



# 7<sup>TH</sup> HOPE CONGRESS MUNICH 2010

NOVEMBER 3 - 7, 2010

Visiting the hospital School, School for Sick Children Munich

Location: Pediatric clinic München Schwabing – Haunersches Kinderspital München

## **Ulrike Kalmes**

Teacher, qualified advisory teacher, School for Sick Children Munich

## **Bernhard Ruppert**

2. Sonderschulkonrektor, Schule für Kranke München

### Key objectives

We encourage the personality development of our pupils to enable them to lead a self-determined life despite the severity of their illnesses.

We encourage our pupils according to the requirements of their home school and class and according to their individual abilities during the course of their illness.

We structure lessons individually tailored to pupils' requirements depending on their particular illness. We provide support for pupils during their period of illness through the encouragement of their ability and compensation of deficits.

We hold regular meetings with the qualified medical staff in the clinics to enable diagnosis-related tuition.

Following the waiver of medical confidentiality, we maintain continuous contact with the home schools. We work closely together as far as possible with parents and relevant institutions.

We provide advice and support in all aspects of education in cases of ill health.

We see ourselves as a team and work together effectively and creatively.

### School locations

Lessons are given at the following 12 sites which are located up to 20 km apart:

- Clinic Bogenhausen, Municipal Clinic Munich GmbH
- Clinic Dritter Orden, paediatric clinic
- Clinic of the University of Munich, Campus Großhadern
- Municipal Clinic of Munich GmbH, Clinic Harlaching, clinic for paediatric and youth medicine
- Dr. von Haunersches Kinderspital of the University of Munich, paediatric clinic and polyclinic
- German Heart Centre Munich, TU, Clinic for paediatric cardiology & congenital heart defects



- Paediatric Centre Munich, district of Upper Bavaria
- Clinic Rechts der Isar at the TU Munich
- Clinic and Polyclinic of Dermatology and Allergology am Biederstein, TU Munich
- Clinic and Polyclinic of the TU Munich, paediatric clinic Munich-Schwabing
- Münchner Waisenhaus

## Mandate and function

The School for Sick Children in Bavaria is an independent form of school (according to the Bavarian regulations pertaining the educational system: Bay EUG, Art. 23) which was established in 1984.

The State School for Sick Children in Munich provides tuition for pupils during inpatient or outpatient periods in hospital or during therapy.

The school concept is based on the school regulations governing Schools for Sick Children in Bavaria (KraSO) and takes into account the specialised mandate of the School for Sick Children in Munich. Within the framework of a holistic therapeutic concept, this foresees a close cooperation between doctors, therapists and the psychological team.

## Tuition

Tuition is designed to fulfil the educational mandate of the school within the particular context of illness, stays in hospital and the need for recovery, guaranteeing where possible the connection with the home school, paving the way for reintegration in normal school life, minimising fears of falling behind with school work, distracting from the illness itself, supporting the recovery process, strengthening the will for recovery and deflecting factors threatening mental development; it should also provide support for coping with illness, address the consequences of the illness and help to prevent relapses (according to KraSO 1999, §5) .

## Profile of the School

The State School for Sick Children in Munich serves around 1400 children and adolescents of school age who are unable to attend their home school over a projected period exceeding six weeks or for repeated intermittent periods of time due to severe or chronic illness.

The educational programme includes lessons in a variety of subjects, advisory services for pupils and the parents and siblings, close cooperation with the colleagues of the home school and home schooling and is based on a close cooperation with doctors, nursing staff and psycho-social services.

Our prime objective is to accept, understand, encourage and accompany the sick child. One of our essential educational tasks consists of dealing with the illness itself, any resulting anxieties and the potential adverse effects of treatment. On the other hand, school activities are also designed to provide a distraction from poor health. We accompany and observe the individual child's learning process during his or her illness, provide specific learning structures where appropriate and offer support for deviations in learning behaviour.



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We additionally undertake a substantial effort to offset any disadvantages originating from illness. This affects the volume of the required curriculum, performance records and additionally the social inclusion of the sick child or adolescent.

Tuition is always adapted to the current state of health, individual requirements and educational standard of sick pupils and takes place in individual or group sessions. We have recently introduced the possibility of video conference tuition, permitting pupil and teacher to conduct classes together via internet (with notebook, headset, microphone and documenting camera).

The objective of our school activity will always remain the integration of children and adolescents in their normal lives, social environment and everyday life at school prior to the onset of illness, preferably in contact with their "own" class. This also entails visits to the home school. Should the illness or impairment necessitate a change in school career, we undertake the utmost effort to adapt this change correspondingly to the new needs of the sick child and continue this supervision after the child's discharge from hospital.

## Disease patterns



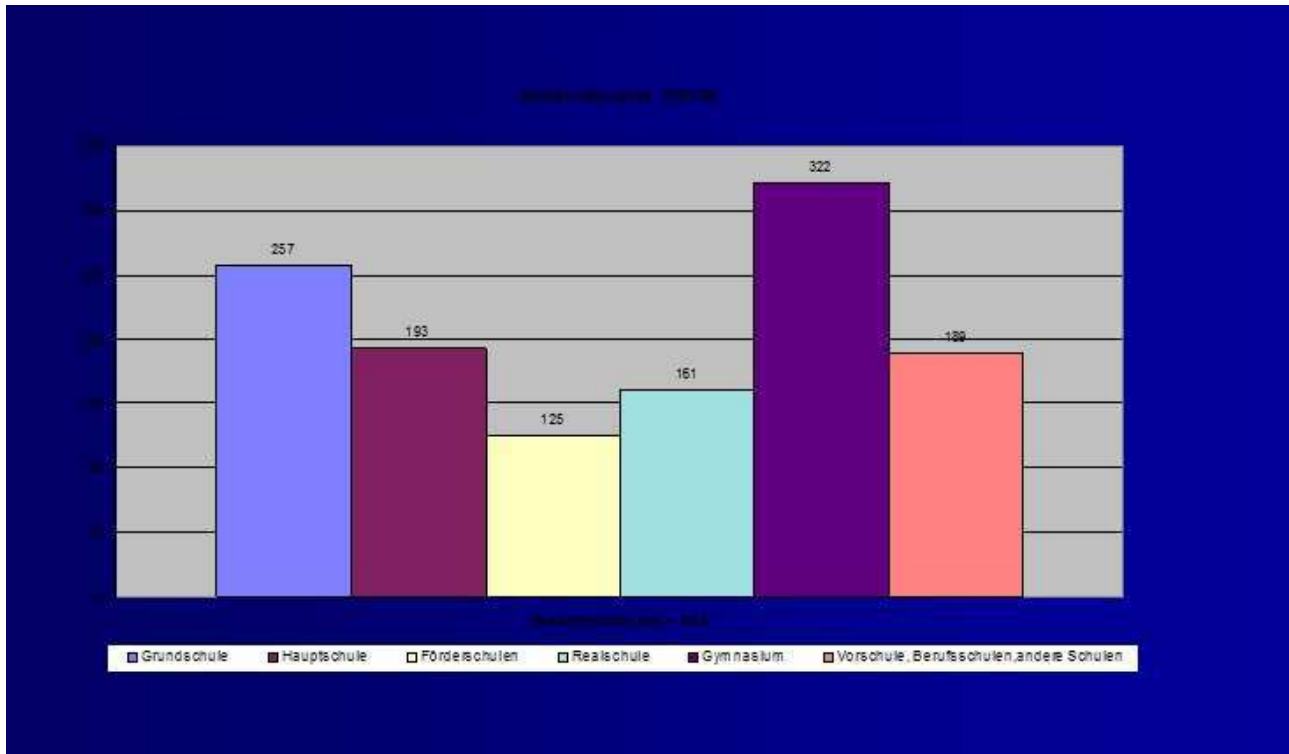
## Distribution according to school types

An annual total of around 1400 pupils are taught, diagnosed, advised and supervised at their home schools during periods of illness by the School for Sick Children. Due to the increase in patient numbers within the area of psychosomatics/psychiatry during the past years, we have experienced a rise in the number of pupils in upper age groups and a significant increase in pupils from grammar and secondary modern schools (Realschulen).



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## Distribution according to places of residence

The catchment area of the school includes the whole of Bavaria and the whole of Germany due to the presence of specialised clinics and two university teaching hospitals in Munich. A number of these clinics have concluded special treatment contracts with a variety of neighbouring countries in Europe or Near Eastern countries, meaning that pupils from other nations such as Russia and Arabic countries also attend lessons.



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## Head teacher and teaching staff

The headmistress of the State School for Sick Children in Munich is Ms Elisabeth Meixner-Mücke, a qualified head teacher for schools with special needs: her first and second deputies are Mr Alto Merkt and Mr Bernhard Ruppert, both qualified deputy head teachers for schools with special needs. The teaching staff consists of 23 teachers qualified to teach in primary schools, general secondary schools, schools for special needs, secondary modern schools and grammar schools.



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## Freelance teachers

12 freelance members of staff, mostly retired teachers originating from secondary schools, supplement the work of their full-time colleagues with around 30-40 hours per week. These teachers provide lessons on a number of subjects including Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, business studies and chemistry and are financed by the friends' association of the School for Sick Children.