Klax School Programme

School No. 03P22

Neumannstr. 13a
13189 Berlin

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Foreword and Introduction

Purpose and Importance of the School Programme

The Klax School Programme serves as a strategic framework for the pedagogical and organisational development of the school. It outlines our vision, values, and educational identity and defines specific development goals and quality improvement measures. School development is seen as a continuous, participatory process tailored to the needs of learners, staff, parents, and partners. At the centre of our approach is the image of the learner as an active, self-determined, and responsible individual. The school provides a space where learners can realise their potential, develop creativity, and grow into confident individuals ready to shape a democratic, digital, and globalised world. Enabling learners to actively and responsibly shape a sustainable future is a key focus.

Community Involvement

The programme was developed through a broad participatory process involving learners, parents, staff, and school leaders. Workshops, meetings, student councils, and parent forums were used to collect perspectives and define common goals. Student voices were central, contributing via project weeks, graduation reflections, and portfolio work. Parents were also heavily involved and offered valuable input for developing partnerships and opening the school to the broader community. The programme is based on Klax's core pedagogical documents: the Pedagogical Handbook, the All-Day School Concept, and the Bilingual Concept.

School-Specific Framework Conditions

Location and Profile

Klax School is a state-recognised community school operated by "Lebendig Lernen gGmbH" located in Berlin-Pankow. It covers grades 1 to 13, offering a continuous pedagogical curriculum through to the Abitur. The school emphasises the arts, is digitally oriented, and bilingual. It is a learning and living space for individual development, self-organised learning, project-based teaching, and integration of school and after-school activities. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD/BNE) is embedded as a cross-cutting theme throughout school life.

Student and Staff Numbers

In 2024/25, approximately 650 students ("learning partners") attend Klax School, divided into five learning families:

- Family 1: Grades 1–3
- Family 2: Grades 4–6
- Family 3: Grades 7–8
- Family 4: Grades 9–10
- Family 5: Grades 11–13

The school operates with two to three classes per year group, including bilingual classes up to grade 10. The team includes learning guides, educators, assistants, and external experts, including international staff with strong language skills.

Catchment Area and Social Structure

Students come from across Berlin, particularly from Pankow, Prenzlauer Berg, and Weißensee. The community is socially and culturally diverse. 25% receive tuition discounts, 12% in primary and 6% in secondary are exempt from book fees. Students with non-German first languages make up 23% in primary and 11% in secondary.

Facilities and Digital Infrastructure

The school is housed in a modern, accessible building with bright, spacious classrooms. Facilities include:

- Specialist rooms for art, music, science, Maker Education, coding, podcasting
- Digital infrastructure: full Wi-Fi, interactive whiteboards, tablets, 3D printers, laser cutters
- Daily-access library (digital & analogue media)
- Organic-certified cafeteria with full meal options and dietary accommodations
- Rooftop playground with sports and play areas

A consistent BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy is in place, and Microsoft 365 is used as the learning platform. Digital media are integral to instruction.

Analysis of School Process Quality

Teaching Quality

Teaching at Klax School is self-organised, project-based, and skills-oriented. Learning is structured through input phases, individual work, and reflection. Learners use step plans, portfolios, and logs to document progress. Regular evaluations include:

- Pedagogical development conferences (PEK)
- Portfolio and goal discussions with students and parents
- Learning assessments and feedback sessions
- Participation in external programmes (e.g. Digital Learning, German School Award)

BNE-related skills like foresight and dealing with conflicting goals are integrated across all subjects and grades.

Learning Culture and Achievement

Learning is shaped by trust, responsibility, and individual support. Students work in mixed-age groups with personal goals and regular feedback. Evaluation is criteria-based and includes academic and social skills. Traditional homework is replaced by project-based, self-directed learning.

School Climate and Life

Klax School is a respectful, inclusive community. Daily circles, meals, and social times build bonds. Student councils, respect mentors, and graduation systems promote ownership. The school runs cultural activities and belongs to "School without Racism – School with Courage." Projects focus on diversity, democracy, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

External Partnerships

The school collaborates with:

- Youth welfare and counselling centres (SIBUZ)
- Cultural institutions (e.g. Klax Children's Gallery)
- Businesses (e.g. LEGO, Staedtler, local crafts)
- Universities (e.g. TU Berlin, UCC Copenhagen, Harvard)
- International schools (e.g. Denmark, Afghanistan)

These links offer real-world learning, career insights, and cultural exchange.

Inclusion and Individual Support

Every child is seen as having unique strengths and learning paths. Support is provided through:

- Small group or one-on-one sessions
- Portfolio and step sheet tracking
- Individual support plans
- School psychologist collaboration

Support also exists for dyslexia, dyscalculia, and German as a second language (DaZ), always in partnership with families.

Educational Vision and Core Ideas

School Mission

Klax sees itself as a place where learners grow into responsible, creative, and independent individuals. Core values:

- Respect for self, others, and the environment
- Responsibility for one's own learning
- Participation in school life
- Creativity as expression and problem-solving
- Diversity and tolerance as the basis of democracy

Learning is lifelong and joyful. We develop skills for a digital, globalised, complex world. BNE is embedded in our mission.

School Rules and Values

Our rules reflect our values and are reviewed annually. A "Value Foundation" is created each year in the opening week and displayed in the school.

Participation of Learners, Parents, and Staff

Participation is a core principle of Klax education. All members of the school community are invited to actively shape school life:

- Learners participate through student councils, respect teams, working groups, and projects. They take on roles such as learning mentors, club leaders, or "Senior Learners" and "Masters of Learning."
- Parents contribute via the parents' council, school board, and various initiatives (e.g. Open Day, school ball, schoolyard design). The collaboration is based on mutual respect and guided by the school's parent policy.
- Learning guides and pedagogical staff work in interdisciplinary teams, help shape school development, and participate in regular professional development and pedagogical conferences.

Development Goals

Klax School views school development as a continuous, systematic, and participatory process. Based on analysis of the school's conditions and the quality of its educational work, the following development goals have been identified across four key areas: teaching, organisation, staff, and school life.

Teaching Development

- Expand self-organised learning with structured goals across all year levels
- Further develop portfolio work and digital step plans and progress sheets
- Strengthen interdisciplinary and project-based learning
- Enhance blended learning and hybrid formats
- Systematically embed BNE competencies across all subjects and grades

Organisational Development

The school aims for a transparent, participatory, and learning-conducive organisational structure:

- Further develop digital infrastructure and learning platforms (e.g. Microsoft 365, MS Teams)
- Expand the MakerSpace and media centre as open learning spaces
- Optimise room layouts in line with Klax pedagogy (e.g. flexible learning environments)
- Strengthen communication and decision-making via regular team and coordinator meetings
- Implement ecological school development measures, such as waste reduction and energy conservation

Staff Development

A future-ready school concept requires a committed, qualified, and interdisciplinary team:

- Structured onboarding for new staff
- Expand internal micro-training and peer observations
- Participate in external professional development (e.g. Erasmus+, German School Award)
- Introduce "Teaching Triangles" for collaborative teaching development
- Establish advisory roles for subject support
- Provide ongoing BNE-related training

Education and School Life

Klax School is a community focused on individual support and developing responsible personalities:

- Expand participation opportunities for students (e.g. working groups, respect mentors, graduation)
- Strengthen community spirit (e.g. through Encounter Week, introductory trips)
- Deepen parental partnership
- Promote diversity, tolerance, and intercultural understanding
- Embed sustainability and health promotion in daily routines

Measures and Timeline for Achieving Goals

Key Development Projects and Milestones

Field	Measure	Milestones
Teaching	Introduce digital portfolios	Pilot in Grades 5–6 → School-wide rollout by 2026
Teaching	Implement school concept	Redesign school building and timetable to support concept
Organisation	Establish a media centre	Concept development → Construction → Opening in 2026
Staff	Launch "Teaching Triangles"	Train staff → Start with 3 teams → Expand to all departments
School Life	Introduce respect mentors	Concept development → Training → Implementation from Grade 7

Responsibilities and Accountability

Responsibility for implementation lies with:

- School leadership: overall responsibility, coordination, monitoring
- Coordinators: subject area leads (e.g. bilingualism, digitalisation, diversity, BNE)
- Learning family leaders: implementation at year-group level
- Learning guides and pedagogical staff: day-to-day execution
- Student and parent representatives: involvement and feedback

Progress is reviewed regularly through team meetings, monthly planning sessions, and pedagogical development conferences.

Timeline and Resource Planning

Key milestones:

- 2025: Expand MakerSpace, begin Teaching Triangles
- 2026: Open media centre, evaluate digital learning formats
- 2027: Introduce IB curriculum at Klax School

Resources:

- Personnel: training time, additional coordination roles
- Financial: funding (e.g. Erasmus+, school pilots, foundations)
- Spatial: construction and equipment upgrades (e.g. media centre, learning studios)

Professional Development Planning

Three-pronged training strategy:

- Internal micro-trainings: weekly short formats
- External programmes: Erasmus+, German School Award
- Peer observation: Teaching Triangles, feedback loops

Training needs are reviewed annually during planning retreats and include BNE-specific sessions.

Educational and Organisational Priorities

Educational Focus Areas

Digitalisation

Digital education is considered a core competence for the 21st century. Digital tools are not used as an end in themselves, but as instruments for creative, collaborative, and self-directed learning.

Key measures:

- BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy from Grade 5 onward
- Use of Microsoft 365 and MS Teams as a learning platform
- Digital portfolios, step plans, and evidence of learning
- MakerSpace with 3D printers, laser cutters, robotics
- Participation in pilot projects on hybrid and blended learning

MINT and STEAM Education

Klax School implements a comprehensive MINT (Math, Informatics, Natural Sciences, Technology) concept, enriched with the arts to form a holistic STEAM approach. The goal is to enable students to think critically, act creatively, and solve complex problems in a tech-driven world, while fostering a spirit of innovation and responsibility for sustainable development.

Core elements:

- Introduction to coding, robotics, and digital thinking from Grade 1
- MakerSpace with 3D printing, laser cutting, CNC milling, electronics, and prototyping
- Project-based learning (e.g. sustainable cities, apps, energy initiatives)
- Digital tools: Scratch, Python, Arduino, Tinkercad, virtual labs
- Competitions: "Jugend forscht," Math Olympiad, robotics challenges
- Teacher training in MINT didactics and tech integration
- Collaborations with universities, research institutes, and tech companies
- CreativeHub: "Art-Tech-Digital Days" at an external learning site

Objectives:

- Build strong subject knowledge in STEM fields
- Foster creativity, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary thinking
- Prepare students for STEM careers and higher education
- Promote innovation, reflection, and sustainable responsibility

Long-term goal: Certification as a "STEM-Friendly School," with ongoing curriculum development, teacher training, and external partnerships.

Practical Implementation of MINT Programme

Early Support Through Coding, Robotics, and Machine Learning

Klax School places high importance on early support in mathematics, computer science, science, and technology (MINT). From Grade 1, students are introduced to algorithmic thinking through visual programming languages like Scratch and robotics tools such as Ozobot and micro:bit. Tools like Swift Playgrounds and introductory concepts in machine learning and neural networks continuously broaden students' digital competencies.

Wide Range of Competitions and Talent Support

Students are informed about engaging competitions and talent development opportunities through a dedicated MS Teams channel. These include prestigious events such as "Jugend forscht," the Math Olympiad, the Informatics Competition, the Pankow Environmental Award, and various robotics challenges. Participation encourages independent learning and practical application of MINT knowledge.

Partnerships With Renowned Institutions

The school collaborates closely with notable organisations and experts to provide innovative learning opportunities. Partners include the Technical University of Berlin, UCC Copenhagen, Harvard University, LEGO Education, and the school's patron Linda Liukas. These partnerships provide access to cutting-edge research and teaching methods.

Erasmus+ Student Project Group "Our Happy Future"

As part of its forward-thinking educational initiatives, the school runs the student-led Erasmus+ project "Our Happy Future." In this group, students explore topics like sustainability, emerging technologies, and designing a positive future. International collaboration and exchanges with European partner schools foster intercultural competence and broaden students' horizons.

Electives Focused on the Digital Future

In secondary school, elective courses such as "Digital Design," "Maker & Design," and "Life in the Digital Age" deepen MINT learning and impart future-relevant skills.

Modern Equipment for Hands-On Experience

Klax School provides students with modern tools to translate theoretical knowledge into practice. Equipment includes 3D printers, laser cutters, a CNC milling machine, as well as a wide range of resources for using Arduino, Tinkercad, and virtual labs.

MakerSpace as a Creative Learning Environment

The MakerSpace is an open and inspiring learning environment where students can design and implement their ideas. Equipped with 3D printers, laser cutters, a CNC milling machine, and electronic kits, it supports creative experimentation and interdisciplinary learning.

Project-Based Learning with a MINT Focus

Project-based learning helps embed MINT content in the curriculum and increase student motivation. Example projects include building sustainable cities, app development, energy-saving initiatives, participation in Cleanup Day and Climathon, and campaigns like "Think Plastic Free." Student-led initiatives such as the "2 Life Plastic" mini-company actively support BNE goals.

Art and Creativity

As an art-focused school, Klax fosters students' aesthetic education and creative expression:

- Enhanced art classes across all grades
- Electives such as "Maker & Design," "Performing Arts," and "Fine Arts"
- Project weeks with artistic themes
- Partnerships with artists, galleries, and the Klax Creative Workshop
- Annual art trips and exhibitions at the Klax Children's Art Gallery

Bilingualism

The school offers a bilingual German-English pathway starting in Grade 1, aimed at developing intercultural skills and preparing students for a globalised world:

- Immersion approach with native-speaking instructors
- Bilingual subject instruction (e.g. Math, Social Studies, History)
- Certificate of bilingual proficiency at graduation
- Introduction of the IB curriculum by 2027

Internal Evaluation – Topics, Criteria, and Methods

Evaluation Culture at the School

Evaluation is an integral part of Klax School's quality development. Its aim is to systematically assess the effectiveness of educational measures, steer development processes using data, and promote a culture of reflection and shared learning.

Evaluation at Klax is a continuous, participatory process involving all school community members. It focuses not on control but on gaining insights and driving improvement. The

school uses an annual quality cycle model to structure and document all evaluation activities.

Key principles:

- Transparent goals and criteria
- Involvement of all relevant groups (learners, parents, staff, leadership)
- Integration with school development planning
- Use of results for concrete improvements in teaching and school life

Quality Indicators

Klax School uses the following key quality indicators:

- Learning success: skill development, goal achievement, individual progress
- Satisfaction: feedback from learners, parents, and staff
- School climate: social relationships, participation, handling of diversity
- Teaching quality: didactics, differentiation, feedback culture
- Organisational quality: communication, processes, resource management

Methods and Tools

The school employs a variety of internal evaluation tools:

- Annual student surveys: on teaching quality, school climate, digital infrastructure
- Annual parent surveys: on satisfaction, communication, and engagement
- Staff surveys: on job satisfaction, team culture, training needs
- Portfolio and goal-setting conversations: for individual learning reflection
- Pedagogical Development Conferences (PEK): to assess and support individual learners
- Learning assessments: both internal and external (e.g. VERA, benchmark tests)
- Quality reports: yearly summaries of evaluation outcomes
- External audits: e.g. ISO 9001:2015 certification

Using Evaluation Results for Further Development

Evaluation results are systematically analysed and incorporated into school development:

- Strategy retreats: define development goals based on evaluations
- Team meetings: reflect and identify practical measures
- School board: discuss and decide on strategic developments
- Training planning: align with identified needs
- Concept updates: e.g. for all-day programmes, digitalisation, MINT, and BNE

Evaluation outcomes are shared transparently through suitable formats (e.g. school web portal, parent evenings, annual reports).

Appendix

Committees   and   Contributors

The creation and ongoing development of the school programme involved numerous members of the school community, including:

- School leadership: overall coordination, strategic guidance
- Learning family leaders and coordinators: academic and organisational contributions
- Learning guides and educational staff: content development and feedback from practice
- Student representatives: learner perspectives, participation in mission and values processes
- Parent representatives: feedback on school development, involvement in school constitution
- External partners: input from academia, business, and culture

Reference   Documents

This school programme is based on a wide range of internal and external documents, including:

- Klax School Pedagogical Handbook
- Klax All-Day School Concept
- Klax School Bilingual Concept
- Klax School MINT Concept
- Berlin School Law and School Constitution
- Berlin State Curriculum Frameworks
- Results from internal evaluations and external audits (e.g. ISO 9001:2015)