

General Information

Foley's is a private, independent, international, day-school catering for all age groups from Pre-Reception to Upper Sixth (4 -18 years old). We have expanded in recent years and currently have around 1200 pupils across the whole age range. The School is now located in new, purpose-built premises, over-looking Limassol in Ayios Athanasios. The facilities at the new premises are state-of-the-art, with fully equipped laboratories, computer rooms, art rooms, music department and a large study/library.

Sports facilities include a Sports Hall, a 25m swimming pool and an all-weather athletics track surrounding an astroturf football pitch. The new site has an outdoor Amphitheatre and, later, there will also be a 400-seat indoor theatre, which is still under construction.

The school has pupils from a very wide range of backgrounds and nationalities, around 50 different countries being represented. All lessons (apart from Greek and foreign language lessons, of course!) are taught in English. We broadly follow the UK National Curriculum at Primary and Secondary level, although this is adapted slightly to make it more relevant to international pupils.

Throughout the school we have a positive approach to behaviour and encourage social awareness, courtesy and consideration for others. This creates a disciplined but friendly environment in which pupils and teachers can work together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. We take care to include parents through regular reporting and meetings and encourage a warm and open relationship with parents, as we feel this is vital to the educational process.

The school is very well-equipped for all age levels and for all areas of the curriculum, including sciences and computing. All classrooms have the latest interactive flat screens.

In the Primary School, our aim is to give the children a broad and balanced start to their education and the confidence to achieve their potential in a happy, industrious and stimulating environment. The children follow a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to their age and ability. We look upon each boy and girl as an individual and our positive approach to behaviour fosters a sense of personal responsibility. Our main objective is that children feel learning is fun and that they are happy and confident. We seek to bring out the best in every pupil - to develop skills, talents, curiosity and imagination.

In the lower secondary school (Years 7 - 9), all pupils study the following subjects. – English, Maths, History, Geography, General Science, Information Technology, French, Art, Music, Physical Education, Drama and General Studies. Greek for native-speakers follows the curriculum of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Greek as a Second Language is also available.

Pupils begin IGCSE/GCSE courses in Form 4 (Year 10) and sit the external examinations at the end of Form 5 (Year 11). Maths and English/English Literature are compulsory at this level and our pupils usually choose between five and eight other subjects from the following list: Geography, History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, IT, Computer Science, Art, PE, Drama, Music, French, Spanish and German.

Greek is compulsory for native-speakers who sit the A level in Form 5.



A level courses begin in the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12) and we offer the following subjects: English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, Economics, Art, French, Spanish, Computer Science and Business Studies. As the expansion of the school reaches the Sixth Form, there are plans to increase the options available at this level. Although most universities require three A levels for admission, many of our pupils choose to take four subjects (five, if they include Greek or another native language).

The school has a reputation for being highly successful in these examinations. For example, over the past 8 years, in IGCSE exams, approximately 83% of pupils from the school achieved 9-7 (A*/A) and 99% achieved 9-4 (A*-C) grades. At A level, approximately 91% achieved A*-C with 55% A*/A.

Bear in mind that many of our pupils have been with us from an early age and were not selected for academic ability. Obviously, when accepting pupils into the Secondary school we are more selective. We cater better for academically able pupils but do everything we can to support academically weaker pupils. However, we cannot really claim to offer a comprehensive-style education, in that there are no vocational courses.

The vast majority of our pupils succeed in gaining places at top universities in the UK, various countries in Europe, the USA, Canada and elsewhere.

All of our teachers are university graduates. In addition, the vast majority hold a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education), QTS or equivalent, so that they are fully qualified to teach their subjects according to both UK Department for Education and Cyprus Ministry of Education requirements. The majority of our teachers have experience of teaching in the UK or other UK curriculum schools worldwide.

From its earliest days, Foley's has placed a strong emphasis on extra-curricular activities and these are considered to be very much a part of a child's overall education. A wide range is on offer, particularly in the fields of sports, music, drama and dance.

Sports include athletics, football, netball, basketball, swimming, volleyball, cricket, table-tennis and several other activities such as unihockey, touch rugby, handball and softball for younger pupils. Gymnastics is taught by a specialist coach in the Primary School and pupils progress to a high level forming a squad which performs at most school functions.

Music, drama and dance feature highly, with a full-scale musical each year as well as several other concerts and productions.

Pupils over 14 years old can participate in the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Scheme, including the expedition section. Younger secondary pupils take part in supervised hiking and camping expeditions, which will help them to prepare for the more demanding Award expeditions later.

Other activities include Model United Nations, Debating Club, Science Clubs, French and Spanish Cine Clubs, Young Enterprise and Robotics Club amongst others.

Pupils with a range of interests will find themselves in school doing some activity or other most afternoons of the week.

Contribution to the local community, through charity fund raising events, is another longstanding tradition at Foley's. Pupils are encouraged to organize and participate in a variety of such events through the year –





recent examples include a Sports Marathon, a Charity Auction and a 'Retro Fashion Show'. The Foley's School Charities Fund donates mainly to children's and medical charities in Cyprus.

Each year (pre-Covid!), a number of school trips have been organised, both locally and abroad. In recent years, the school has run trips to Athens, Paris, Geneva, Barcelona, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Mongolia.

A Brief History

Foley's school was founded in 1970 by Ward and Pat Foley. The school originally opened in Famagusta and by 1974 it was well-established, with about 250 pupils, all at secondary level. However, in 1974, disaster struck and the Turkish invasion of Cyprus forced the Foley family, and most of their pupils, to evacuate Famagusta and the school overnight.

After several months camping in Dhekhelia, hoping to return to Famagusta, it became apparent that this would not be possible and the family moved to Limassol. Here they managed to gather together some of their former pupils and began re-establishing the school. They were fortunate to find a vacant school building in town, which had originally been constructed for the RAF, and Limassol Grammar and Junior School was born. Over the years, the school became known locally as "Foley's" and, eventually, this became the school's official name. In 2016 the Primary School moved to the new premises in Ayios Athanasios and the school was reunited when the Secondary section rejoined them in 2019.

Cyprus

It is a pleasant country to live in. It has distinct seasons, rather hot in mid-summer but sunny and comfortable for most of the year. It is a good place for a family, being relatively crime-free (much safer than British towns and cities) and a very high proportion of Cypriots speak excellent English.

The school does not provide housing but we help new teachers to find suitable accommodation using local estate agents and other contacts (you do not have to pay for these services!). We do not recommend looking for housing on the internet – you are more likely to get a better deal once you are here!

Social

Over the past fifteen years or so, Limassol has become a very cosmopolitan town which offers a wide range of restaurants, cultural activities and entertainment. On the sporting side, there are a considerable range of facilities available. To give you an idea, we have staff involved in all of the following activities: mini-football (social + more serious), mountain-biking, running, windsurfing, scuba diving, water-skiing, indoor bowling, gym, tennis, squash, cricket, golf, rambling, volleyball, hashing, amateur dramatics, dancing etc. etc. In fact, you can find almost everything here if you look for it.

The staff are very sociable (honestly!) and most new members integrate very quickly and soon have a busy social life.

School Session

Early September to Christmas, early January to end of March, early April to end of June. Christmas and Easter holidays are roughly a fortnight each. We take the National Holidays but not the Saints' Days.





For further information, please see our website: www.foleysschool.com

and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Foleys-School-1347727638583079/>

