

## *Welcome to The British School of Amsterdam*

The British School of Amsterdam is an independent co-educational non-profit day school providing world class teaching and learning for children from 3 to 18 years. We are the first school in the Netherlands to be accredited by the UK Government as a British School Overseas (BSO). We broadly follow the National Curriculum for England. Our school offers a stimulating and caring environment enabling your child to realise their full potential academically and develop the skills and confidence for a fulfilling and responsible life in a changing society.



### **Building project**

The School has just started an exciting redevelopment of 19th century listed building that will be transformed into our new home. The new building will be ready in September 2020. The beautiful new school will be just over 14,000 m2. The total cost of the redevelopment is just under €40 million. The new site will have state of the art teaching and learning facilities, including a 7m high sports hall and theatre.



At The British School of Amsterdam, children move through several stages of their education in specific school environments suitable to their age and stage of learning. Our primary years are catered for in three specific school settings: Early Years (for children aged 3-5) Infant School (for pupils aged 5-7) and Junior School (ages 7-11), before moving on to the Senior School (11-18). Each school is part of the whole school community, but 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 and complete primary education, equipping each individual with all the skills needed for a successful academic career and a happy, purposeful life.





## The Early Years

**The Early Years School is situated in Anthonie van Dijkstraat, in a quiet residential area of South Amsterdam.**

**There are three double Nursery classes, with two teachers and three nursery officers for each class. A maximum of 33 children attend each session. There are four Reception classes with a maximum class size of 24. A teacher and a nursery officer staff each Reception class. As well as bright teaching spaces, a library, music room and hall, children also access a purpose built Outside Learning Area in order to make the most of all opportunities to focus on the Early Learning Goals. Early Years class based staff are supported by specialists in English as an additional language (EAL), music and Dutch. The school also has an occupational therapy/multi-sensory room used by qualified therapists. Each teaching room has a SmartBoard. iPads are used to teach computing.**

The staff strive to provide a bright, stimulating and exciting environment where everyone feels valued and secure and well cared for. We want children to develop a love of learning and to have fun and enjoy success in all aspects of their education. We value the partnership between home and school and encourage parents to also play an active part in their child's education.

Nursery and Reception 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.

In the EYFS there are three prime areas: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development; there are four specific areas: literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

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 and Massage in Schools Programme through the year. From Reception, children also start to learn Dutch as a foreign language, or attend Native Dutch if this is their home language. Our EAL teachers work with children who are developing English as an additional language, and as a school we celebrate the children's linguistic abilities and the cultural diversity of our community, as well as giving children an excellent start in their pathway through our curriculum.







## The Infant School

**The Infant School is situated in the Jan van Eijckstraat, a two-minute walk from the Early Years School. On this site we have children from 5 to 7 years old, National Curriculum Years 1 and 2. There are five classes in Year 1 and four in Year 2 with a maximum class size of 24 children. The school is based in a self-contained building, surrounded by its own secure playground, with a hall, small teaching and language rooms and an attractive library, as well as class bases for Year 1 and 2.**

When children enter Year 1, they start to follow the subjects in the National Curriculum used in England. English and Mathematics are given a high profile and the children access a broad range of learning experiences across all other areas of the curriculum. We use a play-based learning approach to ensure that all children are excited and motivated by their learning and go on to develop excellent thinking and learning skills as they move through Key Stage 1. Our approach encourages independence and allows the children to take responsibility for their own learning. This means the children are more engaged in class and have a better understanding of the next steps in their learning.

Our approach to learning is very much a collaborative one; we encourage the children to learn from each other as well as from the staff. Teamwork is important in building the social skills the children will need throughout their schooling. The timetable is flexible in providing additional opportunities to support, develop and extend the children's subject knowledge and understanding.

In addition to our English and Mathematics lessons, the children explore a variety of topics in science, history and geography which allow them to learn about the world around them; the past, the present and the positive contribution they can make towards the future. Our computing lessons provide opportunities to explore programming, to become more familiar with computers and to develop and practise problem solving skills.

The children work with specialist art and music teachers who plan lessons that engage and stimulate creative skills. Whether working independently or collaboratively, the children are encouraged to apply their understanding and to be inventive. Children attend lessons in Dutch twice per week and there are native Dutch lessons for those children who speak Dutch fluently.

Our Active Fridays programme ensures the children take part in a variety of interesting physical activities each week and runs alongside the Physical Education curriculum. Children take part in swimming lessons for half of the academic year and receive short blocks of tuition in Forest School, martial arts, yoga and ballet for the remaining half of the year. Our ballet tuition is delivered in partnership with the National Ballet and Opera Company of the Netherlands. Our Forest School programme involves groups of children taking part in outdoor learning lead by our qualified Forest School leaders at local woodland areas.

Forest School is a programme that offers all learners opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment.

## The Junior School

**The Junior School is for children aged between 7 and 11 years old and is housed in a modern building attached to the Senior School, situated in the Fred. Roeskestraat, 1.5 kilometres from the Early Years and Infant School.**

**The Junior School offers a secure environment where children learn to work in an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect. The maximum class size is 24.**

**The Junior School consists of 20 teaching classrooms including a computer room, three modern foreign languages classrooms, a music room, a fiction and non-fiction library, access to the shared hall and a gymnasium and a secure playground. Children enjoy an extensive extracurricular activity programme, and there is a dedicated music practice room for private music tuition. There is a school kitchen, offering a hot midday meal.**

A well balanced timetable ensures the delivery of all subjects over a weekly period. 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 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.

We teach a topic based curriculum 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 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 continues in the Junior School as a half year programme for every year group and all children attend annual residential trips.

Personal, health and Social Education (PHSE) is taught through our 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.

At the Junior School, the children continue to learn Dutch, and also start learning French as Modern Foreign Languages. Children who are Native Dutch and Native French attend separate lessons in their own language.

All Infant and Junior children have two Physical Education (PE) lessons per week including working through the Dutch swimming programme (ZwemDiploma).



## Assessing progress

In the Early Years, continuous assessment of how each child is developing is matched to their progress against the Early Learning Goals, using 2Simple as a base for our evidence.

At the end of Year 1 the children's knowledge of phonics is assessed. Throughout each subsequent year children are assessed by the criteria in the Key skills for each year group.

These key skills 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 students, typically performing well above national averages.

## Pupil body

The school roll is 963. We are a truly International school with over 40 different native languages and over 75 different cultures (including dual nationality parents). Our pupils are actively multicultural, many speaking languages at home that are additional to their academic curriculum.

British	14%	Early Years	198 pupils
Indian	22%	Infant School	206 pupils
Dutch	14%	Junior School	275 pupils
American	9%	Senior School	282 pupils



**THE BRITISH SCHOOL**  
OF AMSTERDAM

*Celebrating*  
**40 years**  
1978 - 2018

### Early Years School

Anthonie van Dijkstraat 1  
1077 ME Amsterdam  
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### Head of EYS

Mrs Claudia van de Laar-Newson

### Infant School

Jan van Eijckstraat 21  
1077 LG Amsterdam  
+31 (0) 20-67 93 060

### Head of Infant School

Ms Lynn Welsh-Boucard

### Junior and Senior Schools

Fred. Roeskestraat 94 A  
1076 ED Amsterdam  
+31 (0) 20-67 90 183

### Head of Junior School and Vice Principal

Mr Stuart May



## The British School of Amsterdam provides high quality education, much of which is outstanding.

- Pupils make good progress as they move through the school.
- Personal development is of a high order. Pupils feel secure and valued within the friendly mutually trustful learning environment that prevails throughout the school.
- Pupils are well supported by excellent pastoral care and robust welfare, health and safety policies and procedures.
- The pupils, parents and staff are highly committed to the school and feel valued and appreciated.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced, enriched by a range of extra-curricular activities.
- Highly effective intervention programmes support pupil progress.
- Relationships between teachers and pupils and pupils and their peers are outstanding and ensure that they feel happy and secure in their learning.
- The behaviour, attitudes and engagement of pupils in their learning is exemplary. They are a credit to the school.
- The school nurtures responsible pupils and is highly successful in meeting their social and personal needs. They display a high level of self-awareness and self-confidence.
- The provision for the health, welfare and safety of pupils is a strength.
- The commitment of all staff, including administrative and ancillary staff, to the well-being of all pupils.
- The Principal and heads of school provide outstanding leadership.
- The sense of ownership, purpose and determination among school leaders to continue to move the school forward.

**BSO Inspection Report (November 2017)**

Principal Paul Morgan



BritishSchoolofAmsterdam



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