

## **Amriswil-Hefenhofen-Sommeri School Social Services**

The School Social Services (SSS) provided by the Amriswil-Hefenhofen-Sommeri district education authorities offer assistance in case of difficulties in or outside of school. Students of all ages may request help and support to overcome social problems and personal challenges. Youngsters may, for example, make use of these services if they are frequently harassed by fellow students and, as a possible consequence, afraid to say anything in classes. Parents may contact the SSS if, for example, they are afraid that their child is putting himself/herself at risk by chatting online with strangers or transmitting personal photos. Teachers may request SSS support if one of their students is being excluded by the others.

The School Social Services work not only with and for the students, they also offer help and support to parents and teachers. Interpreters will be provided if necessary. Consultations with the SSS are voluntary and free of charge. Moreover, SSS staff are bound to observe professional secrecy, i.e. the consultations remain absolutely confidential.

The School Social Services adapt their approach to the specific problems to be resolved, for example, by holding one-on-one meetings with students, parents and teachers. If and when appropriate, the SSS will also work with groups or whole classes.

Taking preventive action is a further important aspect of SSS work. The Amriswil-Hefenhofen-Sommeri School Social Services offer some thirty prevention modules designed to tackle a large range of issues. Prevention modules are special coaching sessions that can be requested by teachers and subsequently implemented in class by SSS staff.

Examples:

- Photos, video clips, cyberbullying  
These modules teach students the basics of how to stay safe online and how important it is to safeguard their photos and texts.
- "We are a team"  
This module is used for whole classes and helps students improve the class team spirit.
- Bullying  
This module uses examples to illustrate bullying processes and introduces ways and means to tackle bullying problems.

The School Social Services promote the development of youngsters and help them on their way to living self-determined lives.

This information is available in a number of languages. Our contact details are provided in our flyer (see right column).