



Forward ▶ looking.  
Forward ▶ thinking.

School profile 2021-22

THE  
BRITISH  
SCHOOL  
OF AMSTERDAM

# One Vision. One School.

Forward looking, forward thinking: the very best that British international education offers. A thriving school community which nurtures, inspires and empowers everyone to be the very best they can be.

Children move through several stages of their education in specific school environments suitable to their age and stage of learning. There are three school sections:



## Our home

The British School of Amsterdam was founded in 1978 by three expat families with the idea that their children should not fall behind the British school system whilst working overseas. Over time the School slowly grew to a Kindergarten, then a Primary School and by the turn of the Millennium, a full Senior School was established. Now, over 40 years later the School caters to children from 3 to 18 years old.

At The British School, we believe that children should be ambitious and reach for their dreams, and we actively strive to ignite their curiosities, encourage them to be relentlessly optimistic and to develop a love of learning. Success is not only measured by academic achievement, but how your child grows in other important ways, such as through life skills and other talents in the arts, sports and through leadership activities.

Each school section is planned and run with a curriculum tailored to the needs of children at these different stages in their social, emotional and academic development. Children receive a well-rounded education, equipping every one with all the skills needed for the next stage in their learning journey.

We have close to 200 employees; over 80 are teachers with a high proportion who have experience in the UK. Our staff body are truly talented and unlike many international schools, a significant number of our teachers have been with us for a long time, in fact a combined total of 550 years' experience.

The School is located in Amsterdam Oud-Zuid near several green spaces such as Vondelpark, and is easily accessible for families commuting from different parts of the city and surrounding areas. Within the school building, each section has their own wing to maintain the character of that School and is specially designed so that it is suitable for the ages of the children.

The School is a re-engineered, monumental building with some of the finest educational facilities in the city. There is a magnificent sports hall, beautiful playgrounds, a large theatre, assembly halls and fully equipped science laboratories and music rooms. Classrooms are light and airy and many features were maintained so there is a wonderful mix of old and new.



## Pupil body

The whole school roll is currently just over 1,000 pupils. We are a truly international school with over 40 different native languages and over 75 different cultures (including dual nationality parents). Our pupils speak many languages at home that are additional to their academic curriculum.

British	14%	Dutch	13%
Indian	22%	American	10%
Early Years School		230 pupils	
Junior School		400 pupils	
Senior School		370 pupils	

## Early Years School

The Early Years School is made up of Nursery, Reception and Year 1 for children aged 3-6. There are three Nursery classes, with one Teacher and three Nursery Officers for each class. A maximum of 25 children attend each session. There are four Reception and Year 1 classes with a maximum class size of 24. There is a Teacher and a Nursery Officer/Teaching Assistant in each class. Each teaching room has a SmartBoard and access to a set of iPads.

### The School Day

Nursery	8.30 – 12.00	(morning sessions)
	12.00 – 3.00	(afternoon sessions)
	8.30 – 3.00	(full day)
Reception	8.50 – 3.10	
Year 1	8.50 – 3.15	



The staff strive to provide an inspiring, stimulating and exciting environment where everyone feels valued, safe and well cared for. We want children to have fun and enjoy success in all aspects of their education and this is helped with all classrooms leading directly onto the playground. We value the partnership between home and school and encourage parents to also play an active part in their child's education.

The children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum for England which sets the standards that all providers for the Early Years must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. Teaching and learning ensures the children's school readiness and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. As part of the curriculum the following areas are covered; Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

In the EYFS, there are prime areas of learning: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. Dynamic and child-led teaching activities engage children across the Early Years, and the children also experience Forest School and a variety of enrichment activities including music, FitNut, sports and games, and ballet (optional).

The children in Year 1 follow the National Curriculum used in England which provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said and helps provide an appreciation of human creativity and achievement. The national curriculum is just one element in the education of every child. There is time and space in the school day and in each week, term and year to range beyond the curriculum specifications. The curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.

English and Dutch are taught as additional languages by specialist teachers. Native Dutch is taught to children who speak Dutch in the home. In addition children have specialist music lessons.

## Junior School

The Junior School is made up of Years 2 to 6 for children aged 6-11. There are four classes across each year and a maximum class size of 24. In Year 2 there is a Teacher and Teaching Assistant in each class, and then from Year 3 onwards, each class has a Teacher and Teaching Assistants that support across the Year Group.

Children learn to work in an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect and can enjoy an extensive programme of extracurricular activities and there are dedicated music rooms for private music tuition.

A well-balanced timetable ensures the delivery of all subjects over a weekly period. The day runs from 8.45 to 3.25 (for Years 2 and 3) or 3.30 (for Years 4 to 6). English and Mathematics are recognised as core subjects and taught daily. There are key objectives that are taught through the lessons and each lesson is differentiated to include all the different levels of learning ability within a class. Children who are new to English receive additional support from our English as an Additional Language (EAL) Teachers, who work with small groups of children either as a withdrawn group or in class. All children work towards learning targets which are set by the teachers each term. Curriculum and Learning Support Teachers also complement activities in each year group, and children access a variety of support and extension groups each week.

A topic based approach to the curriculum is made with an emphasis on cross curricular links. Science, History, Geography, Art, Design & Technology and Computing are all taught through a topic based approach in short or long units and we aim to make our curriculum exciting, relevant and appropriately challenging.

Each year group takes part in an annual production, and there is a rich variety of music in the school, with 12 private music teachers offering one to one tuition, three choirs and a range of performance opportunities. Swimming in the Junior School is a half year programme for Year 3 upwards and all children attend an annual residential trip at the end of the year.

Personal, Health and Social Education (PHSE) is taught through assembly themes and through Jigsaw lessons in class. Jigsaw is a comprehensive, whole-school approach to promoting the social and emotional skills that underpin effective learning, positive behaviour, and the emotional health and well-being of all who learn and work in schools.

All Junior children have two Physical Education (PE) lessons per week, one which is led by a specialist.

Children access curriculum music lessons led by our music teachers, and in addition, the children have a specific Art Skills lesson each week taught by a specialist teacher.

## Extra Curricular

We offer a wide variety of academic, social, cultural and competitive activities for children.

- Art & Crafts
- Ballet
- Basketball
- Beginners Dutch
- Biz for Kidz
- Board Games
- Bootcamp
- Card Games
- Chess
- Djembe Drumming
- FitNut Starts
- Football
- Fun Learning English
- Gadget Club
- Hama Beads
- Irish Dance
- Karate
- LEGO
- Mix Sports
- Mixed Dance
- Musical Theatre
- Netball
- Origami
- Painting
- Sculpture Club
- Social Club
- Streetdance
- Young Engineers

In the Junior School there are also opportunities to be part of the School Council and Eco Squad, and in Year 6 to become School Prefects. These roles develop the children's sense of responsibility and citizenship skills.

## Assessing progress in the Early Years and Junior Schools

In the Early Years, continuous assessment of how each child is developing is matched to their progress against the Early Learning Goals, using a software platform called EvidenceMe as a base for our evidence.

From Year 1, and for each subsequent year, children are assessed at regular points through the year using the learning objectives from the National Curriculum used in England and the end of year expectations for each year group. We also look at children's attitudes and capabilities in a wider context to understand how each child is progressing in their social as well as academic development. These objectives are used to report progress mid-way and at the end of each year, and support and extension programmes are put in place to ensure every child's needs are targeted.

We use Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) to test children formally at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 and these tests are externally marked at the end of Key Stage 2 (end of Year 6). We get very good results from our pupils, typically performing well above national averages.



## Senior School

The Senior School is made up of Years 7 to 13 for children aged between 11-18.

The school offers a stimulating and challenging environment and the maximum class size is 22. The pupils benefit from smaller teaching groups in the upper years and in our Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13). Classrooms are used by a range of subjects, alongside specialist rooms equipped for science, IT and computing, music, drama and art.

The Senior School timetable, split over a two week period, enables a broad and balanced curriculum. The day runs from 8.40 to 3.40. Our extracurricular activities run before, during and after school and offer our pupils an enriching provision in, amongst others, the areas of technology, sport, and the arts.

### In the Senior School we aim:

- To nurture and inspire all pupils in our inclusive, diverse community, encouraging and fostering tolerance and respect for all.
- To empower pupils to take risks in their learning and support them in their educational journey, within and beyond the curriculum, to unlock their full and unique potential.
- To develop creative, independent and innovative learners.

## Curriculum

In the Senior School Years 7 to 9 follow the Key Stage 3 Curriculum. Years 10 and 11 study a combination of IGCSEs and GCSEs and the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) follows the A Level programme.



## Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

At The British School up to the end of Key Stage 3 (age 14), all pupils follow the same core curriculum. Attainment and effort grades are reported three times per academic year. In Years 7, 8 and 9 (Key Stage 3) attainment is measured in alignment with end of year expectations.



## Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

In Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) pupils take IGCSE (International General Certificate of Education) or GCSE (General Certificate of Education) courses, externally examined at the end of the two years.

### Compulsory core curriculum

• Mathematics	6 hours	Across two weeks
• English	6 hours	
• Biology	4 hours	
• Chemistry	4 hours	
• Physics	4 hours	
• Physical, Social & Health Education (PSHE)*	2 hours	
• Physical Education*	4 hours	

\*Not examined externally

### Optional subjects

(pupils select four optional subjects, each is 5 hours)

• Art and Design	• German
• Business Studies	• History
• Dutch	• Computer Science
• Drama	• Media Studies
• French	• Music
• Geography	• Physical Education
	• Spanish

## Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)

In Years 12 and 13 (Sixth Form) pupils specialise in up to five subjects. GCE (General Certificate of Education) courses at Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level are available in the following subjects:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Dutch
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Language & Literature
- Further Mathematics
- French
- Geography
- German
- Global Perspectives and Research
- History
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish

### Additional GCSE Courses

- English
- Mathematics
- Combined Science

All subjects taken at Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level are timetabled for 8 hours every fortnight. In the Sixth Form pupils also follow a programme of Personal Social and Health Education, alongside study skills and careers. An enriching electives programme is offered to all pupils with courses in subjects such as Life drawing, personal fitness, law, chemical engineering, computer programming and mindfulness.

Pupils may also choose to study towards an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in a subject of their choice.



## Pupil leadership

Pupils in the Senior School are encouraged to apply for leadership positions on pupil committees, including the following positions:

- Head Boy and Head Girl
- Head of School Council
- Eco Committee Leader
- House Captains
- Event Coordinator

In Years 11, 12 and 13 pupils can apply for prefect and mentoring positions. A pupil leadership award is an integral part of the extracurricular choices in Key Stage 3

## Extra Curricular

The Senior School offers a rich and varied programme of extra curricular activities which provide pupils with the opportunity to pursue and develop their own interests, to experience new ventures, to compete as individuals or as a member of a team in various settings.

Extra curricular activities are provided by specialist teachers and instructors. Clubs and activities running this academic year include:

- Animation
- Band Club
- Basketball
- British Sign Language
- Computing
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Dutch
- Football
- French
- Global Trading
- Japanese Culture
- Korfball
- Mathematics
- Model United Nations and Debate
- Museum
- Music Theory
- Netball
- Orchestra
- Photography
- Production
- Rowing
- Scrabble
- Spanish
- Squash
- Table Tennis
- Table-top Games

## The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award



Pupils can take part in the International Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. The Service section of the Award encourages young people to understand the benefits of service to their community. The Skills section of the Award encourages the development of personal interests and practical and social skills. As part of a small team, participants will also plan, train for and undertake a journey with a defined purpose in an unfamiliar environment.

## Examination Results

IGCSE & GCSE Results	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
A* or A (9 to 7)	59%	54%	54%	46%	29%	42%
A*, A or B (9 to 6)	75%	77%	77%	71%	64%	65%
A* to C (9 to 4)	92%	96%	94%	88%	88%	83%
Pass	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%
No. of examinations	335	373	392	312	294.5	296

A Level Results	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
A*	23%	17%	18%	19%	12%	18%
A* or A	51%	47%	42%	36%	25%	43%
A	27%	30%	24%	17%	12%	25%
B	25%	15%	27%	26%	24%	20%
A* or A or B	76%	62%	68%	63%	49%	63%
A* to C	87%	84%	86%	82%	75%	79%
Pass	99%	98%	97%	96%	97%	98%
No. of examinations	91	127	75	72	78	87



## University Destinations

Pupils in their final year at The British School of Amsterdam apply for universities around the world. A Level examinations are a globally recognised qualification. The destinations of some of our pupils include:

- United Kingdom**
  - Birkbeck, University of London (Business Management)
  - Canterbury Christ Church University (Physiotherapy; Sports Science)
  - \*Durham University (Economics; Business Management; Chemistry)
  - Edinburgh Napier University (Engineering)
  - University of Edinburgh (Biochemistry)
  - Goldsmiths, University of London (Journalism)
  - Imperial College London (Physics)
  - King's College London (Business Management; Classics; Economics; Music, Biomedical Science)
  - Leeds Arts University (Graphic Design)
  - London South Bank University (Sociology)
  - \*London School of Economics (Economics; Law)
  - Richmond, The American International University in London (Psychology)
  - Royal Holloway, University of London (Music)
  - Royal Veterinary College, University of London (Bio-veterinary Sciences)
  - St. George's, University of London (Bio-Medicine)
  - St. Martin's College (Art Foundation)
  - University of Aberdeen (Psychology)
  - University of Bath (Aerospace Engineering)
  - \*University of Birmingham (Economics; International Relations; Pharmacy; Politics & Economics)
  - University of Brighton (Business Management; Architecture; Finance and Investment)
  - \*University of Edinburgh (Russian Studies and Politics; International Business with French)
  - University of Essex (Art)
  - \*University of Glasgow (Economics and Politics)
  - University of Greenwich (Event Management)
  - University of Kent (Psychology with Forensic Psychology)
  - \*University Liverpool (Business Management)
  - \*University of Oxford (Chemistry)
  - University of Plymouth (Computing)
  - \*University of Sheffield (Psychology)
  - University of St Andrews (Computer Science)
  - \*University of Stirling (Economics; Film & Media)
  - University of Strathclyde (International Business)
  - University of Surrey (Physics; Physics with Astronomy)
  - University of Sussex (Psychology with Business and Management)
  - \*University of Warwick (Mathematics; Economics)
- The Netherlands**
  - Amsterdam Fashion School (Fashion)
  - Amsterdam University College (Liberal Arts; Liberal Arts & Science)
  - Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (International Business Management)
  - Delft University of Technology (Aerospace Engineering; Aeronautical Engineering; Architecture; Mechanical Engineering)
  - Erasmus University College Rotterdam (Liberal Arts and Sciences)
  - Erasmus University Rotterdam (Business Economics; Econometrics; International and Business Economics)
  - Gerrit Rietveld Academie (Fine Art)
  - Hogeschool van Amsterdam (Communication and Multimedia Design)
  - Hogeschool van Amsterdam (Creative Business)
  - Hotelschool The Hague (Business Administration; Business Management; Hotel Management)
  - Leiden University (Law)
  - Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (Life Science and Technology)
  - SAE Institute (Animation)
  - Saxion University of Applied Sciences (Game Design and Production)
  - The Hague University (European Studies)
  - Tilburg University (Global Law)
  - TIO University of Applied Sciences (Hospitality and Management)
  - TU Delft (Computer Science & Engineering)
  - University of Amsterdam (Business; Business Administration; Communication Science; Economics & Business; English Studies, European Studies; Hospitality; History; International Business; Physics and Astronomy; Politics; PPLE; Psychology; Sociology)
  - University of Groningen (Business Management; Chemistry; Computer Science; Industrial Engineering & Management; International and European Law; Psychology)
  - University of Rotterdam (Econometrics)
  - University of Tilburg (International Business)
  - University of Utrecht (Notarial Law; Media and Culture)
  - Volks University Amsterdam (International Business Administration)
  - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam ()
  - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Artificial Intelligence; Business & Innovation; Computer Science; International Business; Mathematics)
  - VU University Amsterdam (Computer Science)
  - Willem de Koning Academie (Architecture)
- Austria**
  - Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (Fine Art)
- Australia**
  - University of Newcastle (Biotechnology)
- Canada**
  - Carlton University (Biotechnology & Biochemistry)
  - Concordia University (Mechanical Engineering)
  - York University
- France**
  - Airways Aviation Academy Montpellier (ATPL Integrated Course)
  - ARTFX Lille
  - Faculté de Médecine de Lille (Medicine)
  - Gobelins, Paris (Animation)
  - Hotel institute Montreux (Hotel management and Business)
  - L'Institut des Médias Avancés, Lille
  - Sciences Po (Politics and International Studies)
- Germany**
  - Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich (Engineering)
- Israel**
  - Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music (partnered with Berklee College, USA) (Music)
- Japan**
  - University of Waseda, Tokyo (Natural Sciences)

\*The Russell Group represent the 24 leading UK universities.



# School Life

All information and costs given in this document were correct at the time this was created, but are subject to change. These costs are also not inclusive in the school fees.

## Private music tuition

The School is fortunate to have a variety of experienced Peripatetic Music teachers, who come into school to give private individual music lessons on different instruments. These music teachers come under the collective title of the Young Musicians of The British School of Amsterdam (YMBSA).

The YMBSA have their own system for applying and paying for lessons; this is separate from school fees. Pupils are encouraged to take exams and are used as a motivation tool to encourage practice and to give the pupils individual goals and a great sense of achievement. Pupils are also offered the chance to perform in various concerts, assemblies and class lessons throughout the school year both as soloists and as members of varying ensembles.

Pupils will have weekly individual lessons and there will be 32 half hour lessons per school year. Each 30 minute lesson costs €29. Music books and other material purchased by the teacher will be invoiced separately.

For more information, please contact our YMBSA Coordinator on by phone +31 (0) 20 45 36 589 or by email [ianandcarolespencer@yahoo.com](mailto:ianandcarolespencer@yahoo.com).

## Lunch

The School uses Markies Catering to provide lunch options. Markies provide fresh lunch options and encourages pupils to make healthy choices in terms of food and drink by showing that responsible food is tasty. They offer different options, such as a termly subscription or ordering from an assortment menu on a daily basis with notice given depending on whether hot food or a packed lunch is selected. Ordering is done through a direct, online ordering system and costs start from €4.85 a day.

## Bus service

The School works in partnership with Brouwer Company to be our transport provider bringing our children to school and back home. The bus service is available for families in and around the Amsterdam Zuid area and further South in areas such as Amstelveen.

### What does the bus service offer?

- Reliable and affordable transportation for your child to and from school.
- A professional service with a company experienced in school transport and working with children of all ages.
- The service is available to Early Years and Junior pupils only.
- Flexible routes – you can contact Brouwer to make bus stop requests and they will try to accommodate if possible.
- A sustainable travel solution, and the reduced traffic increases safety around the school building.

There are currently two bus routes with different pick-up points and the fees vary depending on whether you book a full day, or half day (morning or afternoon).

Bus service option	Cost per child
Full day	€16.50
Morning only	€8.25
Afternoon only	€8.25

## After School Care

The School works with Majest Global to provide reliable, good quality after school care for children. Experienced leaders offer a wide range of activities, from cooking to playing sports, from music to group activities. The children are free to decide if they wish to participate, they may sometimes prefer some quiet time and want to read a book, listen to music or do some homework. Children are given the space to choose. Day trips are organised during school holidays.

Majest provides after school care exclusively to The British School children between the ages of 3 to 12 years. The facility is open every day after school from 3.10 to 6.30 and during school holidays from 8.00 to 6.30.

The monthly cost based on one day a week per month starts from €192.34. If you would like to learn more about this service, you can contact Majest directly by phone + 31 (0) 629 393 196 or by email [info@majestglobal.nl](mailto:info@majestglobal.nl)

## Learning support

Our school caters for a range of different educational needs, with Learning Support Coordinators working in each school section, providing support for teachers and small groups of children. For children that need additional adult support to

access the curriculum, we only have limited provision, and this comes at an additional cost to families if it is required.

The fees is €36,843 per year for **full time support** or allocations are made based on the level of support needed so the cost changes to reflect this.

## Parents' Organisation

At The British School, we care very much about the whole school community and helping where possible to support families settle in. Our Parents' Organisation are key to doing this well. They hold many events and offer opportunities to meet through the year, but they also play a big role in creating and supporting the parent network in so many different ways such as connecting you through culture or interest groups.

## School fees

	Annual Fee 2021-22	Termly Fee 2021-22	
Early Years School	Nursery 10 Sessions	€15,972.00	€5,324.00
	Nursery 9 Sessions	€14,374.80	€4,791.60
	Nursery 8 Sessions	€12,777.60	€4,259.20
	Nursery 7 Sessions	€11,180.40	€3,726.80
	Nursery 6 Sessions	€9,583.20	€3,194.40
	Nursery 5 Sessions	€7,986.00	€2,662.00
	Addition sessions	€1,597.20	€532.40
	Reception	€16,125.00	€5,375.00
	Year 1	€16,449.00	€5,483.00
	Year 2	€16,449.00	€5,483.00
Junior School	Years 3 to 6	€16,629.00	€5,543.00
Senior School	Years 7 to 13	€17,631.00	€5,877.00

Nursery fees will be charged from the beginning of the half term in which your child joins the school.

## Admissions process

- 01 Visit the school and meet the relevant Head of School
- 02 Complete our online application form which is available on our website and pay registration fee
- 03 Once the deposit is paid, our Admissions Team will confirm if you have been offered a place
- 04 Accept place and make payment to guarantee your child's place in the School

**Our Admissions Team are available to help you at every stage of the process.**



**Nathalie Edghill**  
Admissions  
Manager



**Ann Gibson**  
Assistant Admissions  
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THE  
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EARLY YEARS  
SCHOOL

JUNIOR  
SCHOOL

SENIOR  
SCHOOL



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