

## Mediators

Several pupil mediator models were tested at the Charles Dickens School before the current **mediator model** was established in **2008**. According to this, pupils who have been trained as mediators settle minor disputes during playground breaks or fetch teachers and educators to help out if needed. The task of the mediators – who are identified by their waistcoats – is to show a presence during the breaks and to watch out for (potential) conflicts.

Depending on the situation, mediators

- try to resolve the problem themselves.
- separate and calm the children involved in disputes.
- enlist the help of educators or teachers if required.

Mediators act prudently and impartially. They speak to the adversaries about the problem and try to find a common solution. Conflicts can often be amicably resolved by listening to and taking both sides of the argument seriously.

There are currently 23 mediators active at Charles Dickens School. They perform their schoolyard duties once a week in pairs (or three at a time). Their photos are up on the wall in the school entrance hall. Class teachers and educators will, of course, help out in the case of conflicts that cannot be resolved in the playground. In difficult cases that require more time and consideration than is normally available during the school day the mediation team may become involved.

### How does one become a mediator?

As a rule 12 pupils are selected at the end of the 4th school year according to a specific procedure. These pupils are then prepared for their mediator duties in an intensive, one-day training course at the beginning of the 5th school year. Thereafter, regular meetings are held to exchange experiences, discuss problems and organisational issues and improve mediation skills. Primary school mediators have the best preparation to move on to advanced mediator training at secondary school level.

In **2013** the district authority of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf awarded our school the **special prize for the prevention of violence** in recognition of our work and commitment in this area.

# Urkunde

In Anerkennung des  
besonderen schulischen Engagements  
für gewaltpräventive Aktivitäten

wird der

**SONDERPREIS  
GEWALTPRÄVENTION 2013**

an die

**Charles-Dickens-Grundschule**

verliehen.

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, 06.06.2013



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Bezirksstadträtin für Jugend,  
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