

# ABOUT HOW THE SCHOOL IS ORGANIZED

**How is the school organized?** The school assembly meets weekly and decides democratically on all areas of everyday school life. It consists of all students and adults working at the school, who each have the same right to vote (one vote each). Responsible persons or working groups are set up for all tasks and areas of responsibility of the *Waldkinder* school. The school assembly defines their area of responsibility. Then working groups develop the rules and detailed processes and present them to the school assembly for approval. Examples of this are the legal WG, kitchen WG, aesthetics WG or the WG for electronic media, woodworking room, sports, outdoor activities. To ensure the safety of the pupils and the proper handling of school materials, working groups issue special procedures. Only those who complete the certification process and can follow the rules and procedures may use these rooms, tools or machines. **Are there classes grouped by age?** There is no division into classes at the *Waldkinder* school. Children are different and learn things at different times. The mix of ages is an enormous advantage for the school community. It allows younger children to learn from older students. By watching them do their activities and participating in more complex activities and games that they could not do on their own. At the same time, teenagers are more playful, open and creative in dealing with younger children than they would be in contact with other teenagers. When older pupils explain topics to younger children it deepens their understanding of the respective content. **Why are there so many rules in democratic schools?** The set of rules of a democratic school is extensive because it contains all provisions that are needed for safety and coexistence. In democratic schools it is not the adults who set the rules and monitor compliance, but the school community. Each rule is discussed in the school assembly and decided within the framework of the democratic process. Violations of the rules are dealt with by the legal committee.