



## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AT ESRM

### *When Students Learn Differently, What do We Do?*

The aim of Educational Support is to help students access the curriculum through a range of interventions both within and outside the classroom. Educational support is divided into General, Moderate and Intensive Support in accordance with individual student's needs and the Policy and Procedures on Educational Support in European Schools<sup>12</sup>. In order to ensure that student's needs are met within the classroom, teachers rely on differentiated instruction and classes do not exceed a maximum of 24 students. In addition, ESRM offers personalised support lessons to small groups and individual students.

#### **Differentiated Instruction within the classroom**

Differentiation is both a philosophy and a set of tools that, recognising individual differences, stimulate learning and growth for all students. Evidence suggests that students learn most in academically diverse classrooms<sup>34</sup>, including students who are behind, students studying in a language that isn't their mother tongue, students who learn differently, students who have a diagnosed special educational need and students who are gifted in a certain field.

#### **Special Arrangements within the classroom**

In addition to differentiated classroom teaching, ESRM offers special arrangements, aimed at helping students who have a diagnosed medical or psycho-educational need, access the normal curriculum. These special arrangements are not intended to compensate for lack of knowledge, skills or effort. In accordance with the Policy and Procedures on Educational Support in European Schools, special arrangements can only be authorised when they are related to the student's diagnosed medical or psycho-educational needs and must be substantiated by means of a medical or psycho-educational report from a registered medical expert or psychologist, using recognised standardized diagnostic procedures. For S6 and S7, all special arrangements must be approved by the Office of the Secretary-General of European Schools in Brussels. Therefore, in S5, an application for special arrangements is sent out to all parents /guardians, which must be submitted to the Educational Support Coordinator of the Secondary School by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **General (Mild) Support**

General Support offers short-term assistance for students who may be experiencing difficulty in a particular aspect of a subject and need to 'catch up'. General support takes place in small groups and comprises of additional lessons for core subjects such as mathematics and languages. In addition, ESRM

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<sup>1</sup> Policy on the Provision of Educational Support in European Schools (2012-05-D-14-en-9)

<sup>2</sup> Provision on Educational Support in the European Schools – Procedural Document (2012-05-D-15-en-11)

<sup>3</sup> Hehir, T. & Katzman, L.I. (2012); „Effective Inclusive Schools“. Jossey-Bass, pp. 276

<sup>4</sup> Tomlinson, C.A. (2017); „How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms“, ASCD, pp. 186



offers intensive courses for those who are acquiring German or English as a working language. In such cases, student's grades do not take into account their level of proficiency in English/German during the first year. During Middle School (S1-S3), groups are streamed in levels of competence, with all students eventually acquiring the same proficiencies. Furthermore, ESRM offer courses in core transferrable skills, such as study skills, writing skills and communication skills (KiVa). General support also includes Counselling Support and Career Guidance Counselling.

### **Moderate Support**

An extension of general support is provided for students with a mild learning difficulty or in need of more targeted support. Moderate support is based on an Individual Learning/Educational Plan (ILP /IEP) agreed between the parents/guardians and the school. It is coordinated and provided for by our two full-time Educational Support Coordinators.

### **Intensive Support**

Intensive support is provided for students with more complex learning difficulties and is based on an ILP/IEP that may include a modified curriculum, agreed between the school and the parents/guardians. Immersion lessons for new language learners can also be part of Intensive Support.

### **Types of Educational Support Structures**

<b>General Support</b>	<b>Moderate Support</b>	<b>Intensive Support</b>
Students follow a normal curriculum + general sup	Students follow a normal curriculum special arrangements	Students may follow an agreed m curriculum + intensive support

If you have further questions about Educational Support, please find the contact details on the ESRM Website (Student Support at ESRM).