

International School St. Petersburg

World Leading Schools

Welcome

Welcome to the International School of St. Petersburg (ISSP). Our school's mission is to be a World Leading School, which means nothing less than having the highest of standards. We are unashamedly ambitious with the education we provide, ensuring our children thrive not just academically but also in character. Every child that attends our school is uniquely special to us, and we endeavour to instil not only a love for learning but also values and experiences that will remain with them throughout their lives.

The International School St. Petersburg is dedicated to traditional educational values, offering a stimulating curriculum with a particular focus on numeracy and literacy from an early age. Our vibrant extracurricular programme also seeks to expose our children to quality tuition in music, drama, sports, and art. To help pupils understand who they are becoming and what subjects they enjoy, we provide a safe environment and actively encourage them to challenge themselves and play a more significant part in their development, making them feel confident to participate, make mistakes, and have fun.

We know that children thrive on high expectations and challenges, whether in the classroom, on the sports field or in the arts. By setting the bar high, we expect our students to develop into top candidates for entry into any UK independent school, or when the time is right, a world-class university.

For all these high standards, we believe a child's happiness should come first, with a particular focus on displaying enthusiasm for life, kindness to others and general good manners.

Our immediate community is also of critical importance to us, and we aim to provide every opportunity for parents to be involved and participate in the life of the school and their children's education.

While no substitute for a visit, I hope our prospectus provides you with a sense of the type of school we are and the values we represent. I also trust you can visit us soon so you can see first-hand the quality of education we provide and the undeniable "spark" present on our pupil's faces.

British Education

Our school delivers private British education. The curriculum is based on the English National Curriculum with a distinct international perspective.

Pupils sit the same public tests and examinations that are administered in most schools in England and typically perform well above the UK average.

Our staff recognise that academic achievement is central to school life, but rather than focusing on preparing for tests; we believe that a broad and vibrant curriculum creates the enthusiasm for learning that will lead to success. Good examination results simply follow.





School Principles

Mission Statement

To be a World Leading School.

Vision

To be an exemplary educational institution dedicated to the proposition that every child should be inspired to achieve extraordinary success. To realise this, we will instil in them a love for learning, a relentless pursuit of ambitious goals, and respect for core values in-line with the very best of our British educational heritage.

Guiding Principles

- Ensure our pupils are safe and happy.
- Expect honourable, kind and well-mannered conduct.
- Uphold the highest standards in everything we do.
- Provide exceptional learning environments and experiences.
- Seek and retain the very best teaching professionals.
- Impart a passion for learning and the determined pursuit of excellence.
- Positively influence our community.

Teaching & Learning

Teaching and learning at our school are based on three fundamental principles:

- *Stimulating curiosity and nurturing an interest in learning.*
- *Thinking critically and taking a structured approach to understanding and solving problems.*
- *Having an open mind and respect for other people and new ideas.*

These principles are supported by engaging lessons that are delivered in an interactive and thought-provoking manner using a wide variety of teaching styles.

In a typical lesson, the teacher will be a guide in an investigative process in which pupils discover their understanding of the material and are receptive to learning more.

Lessons are planned for a range of abilities allowing every student to benefit and improve upon their skills and knowledge.





The Early Years

The Early Years curriculum focuses on providing a creative and stimulating environment where young children can develop a positive approach to both learning and playing together. Reading, writing, working with numbers, and socialising within a group are skills that are discovered and developed through play, storytelling, art and music.

Classrooms are decorated with thoughtful displays of children's work, which helps to create a stimulating learning environment. The children's work is also displayed throughout the school, promoting a culture of respect for others and pride in their work.

Primary School

At primary school level, learning often takes place through cross-curricular topic based study. Reading, Writing and Maths are tied together with elements of Science, Geography, History, ICT and Art. For example, pupils gain an appreciation of a History topic, such as Ancient Egypt, by writing an instructional text on the process of making a mummy in Literacy and crafting their Egyptian plaster masks in an Art lesson.

By placing children at the centre of the learning experience, we encourage them to investigate, discover and to learn how to harness their abundant natural curiosity. There is a strong emphasis for them to learn to work independently and in groups while making use of the latest ICT tools available.



Information Technology

Information Technology is fully integrated into the curriculum and plays a vital role in each class. Every classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard (IWB) and an internet connection, which is used by teachers as an essential tool for delivering the curriculum.

All pupils have scheduled Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) lessons aimed at helping them develop the use of technology as part of their life. The campus-wide network also ensures internet connectivity throughout the school.





Languages

We live in a world that is connected at a global level and recognise that more significant opportunities will be available to those with the ability to communicate effectively across cultures. Helping pupils to develop a command of more than one language is, therefore, a principal aim of our curriculum.

Daily language lessons are complemented by a rich programme of activities, educational trips, and whole school events that take place throughout the school year. These activities aim to take full advantage of the opportunities for language advancement provided by our local environment.

Art

Our teachers deliver lessons designed to develop creativity using a variety of media and techniques in art and craftwork.

Alongside the awareness of colour, shape, balance, focus and proportion, students also developed an understanding the use of symbols to convey ideas and feelings.

Students study a wide range of artists, craftspeople and designers. These studies do not remain solely in the classroom as we invite an artist every year to hold workshops in their field.



Drama

At our schools the disciplines of dance, drama and singing are skills learnt by our students that don't disappear when the curtain falls - they are skills for life.

Drama lessons include dramatic play, story enactment, imagination journeys, theatre games, music, and dance. "Let's pretend" is the norm in drama class, not just a child's game.

Drama can help children learn about emotions, problem-solving, and relating to other people. Through their experiences with drama, students develop their imagination and their confidence. One of the unique things about drama is that there are no "wrong" answers - through pretending, animals can talk, students can travel to outer space or the jungle, and the sky can be green while the grass is blue.

Music

Music plays a significant role at our school, and we have sought to bring the strong tradition of musical excellence found in many top UK schools in our community.

Learning a musical instrument or merely appreciating a broader range of music not only develops the mind and spirit in unique ways, but it also provides a source of joy and satisfaction that can last a lifetime.

With the whole class, instrumental music lessons provide every child with the opportunity to discover and learn an instrument they enjoy. Individual tuition during the school day can also be arranged for pupils who wish to make faster progress.

Throughout the year a busy schedule of concerts, charity events, plays and musical workshops provide pupils with the opportunities to showcase their work and talent, both in the school and broader community.





Sport

Our school enjoys a successful and flourishing sports programme delivered by specialist staff. We believe sport to be a vital component in the development of healthy pupils of all ages. A football match, a swimming gala or a dance exhibition are all opportunities to learn the value of teamwork and develop a healthy competitive attitude.

Students participate in a variety of inter-school events as well as having opportunities to represent their house through inter-house competitions such as the always popular Sports Day and Swimming Gala.

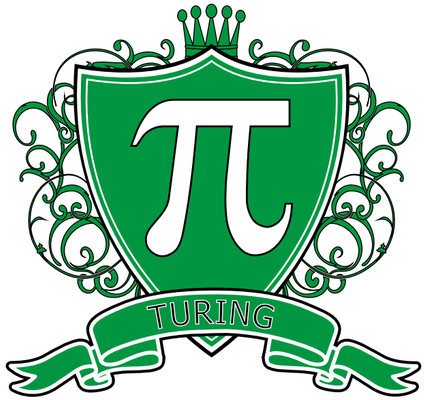
School Life

Life at our schools is vibrant. A pupil's time outside of lessons will rarely be idle and could involve juggling an instrumental lesson with a play rehearsal or team training session.

Every student is a member of a House and will take part in numerous House activities each term. Learning extends beyond the school gates through a range of trips and visits aimed at making the most of our surroundings and the many educational opportunities it offers.

School life is ultimately an amalgamation of interactions taking place in a variety of settings from a game of touch rugby or lunch in the canteen, practising for a recital or going on a whole school trip. Our pupils quickly discover that a positive and enthusiastic attitude is the best way to foster caring relationships, build confidence and gain success.





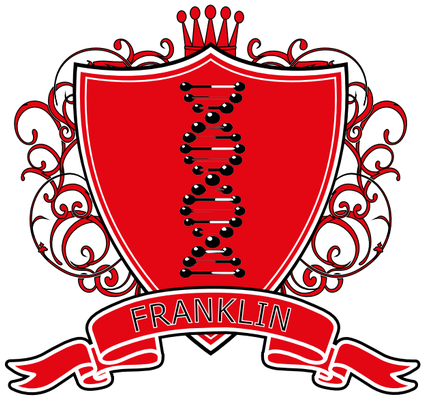
Turing House

Sir Alan Turing was an English computer scientist, mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist. He was a key figure in the development of both the computer and artificial intelligence.



Shackleton House

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton was a polar explorer and a principal figures of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. His harrowing, heroic journey is why he continues to be celebrated to this day.



Franklin House

Rosalind Franklin is best known for her role in the discovery of the structure of DNA, and for her pioneering use of X-ray diffraction. Known for her contributions that still serve to encode genetic information to this day.



Eliot House

Mary Anne Evans known by pen name George Eliot, was an English novelist, poet, journalist, translator, and one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. George Eliot wrote the classics Middlemarch and Silas Marner.

House System

All students are allocated to one of four Houses when they join the school: Shackleton, Franklin, Eliot and Turing, with siblings being assigned to the same House. The Houses run across the Primary and students meet regularly in their House group.

The House system is used to promote team identity and competition. Commendations and other competitions (sport, music, academic) contribute towards the House Cup, which is awarded at Prize Giving at the end of the academic year.

Each House supports a different charity and is run by a House Leader. During the year we raise money through our various events and fundraising activities, the proceeds are divided at the end of the year between the houses. The House with the most House points receives the biggest donation for their chosen charity.

Community Outreach

Our links with our community are important to us. The parent body is an active social network that offers invaluable help to the school, organising large-scale events such as UN Day, Christmas Fairs or the Summer Fete. The school also supports and takes the lead on numerous occasions and associations within the community.

Most of our events raise money for charity with pupils and staff further contributing their time to a range of community-based programmes.

Our Trust

Our school is a member of The Schools Trust, an organisation with an established history of delivering high-quality educational services in an international setting. We are fortunate to be able to draw from that expertise and to attract excellent teachers through the strong reputation of the organisation.

The Schools Trust is a non-profit organisation that aims to promote quality British-style education worldwide.

The Trustees have established a reputation for high academic, managerial and employment standards with experience spanning several decades and continents.





Admissions

Admission to our school is selective; we look for students with a positive attitude, who are interested in education and extra-curricular activities, and who demonstrate good classroom behaviour.

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils can gain access to established universities around the world or can continue their schooling at the highest level on returning to their home country. While we do evaluate children's academic potential, we also try to get a broader picture and look beyond their educational level. We expect all students to contribute to school life outside of the classroom; Music, Drama and Sports being areas in which we excel.

We look for children who show an academic aptitude and interest in learning at school. We set high academic expectations, but seek to maximise the potential of each student.

Admissions Process

To apply for enrolment at the school, prospective parents must submit an online application form through our website.

Those parents who are unable to complete an application online, can call the admissions office and provide the information by telephone. Alternatively, parents can complete the online form at the school premises, with the assistance of our administration team.

Admissions Criteria & Assessment Process

The principal aim of the School's admission policy is to ensure students can succeed in their academics while contributing to school life through sports, arts and social interaction.

The level of spoken and written English is a determining factor, though other factors such as standards of behaviour, work ethic and past academic achievement also play a role in the decision to accept a child or not. The School also aims to provide a balanced and vibrant cross-section of nationalities.

A school tour or child assessment will be scheduled with parents shortly after an application is received. Parents should when possible or applicable, bring with them the following:

- Previous academic reports (if available)
- Copies of passports (student & parents)
- Signed copies of the Conditions and Declarations document

Acceptance & Waiting Lists

The school will usually communicate the outcome of an application within a few days of completion. Parents will be required to confirm the placement within five (5) working days of receiving this communication. Failure to approve the placement may result in the forfeiting of the applicant's place.

Children who have completed the application procedure, but are unable to join the school due to limited availability, will be offered a place on the waiting list with priority given to:

1. Siblings of current students.
2. Children are transferring from a sister school.
3. UK nationals.
4. Children of staff members.

Guide To Year Groups

Age on September 1st	UK Year Group	USA Grade Equivalent	Key Stage Grouping
2	Pre-Nursery	Toddler	Early Years Foundation Stage (FS)
3	Nursery	Pre-K	
4	Reception	Pre-K	
5	Year 1	Kindergarten	Key Stage One (KS1)
6	Year 2	Grade 1	
7	Year 3	Grade 2	Key Stage Two (KS2)
8	Year 4	Grade 3	
9	Year 5	Grade 4	
10	Year 6	Grade 5	
11	Year 7	Grade 6	Key Stage Three (KS3)
12	Year 8	Grade 7	
13	Year 9	Grade 8	
14	Year 10	Grade 9	IGCSE
15	Year 11	Grade 10	
16	Year 12	Grade 11	A-Level
17	Year 13	Grade 12	

Frequently Asked Questions

Why Choose a British School?

British education, at both the school and university level, has a worldwide reputation for quality. The reputation of the British educational tradition is due in part to the status and academic excellence of institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge University, and at the school level, renowned independent schools such as Eton or Winchester.

British education is focused on processes and outcomes - what should a child know and be able to do at any given age - as opposed to emphasising the acquisition of specific knowledge. The National Curriculum for England and Wales takes a progressive approach; from 2 to 18-plus, each stage builds upon what has come before. Certain vital principles, starting from the early years, run through the whole of the education system.

- The notion that each child is unique and that this is important.
- An emphasis on developing positive relationships (with teachers, parents, peers).
- A focus on enabling environments (learning does not happen exclusively in the classroom).
- Learning and development - looking at outcomes and results, but only as one facet of a child's education.

British education emphasises the development of the whole student, and particularly at the primary level there is a great deal of scope for creativity and individuality in the classroom. When all of this is considered alongside the continuity and transferability offered by a British education around the world and the fact that British institutions offer qualifications that are recognised internationally, it is little wonder that British schools abroad continue to flourish and expand.

The popularity of British education can be seen in the vast number of British schools outside of the UK. There are more than 2000 schools outside of Britain teaching elements of the UK National Curriculum, and more are opening every year. Students from these schools account for a significant percentage of the overseas students doing undergraduate degrees at UK universities. Choosing a British international school not only gives students the benefit of British education, but it is also eminently transferable. The structure and consistency of the National Curriculum allows students to move smoothly, between British schools in various countries including the UK, and facilitates progression to university in the UK or elsewhere in the world.

At the School, we provide British style education that takes the best of the UK curriculum and reinforces it with enhanced extracurricular, instrumental and modern foreign language programmes. Our students sit the same public tests and examinations that are administered in England and will typically perform well above the UK average. At our school, we recognise that academic achievement is central to school life, but rather than focus on preparing for tests we believe that a broad and vibrant curriculum creates the enthusiasm for learning that will lead to success. Good examination results simply follow.

Is the curriculum taught at the school recognised by other international schools and Universities?

The School delivers the English National Curriculum, as it would be offered by any top independent school in the UK (with small curriculum adaptations to cater for the fact that we are located abroad). Students attending our school will have their studies accepted by other reputable British and international schools as well as universities in the UK and worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am applying from overseas, and my child(ren) cannot attend an assessment at the school?

Parents who are applying from overseas will be required to send by fax or email, copies of the latest academic transcripts of the child(ren) (Children aged 4 or above). Depending on the information provided, the school will reply with three possible outcomes:

1. In very exceptional circumstances the child is accepted unconditionally. This is mainly limited to native English speakers, with outstanding academic transcripts/references normally from an English National Curriculum school.
2. Conditional admission is granted, pending further information to be provided or an assessment upon the child's arrival. The school will give an opinion as to the chances of success, to indicate a level of certainty to parents.
3. The child is not accepted.

My child has very limited English. Can I apply to the school?

The School delivers its curriculum in English, and for students to be academically successful, they must have a high level of both written and spoken English. The demands on the level of English increase depending on the age of the child, typically being less demanding on early years and more demanding in our primary and secondary school. The school can provide language support, but only for a limited number of students and always with the confidence this support is only required for a limited time. Typically a child with no English ability above the age of 5 will not gain admissions to the school.

Can my child enrol at the school throughout the academic year?

Yes, the school is open to receiving students throughout the academic year, and particular attention is given to ensure new arrivals felt welcome and integrated into the class. The fact that our students are used to interacting with children from all types of nationalities and backgrounds makes the process of creating new friends and bonds all that much easier.

Will my child be able to transfer to another school within your network of schools?

Yes, once accepted and attended any of our group schools, students can transfer to any other school within the group. Administrative and admissions procedures are greatly simplified, although fees will vary accordingly.

Do students sit the Standard Assessment Test to benchmark with other British schools?

Yes, children from Year 2 to Year 6 sit the SAT's examinations, testing their Written, Reading and Mathematics ability. Parents will be able to determine the strength and progress of their children and benchmark them against the UK National average.

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