

Arriving – Succeeding.

## Pocket Guide

Additional key points  
for an intensive conversation



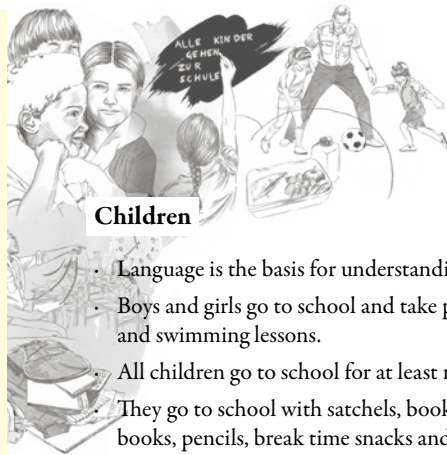
Baden-Württemberg

STAATSMINISTERIUM

**Human dignity is inviolable**  
(Article 1 Basic Law of the  
Federal Republic of Germany)

**We are a diverse society and  
accept each other**

**Social coexistence is governed by  
democratic laws**



### Children

- Language is the basis for understanding.
- Boys and girls go to school and take part in sports and swimming lessons.
- All children go to school for at least nine years.
- They go to school with satchels, books, exercise books, pencils, break time snacks and sports bags – after a healthy breakfast.
- Teachers have the say.
- We take care of our children.
- Volunteering: parents, grandparents and volunteers get involved in the school as well.
- Teachers have more of a say in school than the father.



### Environment

- Nature and public spaces (forests, parks, streets and squares) are valuable to us. It is important they remain clean.
- Leaving behind waste is disrespectful and prohibited.
- Garbage goes in the trash, even in public areas, “every child knows that”!
- We separate the garbage, so recyclable materials can be recycled.
- Barbecues and noise sometimes disturb the neighbours – consideration is polite and is well received.



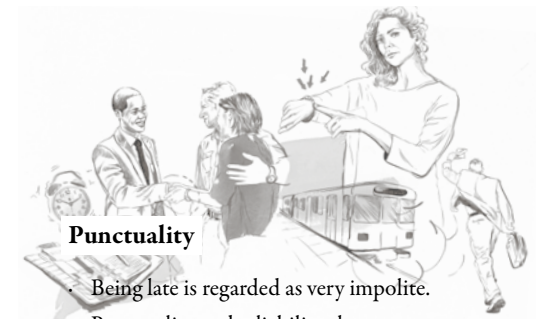
### Violence

- Insult is a form of violence too.
- Conflicts are discussed fully or resolved by courts, but not solved by violence.
- Children must not be beaten, that is prohibited in Germany.
- Women and men are independent personalities.
- Neither of them must govern the life of the other.
- A woman in the swimming pool or in the discotheque must not be stared at, let alone touched, even if she's wearing a bikini or a tight top.



### Equal Rights

- Women can do everything men do.
- Women can take decisions on their own.
- Men and women do the house work together.
- Men and women can work in all professions.
- Men and women have equal suffrage.
- Fathers and mothers are invited to the parent evening in kindergarten, day care and school as well.



### Punctuality

- Being late is regarded as very impolite.
- Punctuality and reliability show respect and create trust.
- The person who is punctual and reliable is well received.
- Appointments are arranged a long time in advance, so that one can plan well.
- Being five minutes late for an official appointment is too much already – this creates a bad atmosphere.
- School/work starts right on time.
- The average working day is eight hours – the exact time is determined by the boss!
- Appointments are kept!  
Reliability is very important.



### Marriage and Partnership

- I decide if and when I want to marry.
- I decide who I want to live with.
- Unmarried women enjoy the same respect as married women.
- Marriage is generally only permitted from the age of 18 on.
- Arranged marriages can only be concluded when agreed upon by the couple, i.e. by both partners – free choice of partners.
- Same-sex marriages are allowed.
- According to law, both parents have the custody of their joint children after a divorce. If one of them wants sole custody, a court decides the matter.
- Domestic violence is forbidden!

What is important to us:

## Our values, attitudes and rules



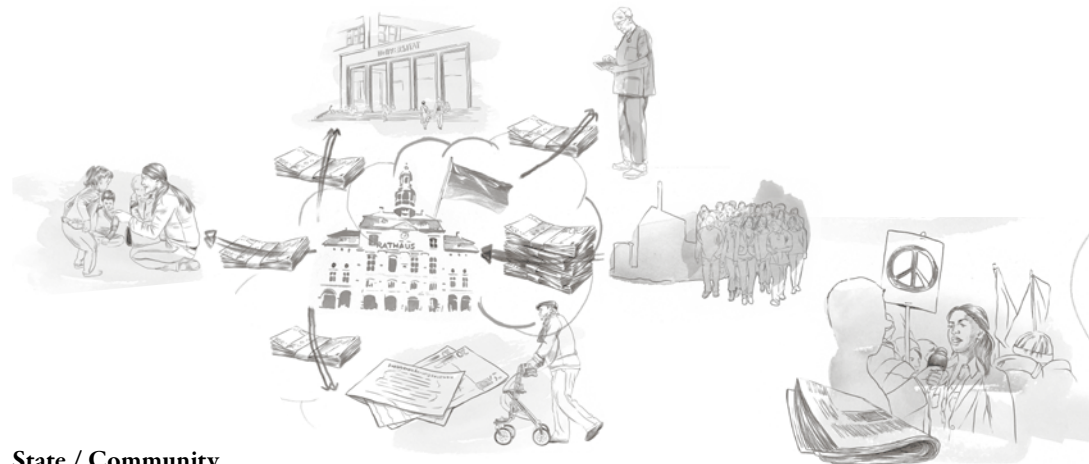
### Tolerance / Diversity

- We are a diverse society and accept each other.
- In addition to traditional families (husband, wife, own children), there are many other family forms.
- Homosexuality is quite normal in Germany.
- People with disabilities have equal rights everywhere, including in working life.
- All people can choose their religion freely and exercise it – within the framework of the applicable laws.



### Authorities

- Authorities enjoy respect.
- Men and women can be bosses.
- Decisions are not taken by one person alone in the family.
- The police have more say than the head of the family, even if the cop is a woman.
- There are elected authorities (e.g. the mayor).
- One cannot buy any authority with money.
- The police are your friend and helper.



### State / Community

- The state regulates our coexistence through laws, jurisdiction and administration. It protects our freedom.
- Many citizens do voluntary work, for each other and for the community, even without getting any money for it.
- All persons are equal before the law.
- Everyone pays taxes starting at a certain income.
- Whoever does not pay their taxes is punished.
- The level of taxation depends on how much you earn.
- Taxes are paid to the state. In exchange, you can visit schools and universities for free and use parks, playgrounds and roads.
- When you are sick, you are being cared for in the hospital (health insurance), when somebody is out of work, they get unemployment benefits or “Hartz IV”, when someone is old, they get a pension (pension insurance).



- Everyone can say and write what he or she thinks (unless it is against the law).
- We enjoy freedom of opinion (including the press).
- Religion is a private matter – what is written in the Bible, in the Koran or in the Torah is not law.

### Suggestions for conversation with refugees for volunteers in the aid for refugees