



## **Inclusion Policy**

Volksschule Smart-City in Graz, Austria

### **1. Introduction**

At our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) school at Volksschule Smart-City(VSC) in Graz, Austria, we are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We believe that diversity is our strength, and we are dedicated to supporting the individual needs of all our students.

### **2. Access to Personal, Social, and Emotional Support**

We understand the importance of providing personal, social, and emotional support to our students. Therefore, we offer access to a licensed psychologist and social worker who have pedagogical training. These professionals are available to provide support and guidance to students who may be experiencing difficulties.

### **3. Support for Students with Special Needs**

We are committed to providing a supportive learning environment for all students, including those with special needs. Our integration teachers work closely with classroom teachers to ensure that students with special needs receive the support they require to succeed academically and socially. Additionally, our licensed psychologist and social worker are available to provide additional support to students with special needs as needed.

### **4. Support for Learning the Local Language and English**

We recognize that learning the local language, as well as English, is essential for our students to succeed academically and socially. Therefore, we offer support for students who are learning the local language and English. Our language specialist teachers (DAZ)

work with these students in German to provide additional support and assistance with language acquisition. We also have supplementary hours of integrative and standalone English lessons by licensed teachers. Additionally, our licensed psychologists and social workers are available to provide support to students who may be struggling with language acquisition.

#### 5. Support for Home Languages

We understand the importance of maintaining and celebrating students' home languages and cultures. Therefore, we offer support for students to maintain and develop proficiency in their home languages during after school hours. We also make sure to celebrate the home language through our inquiry processes.

#### 6. Barrier-free

Our school is designed to allow children with all needs to access all parts of the building. We have an elevator, wide hallways, floors without a bar or step into classrooms, a yard with accessible terrain as well as handicap-accessible bathrooms. We also have a doctor's room which allows students with special needs the ability to be changed and cleaned in private.

#### 7. Conclusion

At VSC we are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. We believe that by providing access to personal, social, and emotional support, as well as support for students with special needs and language acquisition, we can help all our students reach their full potential.