

OUR BEATING HEART

A VALUES DRIVEN SCHOOL

Green Shoots is truly a values-driven school, and our families know this. Our **core value of Respect** is threaded through everything we do. Children are taught to respect themselves, other people, and our world, and are given the tools they need to live this life-affirming value every day. Throughout our school year, time is allocated to explore each of the **seven other values that underpin respect**. Activities such as whole-school assemblies and classroom projects help students understand the importance of the attributes that make a remarkable human being.

“

Our values inform our thoughts, words, and deeds, and develop during childhood and adolescence. This is why Green Shoots places such emphasis on helping students form the strong moral compass that will guide them for the rest of their life”

Catherine McKinley

Green Shoots founder and director



SUSTAINABILITY - IT'S IN EVERYTHING WE DO

At Green Shoots we understand that sustainability is so much more than simply growing vegetables on campus and recycling plastic bottles. While our name recognises the connection between the natural world and our long-term growth, students expand their understanding of the term beyond the obvious. **A focus on sustainable development is core to every decision we make and every action we take.**

Our long-term school development strategy uses a systems thinking protocol developed by **Compass Education** to guide our progress toward the goal of becoming a fully sustainable school. Consideration of **Nature, Society, Economy, and Wellbeing** inform our actions, from staff recruitment to setting fees, student safeguarding to pedagogy, resourcing the classrooms to daily kitchen practices. Facilitators from Compass Education conducted training in the process that help our teachers, parents and students contribute to a school-wide Green Shoots Sustainability Framework.

Green Shoots' **Earth Ambassadors** are a student-led group working within our school, our community, and with local businesses **to promote awareness of environmental issues**. Their first initiative saw students partner with businesses to reduce the use of plastic straws in Hoi An though a project called We Don't Suck. The Ambassadors also play a key role in ensuring that Green Shoots meets its Compass Sustainability Framework goals.



“Green Shoots engages its students, staff, and families in meaningful initiatives to increase sustainability awareness and action. The school brings together members of its community to develop long-term sustainability strategies and show that Green Shoots is a pioneering and leading educational institution.”

Giang Dang
Mother of Clara



**Sustainability means:
Enough for all, for now and forever**



A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE



BUILDING TRADITIONS

Traditions play an important role in **building continuity within a community** and at Green Shoots we recognise their value. Annual events, such as celebration of our host nation's cultural traditions, special weeks that focus on educational issues like Anti Bullying and Earth Awareness, and traditions unique to Green Shoots, such as our Read-a-thon and Taste Week, all contribute to what makes us who we are. We are constantly building new traditions and integrating new cultures, ideas and passions into our community.

INTERNATIONAL TO OUR CORE

Established in 2011, Green Shoots was the second school in central Vietnam to offer an overseas education and the first to provide a truly international learning experience. Ours is a school where **no single nationality dominates** and all cultures are respected and recognised equally.



OUR GLOBAL GAP YEAR PROGRAMME

Our GAP Year programme brings **high school graduates from prestigious United World Colleges** to Green Shoots, where they not only share their passion for learning and understanding of global issues, but also offer our older students insight into what it means to be a young adult in this rapidly changing world.



A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

At Green Shoots we know that **people are at their best when valued and respected**, and we work hard to ensure that everyone knows they matter and that their voice is heard. **Service learning** is an important part of our values system. It begins as soon as a family joins us, through our **system of mutual support** that nurtures newcomers, continues within the school, as older children support younger ones, and moves beyond our walls into the community where, through read-a-thons, sporting challenges, and other activities, we **raise money for local charities**.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parents are an important part of life at Green Shoots and we encourage them to play an **active role in their child's education** and in the development of our global community.

Parents organise events for newcomers who need help integrating into Hoi An and our community, and for existing families who wish to socialise. They facilitate ECAs, contribute to whole-school events, and volunteer time in the classroom. Those who wish to offer input can **participate in our development**, contributing ideas to our long-term strategic planning and to the creation of our sustainability goals.





A FOCUS ON QUALITY

GLOBALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS

Green Shoots understands that an international school must meet a set of externally validated standards if it is to assure families that its service can meet their needs and ensure continuous quality learning for their children. This is why we have put so much energy into seeking recognition by globally respected accrediting bodies.

We are an accredited member of **Cambridge Assessment International Exams** and a registered **Cambridge Exam Centre** able to administer IGCSE and Checkpoint secondary exams. Recognition by Cambridge offers our families assurance that we are meeting a stringent set of teaching and learning standards.



We are also one of only two schools in Vietnam to have been accepted into the **Council of British International Schools**, a worldwide accrediting body that recognises not only a member school's teaching quality but also the standard of its staff, pastoral care, governance, values, and facilities.

In 2019 we were granted membership of the **Council of International Schools** and achieved a new level of global recognition. The only CIS member in central Vietnam and one of 18 in the country, we have joined one of the world's most prestigious groups of international schools. Our CIS membership tells families that Green Shoots has been tested against a rigorous set of global standards in: values and mission; governance and leadership; curriculum; teaching, learning and assessment; staffing; student welfare and pastoral care; facilities; and community partnerships.

“

All industries have standards and education is no different. Schools that have been accredited by external agencies with high standards provide assurance that parents can trust that school with their child's education.”

Dave Porter
Head of School



TRANSPARENCY & GOVERNANCE

Green Shoots is guided by an **Advisory Board**, which meets biannually and offers insight into educational, financial, and facilities management. The school creates **three-yearly strategic plans**, which are developed in collaboration with stakeholders and shared on our website. It also publishes year-end **annual reports** that are shared with parents.



QUALITY TEACHING

Green Shoots recruits from around the world to ensure the highest standards of teaching and welfare in every classroom. All of our teachers are **fully qualified professionals**, many with **post-graduate and specialist training**. Most of our co-teachers are also qualified teachers. Green Shoots' **leadership team** draws on decades of international experience to ensure continuity of care from our playgroup to our graduating class.

“To work at Green Shoots allows me not only to educate with passion but to be a part of a dynamic, sharing and compassionate team. We enjoy the unfailing support of our leadership and I look forward to flourishing in this motivating environment for many years to come.”

Amelie Blondel
French Teacher



SUPPORT FOR LEARNING



ASSESSMENT

Much of our assessment is **formative** in nature, conducted by teachers on an ongoing basis as children work and learn. More structured **summative** assessment takes place with increasing regularity as children age, preparing them for their IGCSE exams. Regular **conferences** put children at the centre of their own assessment, giving them agency over their progress.



As a parent and a teacher at Green Shoots, I clearly see the benefits of conferences for all educational stakeholders."

Tyler Brock

Teacher and parent of 2 Green Shoots students

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Upon enrolment at Green Shoots, students who may need support are assessed by our **experienced SEN staff**. If support is needed we tailor a unique programme, taught both in the classroom and through breakout sessions, to help each child integrate into mainstream learning as quickly as possible.



COUNSELLING

Growing up can be hard, especially if far from family and when moving countries regularly. Our **experienced counsellor** offers confidential support to students in need throughout the school. In our secondary school we also integrate discussion of sensitive issues such as bullying, sex and sexuality, respect, and social media usage, into the timetable.





TRANSPORT

School buses between Hoi An and Da Nang make it possible for families who do not live locally to access a Green Shoots education. All buses have trained monitors who oversee student safety. Booster seats and adapted seat belts are available for younger children.



USE OF ICT

We attempt to balance our use of ICT at Green Shoots to ensure students see it as a tool for learning. Competency with different aspects of technology is an important skill that develops as the children mature. Seesaw, our **online digital portfolio tool**, gives parents insight into their child's daily activities and allows them to offer real-time feedback.

“The Seesaw app allows me to understand what my children are learning and support them with feedback. I feel more involved with what they do at school and look forward to the end of the year, when we can download their complete portfolio.”

Ellen Rutgeerts
Mother of Jana and Lukas

HEALTHY EATING

A healthy body has been linked to the development of a healthy mind and we take this connection seriously. All Green Shoots **students eat together**, enjoying a combination of Vietnamese and international meals that are made fresh each day by our dedicated kitchen staff. **We limit sugar and additives, and our campus is MSG-free.**





LANGUAGES AT GREEN SHOOTS

UNIQUE FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE PROGRAMME

The only such programme in central Vietnam, our French programme offers bilingual children the opportunity to expand their French-language skills while also building the English-language skills they will benefit from as global citizens. Classes focus primarily on language acquisition, using materials provided by the French education authorities, but also on an understanding of French history and culture. Our programme has been inspected and is **recognised by the French diplomatic authorities** in Vietnam.

“Gael can access both programmes: the French one with a very qualified French teacher and all other courses in English. This bilingualism was a major reason why we chose Green Shoots for our son's education.”

Florence Mussou
Mother of Gael



VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE PROGRAMME

A similar programme supports native Vietnamese speakers who wish to retain their mother-tongue skills while also building fluency in English. Our teaching team builds language skills at an age and ability appropriate level, integrating into classes an understanding of Vietnam's unique culture and heritage.





TAILORED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Many Green Shoots students are not native English speakers and require help building their language skills upon entry into the school. Our experienced English as an Additional Language (EAL) team will assess each child's needs and develop a **bespoke English language acquisition programme** designed to integrate the child into mainstream classes as quickly as possible. Language support takes place both within the classroom setting and in separate breakout classes.

“ They learned English in a year, and now they speak it better than I do!”

Til Gartner

Father of Lili, Marlou and Cecile

MOTHER TONGUE & OTHER LANGUAGES

Green Shoots also supports self study of **mother tongue or other foreign languages** within our secondary school. To date, students have successfully self-studied courses in Korean, Japanese, Mandarin, German, and Spanish.

“ Studying Mandarin at Green Shoots meant I was able to take Chinese as the foreign language part of my IB. After graduating, I plan to spend some time in China to keep building my fluency.”

Charlotte

Alumni (Class of 2017)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Assuming enough progress in English, students begin to integrate a **second language** into their learning from the age of 4, choosing from either Vietnamese or French. In both languages lessons are differentiated to suit the ability and previous learning of individual students.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our qualified international Physical Education teacher works with students across the school to build **confidence, coordination, balance, fitness and teamwork**. Activities range from circus to martial arts, yoga to athletics. In the summer term, children attend swimming classes overseen by Green Shoots faculty and taught by internationally qualified instructors.



TRIPS, TRAVEL & EXCHANGES

Green Shoots recognises the value of learning outside the classroom and endeavours to make these experiences as global as possible. Each class makes **off campus trips** every year and our primary students have initiated pen pal and other exchanges with peers around the world. Secondary students partake in an annual overnight team building event and **travel internationally** on school-organised trips.

“

The GIN conference in Bali was an eye-opening multicultural buffet. Seeing kids from schools from around the world come together with shared values to discuss issues bigger than ourselves is something I will never forget.”

Fynn

Alumni (Class of 2019)

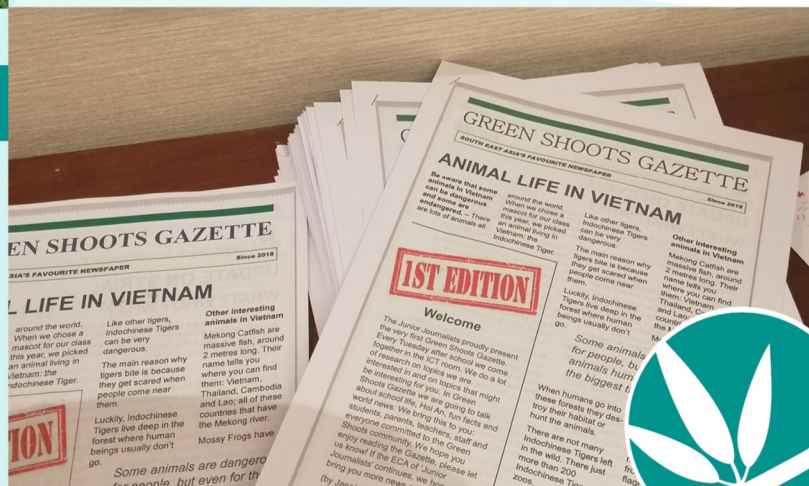


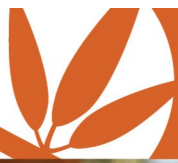
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Music and **Visual Arts** are taught from Reception onward by qualified international specialists. Our **Secondary School** builds upon class-based **performing arts** to develop a community performance that contributes to the development of self confidence, public speaking, and creative skills.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our ECA programme offers a range of **sporting, creative, technology, literary, dramatic and recreational activities**. A second daily bus service means that students who travel to and from school by bus can join these activities, which run most days after school has ended.





THE GREEN SHOOTS CURRICULUM



CHILD-CENTRED KINDERGARTEN

Green Shoots' youngest students enjoy play, exploration, creativity and collaboration in an environment that encourages problem solving, communication and a love of learning. Our **bilingual playgroup** develops English and Vietnamese language skills while **Nursery** and **Reception** classes, lead by expatriate teachers, give children the foundational knowledge and skills they need to progress through school and life.

QUALITY PRIMARY PROGRAMME

Our primary programme adopts the learning standards of the **British National Curriculum**, which are delivered using the **International Primary Curriculum (IPC)**, an internationally respected programme covering issues of global interest. At this age, enquiry and discovery are key as students begin to unlock their academic potential across a wide range of subjects in a safe, stimulating, and values-driven environment.





AWARD-WINNING SECONDARY PROGRAMME

In our secondary school, we transition to the **Cambridge Curriculum**, also based on UK standards, which culminates in externally examined IGCSEs. At this vital stage of adolescence, significant focus is given to the development of values, empathy, creativity, and critical thinking. Our **unique TLCS programme** (Technology, Life Skills, Community and Sustainability) gives our younger secondary students the opportunity to undertake projects that involve **recycling and upcycling** of locally sourced materials to benefit our school and community.

Thanks to our **dedicated teachers** and **small class sizes**, Green Shoots graduates have won Vietnam-wide **academic achievement awards** and have gone on, often with **scholarships**, to prestigious IB schools around the world.

“Green Shoots really helped my son prepare for the next stage of his education, and upon leaving the school he was able to transition to an excellent IB school with scholarship support.”

Saeko Ando

Mother of Kai (Alumni, Class of 2018)

