

## Secret Schools in Germany

The German state have closed an unregistered, parent led, primary school offering education to children up to senior level, claiming that it is elitist and broke health and safety regulations. They did however admit that its educational standards were very good. It was not possible for the parents to register their school as it is illegal to register such schools in Germany under similar laws that prevent home education there

What is most interesting about this school is that it is now 30 years old and many of the schools alumni now occupy respected professional positions in German society. Many of them have come out to publicly defend the school. Ronja Wuestheinrich, 17, said. "I could not have imagined a better school. I completely support the concept."

The state authorities claim that they were not previously aware of the schools existence, which is odd since it was raided by the police some years ago and no action was taken. A spokesperson for the state of Bremen, (ruled by the Social Democrat Party) said that although it was clear the pupils had received a solid education, she would not support the concept of parents going it alone. "This is an elite concept and we cannot indulge it."

A statement that might bring the state of Bremen into direct opposition to Article 2 protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The statement also makes it clear that the state opposition is politically motivated rather than being in the interests of the actual children.

While there is close control over where and how 'ordinary' families educate their children, the super rich are free to educate their children outside Germany in exclusive schools, often based in the UK and USA. The numbers of children being educated privately in this way has risen by 61% over the last ten years.

However it seems that this time the state of Germany may have bitten off more than it can chew. Because the school has been around for so long, and the state has failed to find any disgruntled ex-pupils, the public support for the school has been immense.

While the government are saying that this is the only school they are aware of my contacts tell me that there are at least 20 other such schools in Germany, many of which have been running for over 20 years.