Support

- Support for gifted pupils: Gifted pupils spend six to eight intensive lessons per week in small groups outside of the classroom.
- Integrated GFL (IGFL): If pupils understand enough German to be able to follow the lesson by themselves, they are supported with the subject being taught within the classroom setting.
- Psychotherapy: Support for children during difficult mental episodes or in highly stressful situations.
- Psychomotricity: Support for children with fine motor, gross motor and graphomotor problems.

Elective Subjects

- Music school: The aim of the music school is to provide children, young people and adults with the opportunity to learn an instrument or singing to a high level. Some 20 different instruments are taught along with jazz and classical singing. There is also a support programme for gifted pupils. The music school pupils show off their talents at concerts and performances throughout the year in both communes.

Secondary Schools

- Following primary school, there are three years of lower secondary school to prepare the young people for apprenticeships or short-term baccalaureate school (Gymnasium). As of the academic year 2015/16, the state lower secondary school will be managed by the Kilchberg-Rüschlikon Lower Secondary School Association ("Zweckverband Sekundarschule Kilchberg-Rüschlikon"). They are supervised by the music school management, which in turn works closely with the business manager and the music school board.

Participation

- The pupils have the opportunity to actively shape school life thanks to the Schoolhouse Councils. Both Schoolhouse Councils together with freely selected issues in various working groups.

Care

- Childcare: Both schools houses, "Dott" and "Moos", offer a comprehensive daily schedule. This support is provided from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. including lunch. Individual modules can be booked. Fees are payable for these modules and are calculated according to a socially graded tariff. This guided childcare is a quality feature of Rüschlikon School. It provides all families with the assurance that their children are, if needed, looked after and supervised outside of school hours, are getting a nutritionally balanced hot meal at lunchtime and are spending their free time in the company of other children. A group of heads under the management of the school administration is responsible for the childcare.

Adolescence

- Parents’ Council: Parents can participate in the Parents’ Council, which comprises two delegates per class. The Parents’ Council supports the school by organising special events and deals with freely selected issues in various working groups.
Rüschlikon Primary School is a German-speaking state school with around 400 pupils. The children are taught by 50 full or part-time teaching staff. Rüschlikon School is divided into two schoolhouse teams. All classes are placed into either team “Moos” or team “Dorf”. When putting pupils into their classes, balanced learning groups are of central importance. Remedial teachers and therapists make up the team “Support”, which provides personalised support (PS) and German as a foreign language (GFL) as well as therapy for both schoolhouses. The school management strategically leads the three teams and is presided over by the school administration as a strategic entity.

Key Information
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Guiding Principles
Rüschlikon School is a multicultural school. This makes it all the more important for us to promote, work, and live in the community in the spirit of teamwork, a culture of open communication, and respect for the individuality of each child and place importance on integration in the community.

• We respect the individuality of each child and place importance on integration in the community.
• We promote willingness to learn and joy in personal achievements.
• We create a varied and inspiring learning environment.
• We teach using a variety of teaching and learning methods.
• We foster cooperation and a culture of open communication.
• We see ourselves and present ourselves as a vibrant school.

Cooperation
We are jointly responsible for our school. Intensive cooperation in teaching teams and the principle of multiple assessors are important for us both with preparation and follow-up as well as with assessing pupils.

In addition to our guiding principles, we also promote sport and exercise and have been awarded the sports label of the Canton of Zurich. This label motivates us to remain active and innovative in promoting health and exercise. Promoting health also includes preventative measures in the areas of dental care and oral hygiene, nutrition, development and puberty, addictive substances and road safety.

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Teaching Times
At the lower and upper primary levels, we mainly work in 90-minute learning blocks. The teachers set short breaks individually as needed. In the mornings, there are drop-off times for all school levels. The teachers are there during these times in order to take the children into the classroom. However, this is not part of the compulsory teaching time. During the lunch break there is the option of a homework support session, for which a fee is payable. This hour is included as part of our childcare.

School Social Programmes (SSP)
If a child has problems which impact on his or her education, the school social worker is the primary point of contact. The school social worker can provide specialist support for personal problems, pupils or teaching staff in situations where the child is under pressure or if there are any social tensions. The school social worker provides advice free of charge and confidentially.

Subjects
The following subjects are included on the timetable at Rüschlikon School: German, Mathematics, Humanities and the Environment (English from year 3), French (from year 3), PE, Creative Arts & Design, Music, Handicrafts, Religion and Culture, Musical Foundations (years 1 & 2), Rhythms (years 1 & 2), Maths makes Music (years 1 & 2), Media and IT (years 3 & 5).

At Rüschlikon School, we dedicate one lesson per week in each class to Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (the PATHS concept, in German: www.pfade.ch).