

## FAQ

### 1. The island of Nonnenwerth gets a new owner and the Franziskus Gymnasium Nonnenwerth a new partner. Why are these steps necessary?

The Franciscans of Nonnenwerth have been located on the island and have shaped the culture and educational program there since 1854. However, the lack of new members joining the Franciscan Order and the seniority of the current sisters in Nonnenwerth, present a challenge for the community for the continuation of the tradition in the future.

In order to find a solution that is satisfactory for everyone involved, the sisters have been looking for a solution that allows for continuation of the traditional Christian secondary school program and the long-term stability for the island itself.

This solution has now been found: the shares of Nonnenwerther Schul-GmbH will be taken over by ISR International School on the Rhine gGmbH on August 1, 2020. Peter Soliman, the proprietor of ISR, becomes the owner of the island and the proprietor of the Franziskus Gymnasium Nonnenwerth. The current agreement means that the tried and tested pedagogy and educational philosophy at the Franziskus Gymnasium Nonnenwerth will continue to operate.

### 2. What does the new structure mean for the Franciscans on the island?

The Franciscan Order will remain an integral part of the island. The sisters relinquish ownership of the island through the takeover, however, they will continue to reside on the island in the future.

### 3. What kind of school is the Franziskus Gymnasium Nonnenwerth?

The Franziskus Gymnasium Nonnenwerth, located near Cologne and Bonn, is a private secondary school which offers the German Abitur (“allgemeine Hochschulreife”). The school is recognized by the state of Rheinland-Pfalz as a state-approved private comprehensive school. It is important to note that both schools, ISR International School on the Rhine and the Franziskus Gymnasium Nonnenwerth, are nonprofit institutions. As such, all school fees are reinvested into educational tools, materials, and staff for the benefit of all the students. More information about Nonnenwerth can be found [here](#).

#### **4. Why is ISR involved in Nonnenwerth?**

At ISR, we see the value of partnering with a highly traditional and high-quality educational institution such as the Franziskus Gymnasium Nonnenwerth that has a proven track record and reflects our own guiding principle: “We enable great minds and strong characters.” Indeed, the value system imbedded in the ethos of the Gymnasium complements our own values. Therefore, a cooperation between the two schools is a natural fit and mutually beneficial. In addition, the takeover of this tradition-based Gymnasium will further anchor ISR in the area and will enrich our own experience with their 170-year-long tradition.

#### **5. What will change for ISR?**

A high-quality of education and high standards will always be our first priority.

ISR will also remain a non-political and a non-religious institution that continues to promote international mindedness within our diverse multicultural school community.

Nevertheless, the takeover of a German Gymnasium will further expand ISR’s educational offering and the future will show what positive effects it will have on both institutions.

Possible interfaces of the cooperation we currently see:

- Summer Camps / Sport Camps
- Music Events / Sport Events
- Exchange Programs
- SLO® Leadership Weekends on the island