



Information letter for parents and guardians on the headscarf ban (§ 43a SchUG [School Education Act])

Dear parents and guardians,

It is vitally important to us that all children feel safe, protected and accepted at school. School should be a place where children are able to learn freely, develop their personality and evolve as individuals.

We are therefore writing to you to inform you of the legal framework applicable to girls under the age of 14 at schools in Austria.

From the new 2026/27 school year, a law applies to all female pupils under the **age of 14** that prohibits the wearing of head-covering clothing according to Islamic traditions at school, i.e. on school grounds and in the school building. This applies regardless of whether the headscarf is to be worn for reasons of fashion, tradition, religion or any other reasons.

It is important to know that:

The school is a safe place that may only be accessed by people who have a reason to enter it (pupils, teaching staff, parents). The pupils are part of an established learning community and are supervised by teaching staff.

The school is obligated to implement current legislation. There is no margin of discretion for schools. The school does not act on the basis of personal opinions, but rather in accordance with the law.

At school, children should:

- be free from social or religious pressure,
- be able to develop their identity in an age-appropriate manner,
- be allowed to learn and grow up in an equal and carefree environment.

The headscarf ban serves to protect childhood and is intended to prevent children from being pushed into ideological or religious roles at too early an age. The well-being and cognitive maturity of the child are always at the heart of the school environment. This law expressly obliges you, as the parent or legal guardian, to ensure that your daughter complies with the legal provision.

Beilage A zum Rundschreiben Nr. 1/2026 (2026-0.180.147) - Englisch

Appendix A to circular letter no. 1/2026 (2026-0.180.147)

Outside of the school building or school facilities, the parents or legal guardians decide whether the headscarf is to be worn.

We are aware that this topic can be a sensitive one. This is why a respectful, understanding and supportive exchange is especially important. By working together as a community, our goal is to convey the fact that this regulation is a legal obligation both for you as the parent or guardian as well as for the school, and is at the same time conducive to the protection and healthy development of the children.