



The Munich theses of intercultural learning

From multicultural to intercultural schools

A working committee at the Bavarian State Institute for School Quality and Educational Research in Munich has drawn up these guidelines for the profile of intercultural schools. They are an attempt to describe the manifold dimensions of intercultural learning in nine easily understandable statements.

1. People of different ethnic, origins, languages and cultures live close together in today's Europe.
2. The "normality of the other" in our immediate neighbourhood is a reality – yet it is still not understood.
3. Intercultural learning is therefore a natural response to the changed reality.
4. At our school, too, people of different languages and cultures live side by side: we can learn from those differences.
5. That is why we are open to encounters with foreigners: they enrich and complement our own experience.
6. We don't understand everything, but we respect even the things that still seem strange us.
7. We take care to allow people from other cultures to speak for themselves and we contribute our own viewpoints to the dialogue.
8. The acknowledged differences enable us to adopt a co-operative and solidly united stance, and quite naturally influence the ways in which we work and learn.
9. Intercultural learning at school is thus the beginning of a life-long learning process in a rapidly changing world.

