

London Scandinavian School

Manifesto

Deeply embedded in Scandinavian culture is the wisdom of En God Barndom (Danish version): The Good Childhood. This idea animates and imbues purpose into everything we do as a school. We maintain that the highest standards of intellectual, social, physical and emotional development work in synergy with one another. We believe in limiting formal assessment and increasing developmental progress.

We believe in learning from Scandinavian cultures that are widely recognised as world leaders in child welfare. The school embodies Scandinavian values of:

- Equality
- Trust
- Safety
- Openness
- Social connection
- Naturalness
- Belief in progress

We will ensure that London Scandinavian School is a school where:

- Education is child centred.
- Each child is taught uniquely according to their temperament and developmental path.
- Children are listened to.
- Children feel at home at school.
- Our students thrive through play based learning.
- Where attachment with caregivers is seen as an engine of learning.
- Children foster a connection to nature.
- Play outside happily with and get to learn from children of all ages.

- We teach in small class sizes.
- The teacher sees and follows every child's progress every day.
- Children who acknowledge and understand their own feelings.
- Students are appreciated for developing their individual path.
- We aim to provide kindness and understanding in all of our interactions.
- We ensure that each teacher has a high level of autonomy to decide the activities of the class and what will happen during the school day.
- We maintain transparency in our school operations.

We strive to have flexibility and understanding with parents (drop off, pick up and educational holidays) and to foster mutual support with the sincere organic community amongst the parents. The school believes in the importance of the parent in the child's life and the strength this brings to a modern education.

Sit on the edge of Highbury Fields we are a village school for the 21st century. We aim to encourage daily use of the surrounding green spaces - playgrounds which benefit physical and motor development, tend to an understanding and love of nature, undertake sport and physical activity and to incorporate these activities into our framework of intellectual, emotional and social development.

The school provides evidence based education - we aim to constantly learn from developments in best practice from Denmark and other Scandinavian countries. We maintain a collaborative research network with likeminded organisations who believe in synthesising the most advanced educational ideas which are proven to succeed. We are proudly internationalist.

We see no reason that children in the school cannot have the same standards and experiences of Scandinavian culture combined with the best of the extraordinary city that is our home, London. As the cultural capital of the world, the best example of multiculturalism on the planet and the greenest major global city we ensure that members of the school visit one example of these attributes of London every week. We combine the best of both cultures.

Children from Scandinavian family backgrounds will find a welcoming fit in accordance with values at home, with access to teachers who speak Scandinavian languages.

At the same time, we have evolved as a school to open our education to all as a proud part of multicultural London.

London Scandinavian School is also particularly suited to children who have already been to a school and had previously unsuited experiences. We strive to include children and their family in to the wider 'school family' and do our best to make that child and family settled, at home and flourishing.

We are preparing children for living in this century - a world of collaboration and emotional intelligence following a unique path in life with determination and kindness. We are raising children who from the beginning of their life have the ability to believe in themselves and work through life's stresses and problems drawing on a high level of emotional development. Children for whom it is natural to understand that life and the world is there waiting for them to bring their unique gifts to make it better.

London Scandinavian School considers that each child deserves to be unique and to be taught in a unique way. This is modern appreciative education. The school helps children blossom in their own way drawing on that child's unique strengths and enthusiasms, the way that particular child's mind works and thrives. We appreciate what the individual child brings and teach them to appreciate the world - this creates a community of children who appreciate and support one another, for whom seeing and wanting each other to fulfil their potential is natural.

At its heart London Scandinavian School is about the very idea of what learning is and the teacher's role to each child. We teach each child uniquely. This is an inspiring wider idea of what the school stands for. The teacher is there to listen and bring out the enormous individual potential in each child. For we believe unique individuals make the best community.

Together we are the London Scandinavian School.