

New compulsory subject Chinese elementary students must golf

Elementary school students at a public school in Shanghai no longer just have to learn math and Chinese - but also golf. The headmaster says: "Playing golf is an important social qualification."



Imago / Xinhua

Students playing golf in Changzhou

A Chinese state elementary school has introduced golf as a compulsory subject. About 400 seven- and eight-year-old children from a foreign-language school in Shanghai would need to attend golf lessons once a week, the China Daily reports.

"Golf is not a top-class sport reserved for the rich," headmaster Xia Haiping told the newspaper. "It can be an exercise for everyone." According to "China Daily," the Experimental School of Foreign Language is the first state-funded school in China that has a duty to play golf. Golf has been on the curriculum at several private schools for a long time.

For headmaster Xia, learning the sport to prepare for a career in an international environment is one of them: "Language skills alone are not enough," he told the newspaper. "Playing golf is an important social qualification."

"German-Chinese Year of Youth Exchange"

China's communist leadership has a split relationship with golf. Golf courses are regarded as closed meeting places of the elites from politics and economics. As part of anti-corruption measures, the Communist Party banned its members from accepting invitations to free golf club membership last year.

On the other hand, the state benefits golfers and boasts its world-class golf courses. The expensive membership in the clubs can afford but still very few Chinese.

Maybe German students will soon come into contact with young people from China more often. Federal President Joachim Gauck met with state and party leader Xi Jinping on Monday. The two opened a "German-Chinese year of youth exchange" to intensify the encounters between students and students.