

EDUCATION FOR A SMART FUTURE

“Education is one of the most important future topics for me, because it is the key to overcoming many challenges.”

Susanne Mendel, Team Assistance, Brückner Group GmbH

“My role is that of a connecting link between school management and parents,” says Susanne Mendel. She has been on the parents’ council at Schloßberg Primary School in the community of Stephanskirchen, where 180 girls and boys are educated, for six years now and has since become the council chairwoman. When her older son, Jakob, started school, there was no doubt for the dedicated mother that she would become involved in this council. “After all, it’s a matter of our children’s future.” And she wants to remain part of the ten-person parents’ council until her second son, Xaver, leaves the school.

Alongside regular meetings with mothers, fathers and teachers, Susanne Mendel also works on specific projects. In one of them, the parents’ council created a way-to-school plan: “Our school is located in a difficult position in terms of traffic. We identified all the critical points within a one-kilometre radius and marked them on a map, so that parents and children know where they need to take particular care. In on-site inspections, we cooperate with local authorities and police representatives in considering how we can make these places safer.”

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

are attended by children in Germany in their first four years of schooling. Compulsory education begins at the age of six.

278,334 girls and boys started school in Germany in autumn 2020.

ELEVEN MILLION students are currently being taught at schools of general education and vocational colleges in Germany.

47.5 PERCENT of German adults learned a profession after completing their nine years of compulsory education, 31.9 percent finished with a high school diploma (A-levels), 17.6 graduated with a degree.

Self-protection of the children is also important to the council: “We work together with a martial arts school on this matter. The children receive regular training in how to behave with strangers and what they should do if someone grabs them.”

What Susanne Mendel has witnessed with concern is a change in parenting: “It is now a challenge to reach the mothers and fathers. It takes much more effort to get them on board than it did a few years ago. Many are quick to complain, but their engagement leaves much to be desired.”



SUSANNE MENDEL

Lives in: Prutting-Wolkering (Bavaria)

Brückner Group employee: since 2017

Loves: spending time with her family, nature, reading

