers), **DL**, **DS** and a **Combined Course (DM / Sek I)**.

### Classification/assignment criteria:

Access to the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang* is governed by the *Versetzungsordnung* ("Regulation of Promotion") (from school year 2017/18 onwards).

Students of all other courses are assigned to the respective courses by the **subject teachers**. This assignment procedure is decided on before the beginning of the school year at a **meeting** of the German teachers, chaired by the Head of the German Department. In the event of a **change of course assignment**, the German teachers will communicate with parents verbally or in writing. The assignment is also communicated to the parents **in writing**. The decision can be appealed in writing to the Principal, whose decision is then binding. Students are assigned on the basis of their academic and linguistic progress. In this context, past progress in class and the results of the *Sprachdiplom* I exam are taken into account. Other pedagogical factors can also be considered.

Students in the DN group who have not achieved a "Satisfactory" grade (= grade 3) in German and have failed to achieve a B in the Junior Certificate in 9th class cannot be allocated to courses at Sprachdiplom level, which, in comparison with the *Leaving Certificate*, are taught at a higher level. They are prepared solely for the *Leaving Certificate* (Higher Level). Exceptions are decided upon by a departmental conference at the request of the German teacher.

### Course structure

DN/DL Course	DS Course	Combined Course (DM/Sek I)
<b>DN</b> = Deutsch neu, Beginners lessons for new students if a beginners	The <b>DS</b> course ( <b>6 classes per week</b> ) follows an advanced curriculum. It goes beyond the objectives of the DL course in	This course is for the following students:



<p>group is formed</p> <p><b>DL</b></p> <p>(= preparation for the Leaving Certificate, German from 7th class)</p> <p>Students have <b>9 classes per week</b> (including 3 hours of German Cultural Studies (<i>Landeskunde</i>)). Students in this course prepare exclusively for the <b>Leaving Certificate in 12th class.</b></p>	<p>that it prepares students for the <i>Sprachdiplom stage II in 12th class.</i></p> <p>The DS course is also used to prepare those students for the <i>Sprachdiplom I</i> examination who did not pass the exam in 9th class or who moved from the DN course to the DS course.</p> <p>The course is supplemented by the <b>short course <i>Geschichte und Politik</i> (History and Politics)</b> (see below).</p>	<p>a) DM and DF students in the <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i> (Sek 1)</p> <p>b) Mother-tongue students (DM) who are not part of the <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i> (Sek I)</p> <p>This course comprises 6 classes per week and is differentiated according to the German and Irish curricula.</p> <p>The students do not take the short course <i>Geschichte und Politik</i>, but instead have <b>history lessons according to the German curriculum.</b> Further <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i> subjects are defined by the timetable.</p> <p>In 10th class the <b>Sek I students</b> in this course take the German <b>exams</b> which allow students to access the two final years of a German Gymnasium or provide them with an intermediate school-leaving qualification: <i>Mittlerer Schulabschluss</i>. Therefore, they take part in the <b>Transition Year Programme</b> to a modified extent.</p>
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German courses in TY provide preparation for Secondary Level II, the Senior Cycle. Students in the DS and DM courses sit not only the Leaving Certificate but also the Sprachdiplom examination stage II in 12th class. Therefore, **academic study and intensive work** in German are particularly important in **Transition Year**. Unlike other years, **Transition Year** in German does not strictly follow a prescribed curriculum. It gives teachers and students leeway to explore areas of learning outside the examination-focused curriculum, e.g. cultural awareness (student exchanges, media studies, literature appreciation, drama, etc.).

**Short course *Geschichte und Politik* (History and Politics)** (only for DS and DM courses; from the 2017/18 school year onwards, only for DS courses):

In the short course *Geschichte und Politik* (3 hours per week), the **German political system** is taught using selected examples. At the same time, the course revisits elements of the short course *Geschichte und Literatur* in 7th – 9th class, links political structures with past experience, and in doing so expands the understanding of the politics and history of Ireland. The course prepares students for the *Bilingual History* course in the Senior Cycle, which can be chosen as a subject in the 11th and 12th classes (see below).

### German Cultural Studies (*Landeskunde*)

As in previous years, German Cultural Studies are included in German classes. Students acquire and intensify a fundamental cultural, historical, social and political knowledge of Germany. The use of IT skills as a key source of information for research work on many of the topics is encouraged.

### Subject choices

At the end of the school year students can select the **Bilingual Leaving Certificate** option.

### 3. Senior Cycle (11th and 12th classes)

The Senior Cycle comprises the following German courses:

DL	DS	DLL/DM
<p>This course (6 classes per week) follows the national curriculum for <b>German</b> (main course) and prepares students for the <b>Leaving Certificate</b> (Higher Level) only.</p>	<p>This course (6 classes per week) also follows the national curriculum (<b>Leaving Certificate</b>, Higher Level), but also prepares students for the <b>Sprachdiplom II</b> examination in 6th year / 12th class.</p> <p>Enrolment in the DS course requires the student to sit the DSD II examination.</p>	<p>This course (6 classes per week) also follows the national curriculum for German (Leaving Certificate, Higher Level). At the same time, the <b>curriculum for German Language &amp; Literature</b> is taught. This course is mandatory for all DM students and for those students wishing to acquire the <b>Bilingual Leaving Certificate</b>. It focuses more on text production and cultural awareness than the regular course. As part of the course, students are also prepared for the mandatory <b>Sprachdiplom II</b> examination.</p>

For pupils who have passed the *Sprachdiplom* examination (Level I) after **moving from the DN group**, the same assignment criteria apply as for the pupils who have acquired the *Sprachdiplom* in 9th class (see above). If a student has failed the DSD I exam and does not repeat DSD I, he/she will be assigned to the DN/DL group.

In 11th and 12th class, too, reallocation to another class is dependent and contingent upon consultation and agreement with the subject teacher and the Head of the German Department.

### **Bilinguale Geschichte (History)**

The **Bilingual Leaving Certificate** requires students to choose this subject. Four classes per week taught in German cover selected topics relating to European and world history; four additional classes per week cover Irish history **in English**. At the same time, the student must take the **DLL course**. Students who successfully complete the **History** and **DLL** courses in 12th class obtain the *Bilingual Leaving Certificate* (see below).

#### IV. Examinations and certification

##### 1. Examinations in the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang*

Only students who take part in the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang* sit these examinations. The special regulations and instructions set by the *Kultusministerkonferenz* (the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs) apply.

##### 2. Junior Certificate

All students are prepared for the German *Junior Certificate Higher Level* examination. However, individual exceptions are made for students who have struggled to reach adequate proficiency to sit the Junior Certificate at *Higher Level* and are encouraged to opt for *Ordinary Level*.

##### 3. Deutsches Sprachdiplom I and II

The German *Sprachdiplom* examinations take place in **9th (DSD 1) and 12th (DSD2) classes**. In 10th class **the DSD is taken by students who are retaking the exam and by those who moved from a DN course to a DS course after 9th class**. For students studying for the *Sprachdiplom* it is important to note that these exams are **not optional**. One of the requirements of the German School's status is that all DM and DS students participate in and complete *Sprachdiplom I & II*. As already mentioned, students who are part of the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang* do not take the *Sprachdiplom*, Level 1.

As has also been pointed out, **a move from a DS to a DN group is not possible**.

In the case of justified exceptions, the **consent of both the subject teacher and the head of department** is necessary. Should parents not agree with the decision, they can submit a written appeal to the Principal, whose final decision is then binding.

#### 4. Leaving Certificate (Higher Level)

All students are prepared for the German *Leaving Certificate Higher Level* examination. However, individual exceptions are made for students who have struggled to reach adequate proficiency to sit the *Leaving Certificate Higher Level*. They are encouraged to opt for the *Leaving Certificate Ordinary Level* examination.

#### 5. Bilingual Leaving Certificate

The *Bilingual Leaving Certificate* requires students to choose the *German Language and Literature course* (DLL) and the *Bilingual History* course. Students who pass both components of the Bilingual Course are awarded the *Bilingual Leaving Certificate*. The *Leaving Certificate German Language and Literature course* is comprised of an intensified version of the Higher Level German Leaving Certificate course (see syllabus). The students are given special exam questions.

#### 6. Special arrangements

Special arrangements may be made for students who are new to the school and do not have the level of proficiency they would require to successfully sit a *Junior Certificate* or *Leaving Certificate* examination.

#### 7. Awards

The German Department awards the following prizes:

- a) **7th to 12th class:** Prizes for special achievement in German
- b) **Class 8 DF/DN:** Sponsored trip to a German-speaking region. Students must provide evidence of their stay and present a report on their activities while away.
- c) **Class 8 DM:** The prizes *Deutsch lesen* (book), *hören* (CD) und *sehen* (film) are awarded.

#### V. Hamburg exchange

This is an exchange programme offered by the German department in **10th class** (TY). Only a certain number of places are available and a place in this exchange scheme is not automatically guaranteed.

The decision as to who will be allowed to participate is taken by the German Department together with the subject teachers and the accompanying teachers and is based on language skill, the student's disciplinary record and the medical fitness to undertake a work experience placement.



Interested students are invited to apply. All applications are reviewed in the context of the above preconditions. If a student has been denied the opportunity to go to Hamburg following consultation with teachers and year heads, this information is communicated to the student and parents at a meeting. At the meeting, the parents are informed that they have a right to appeal the decision to the Principal. The appeal must be submitted in writing. The Principal will consult with the relevant parties and communicate his or her decision in writing to the parents. This decision is binding.

Should the disciplinary record of a student deteriorate during the school year, the school reserves the right to withdraw the student from the exchange scheme. If there is a student on a waiting list, the school shall apply the same selection criteria as before to determine who will go to Hamburg instead. The above-mentioned appeal procedure also applies to this situation.

As this is an approved educational exchange, the placement complies with the **Protection of Young Persons (Employment Act) 1996**: "(...) an employer may employ a child who is over the age of 14 years and who is a full-time student at an institute of secondary education pursuant to any arrangements made or approved of by the *Minister for Education* as part of a programme of work experience or educational programme. Provided that the hours of work do not exceed 8 hours in any day or 40 hours in any week."

## VI. Würzburg exchange

The school offers an exchange programme for students in 7th class with the **Siebold Gymnasium in Würzburg**. Only a certain number of places are available and a place in this exchange scheme is not guaranteed automatically. The proposed dates for the exchange are:

- Before or after Easter break: Würzburg students will stay in Dublin
- June: Our students will visit Würzburg (holidays in Dublin but normal school in Würzburg)

The students are hosted by the families of their exchange partners for the duration of the exchange. They participate in outings to places of interest organised by the school and they also have the opportunity to experience a typical school day.

The exchange has the following **aims**:

- To encourage intercultural learning and activities
- To facilitate and create opportunities for language learning and practice
- To broaden the students' horizons
- To encourage mutual understanding between the nations

Interested students are invited to apply. Compliance with the registration deadlines and a good disciplinary record are prerequisites for the exchange. If a student has been denied the opportunity to go to Würzburg following consultation with teachers and the year head, this information is communicated to the student and parents at a meeting. At the meeting the parents are informed that they have a right to appeal the decision to the Principal. The appeal must be submitted in writing. The Principal will consult with the relevant parties and communicate his or her decision in writing to the parents. This decision is binding.

Should the disciplinary record of a student deteriorate during the school year, the school reserves the right to withdraw the student from the exchange. If there is a student (or students) on a waiting list, the best-placed student shall have the opportunity to go to Würzburg instead. The above-mentioned appeal procedure also applies to this situation.

## VII. Assessment

The assessment procedures are based on the school's assessment criteria. For students in the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang* the **Orientation Phase Regulations (Regelungen der Orientierungsstufe)** and the **Promotion Regulations (Versetzungordnung)** also apply. Pupils are assessed continuously throughout the year according to the following scheme:

Assessments in German:

The German assessments are based on:

- Major assessments:** = *Klassenarbeiten* (class tests) of 40-120 minutes' duration. Exceptions in the *Gymnasialer Bildungsgang*: **50 percent of the half-term or end-of-year grade.**
- Minor assessments:** All other forms of work done in class or as home assignments, including, for example, oral participation, presentations, portfolios, vocabulary work, short tests, homework, exercise book quality: **50 percent of the half-term or end-of-year grade.**

Students are also tested on listening skills, oral skills and written skills. The results of these tests are included in the “Minor Assessments” in order to make up the final grade.

The average grade (grade on the report card) is calculated according to the sum of the individual grades. The grades are recorded electronically. Teachers keep their own detailed records until the end of the relevant cycle (Junior Cycle / Senior Cycle).

In 7th, 8th and 11th class, an *End-of-Year Exam* in German takes place which counts as a **regular *Klassenarbeit***. End-of-Year Exams are generally 1.5 – 2 hours in length (one quarter of written performance).



Overview of *Klassenarbeiten*, Winter Exams and End-of-Year Exams (EOY)  
in German: 50% of final grade (1/9/2016)

	<i>DMI/Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i>	DF	DN
7	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> (KI) + EOY Exam 4 KI in the <i>Gym. Bildungsgang</i>	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam
8	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam 4 KI in the <i>Gym. Bildungsgang</i>	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam
9	4 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> (the Mock Exam is taken and is graded, but does not count as a <i>Klassenarbeit</i> in the <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i> )	4 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> including Mock Exam	4 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> including Mock Exam
10	<b>Students who are not part of the <i>Gymnasialer Bildungsgang</i>:</b> 1st half of year: one KL 2nd half of year: one KL  <b>Students in the <i>Combined Course</i>:</b> separate regulations	1st half of year: one KL 2nd half of year: one KL	1st half of year: one KL 2nd half of year: one KL
11	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam, of which 1 <i>Klassenarbeit</i> is in the <b>DSD II format</b>	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam, of which 1 <i>Klassenarbeit</i> is in the <b>DSD II format</b>	3 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> + EOY Exam
12	1 <i>Klassenarbeit</i> in the first half of the year in <b>DSD II</b> format, Mock Exam in the second half of the year (in the second half of the year the students do not receive a report card)	1 <i>Klassenarbeit</i> in the first half of the year in the <b>DSD II</b> format, Mock Exam in the second half of the year (in the second half of the year the students do not receive a report card)	2 <i>Klassenarbeiten</i> in the first half of the year (no <b>DSD II</b> ). The second <i>Klassenarbeit</i> is the winter exam (in the second half of the year the students do not receive a report card)

7th to 9th class: Assessment in the short courses *Geschichte und Literatur* (History and Literature) and *Geschichte und Politik* (History and Politics)

Break down of the report card grade:



7th to 9th class:

Continuous assessment 50%

*Klassenarbeit* in the 1st half of the year/End-of-Year Exam (not in 9th class) 50%

10th class (*Geschichte und Politik*):

Continuous assessment of participation in class, including presentations and minor tests

### VIII. Success criteria

The German Department aims for oral and aural proficiency, so that students can successfully sit Higher Level at Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. Only those students who are unable to attempt this have the option of taking the examination at a lower level (Ordinary Level).

### IX. Review

The guidelines for German teaching are reviewed at the end of each school year. The members of the German department meet on a regular basis. At these meetings all guidelines are reviewed and assessed continuously. Any necessary changes or additions are discussed and decided upon within the German Department.

04.09.2017