





**The wider curriculum** - The European Schools curriculum is not just about languages, however. We do many things to help to develop European citizenship through subjects like "European Hours" in the Primary, as well as to develop strong scientific and mathematical skills. In these areas we have excellent links with the Joint Research Centre in Petten. Our pupils also have opportunities in sports, arts and music, and there is a full and varied programme of extra-curricular activities which is of particular interest for the primary pupils. Many excursions, projects, competitions, trips and visits in the local area and across Europe further enrich the learning experience of the pupils. With such a start in life our graduates go on to top universities around the world. The UK and the Netherlands are particularly popular destinations for our pupils.

**Great location** - Our school is located in the very attractive town of Bergen in the province of North-Holland. We are in an area of great natural beauty, close to the beach, forest and dunes, and within easy reach of the town of Alkmaar and the surrounding small towns and villages. The area is rich in possibilities, and in our experience families who live near the school can have great independence in this very safe area with a network of bicycle tracks everywhere. Our school is at the heart of an international community, and it is easy for children and parents to integrate if they live relatively close to the school.



# Our Core Values

## *Everyone*

- Is listened to and is entitled to give their views
- Is respected and shows respect
- Appreciates the diversity in, and European identity of, the school
- Appreciates the academic and other opportunities the school can provide
- Knows what is going on because of good communication systems
- Feels a part of the school community

## *Pupils*

- Feel safe and are happy at school, and enjoy attending the school
- Are motivated, stimulated and encouraged to reach their full potential and achieve the highest possible academic standards using a range of formative and summative assessment tools
- Have their individual needs met
- Are able to communicate well in different languages
- Are expected to conform to the standards of behaviour and tolerance expected in the school

## *Staff*

- Are valued and supported by management and each other
- Are able to develop skills and talents, and in particular their language skills
- Understand, appreciate and respect the work of their colleagues
- Work as a team across the whole school, and achieve this partly by peer observation in different parts of the school
- Who teach can motivate, support and inspire pupils of all abilities, and teach them not only WHAT to learn, but HOW to learn
- Expect the highest possible academic standards
- Are well qualified and interested in their own ongoing professional development

## *Parents*

- Are well informed and involved in the education of their children, and are welcome in classes to support the learning of their children and others
- Are open to asking teachers and the management for help and support in any areas of their children's education
- Can send their children to the school with the confidence that they will have a quality education
- Feel part of the community and are welcome at the school
- Support the school through the Parents Association and in other ways

## *Management*

- Lead by example in the promotion of a European culture in the school
- Create a positive listening culture in the school
- Resolve conflicts in a constructive manner
- Present a positive view of the school to the outside world, and make it clear what it is that the European School system can offer
- Put teaching and learning at the centre of all decision-making
- Is fully informed of the rules and regulations of the system, and is able to interpret them to find the most effective educational solutions for the pupils



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# A brief history of the European School Bergen

On 16

# How do pupils join our school?

## *Are you interested in our school?*

- We hope so, and please read the welcome message from the Director for some general information and the FAQs for more specific details.
- You are always most welcome to email us with other questions, and if you would like to visit us you are also most welcome.
- As we offer so many things at our school it is sometimes difficult for you to know what the possibilities are, and we are there to help!

## *How to apply*

- Click on the link on the home page of the website and fill in the Enquiry for Admission Form. We will contact you back as soon as possible.

## *School fees*

- For information on school fees please check the financial brochure which is under "Documents" on the school website.
- If you work for a European institution you may be exempt from school fees.

## *Admission criteria.*

- To join the school pupils must be at least 4 years old, or turning 4 before 31 December in the year when he/she starts in September.
- A child has to be at least 4 years old before 31 December in the year when he/she starts in September
- For all pupils there are screening tests to see whether they can fit into the school, and this depends on the age and level of the pupil.
- For the younger pupils we like to see them at the school for a trial day, and we encourage this with the secondary pupils as well who will normally be screened in the Language 1, Language 2 and Mathematics.

## *Admission for Dutch pupils.*

- Special rules apply for Dutch pupils and all applications have to be approved by inspectors from the Ministry of Education.
- We have many Dutch pupils at our school, and we can advise you at the application stage whether you will be able to apply for a place at our school.
- As 30% of our pupils have Dutch nationality there are opportunities for Dutch pupils to join our school, and they will normally be admitted to the Dutch language section.
- So if you are looking for an education with a European and international flair, please apply!

# Nursery and Primary cycles

In order to support their overall development we offer a structured learning environment with a focus on the participation and well-

**Note about Language 1:** Children who are entitled to a different Language 1 from the language of the section (Category 1) go out of their class every day for 30 minutes at a time to do the mother tongue/L1 lessons. If you are unsure if you are entitled to this, please contact the school.

### ***Primary 1 and 2***

- Pupils in Primary 1 (P1) and Primary 2 (P2) are in one of the three language sections (English, Dutch or French) for most of the time.
- In Primary 1 the pupils do the second language (German, French or English) for the first time, and the two years are spent developing the basic skills.
- The syllabus allows for a degree of cross-curricular teaching, and the pupils have time allocated for Music, Art, Physical Education, Religion or Ethics, and Discovery of the World.
- The total teaching time for the P1 and P2 classes is 25 hours and 30 minutes per week.
- From Primary 1 there is



### *The Creche - Little Europe*

- Children who are aged between 2-4 can be enrolled at the creche which is in the school, and which is open during school hours.
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## Secondary cycle

### *Information about the programmes in the Secondary Cycle.*

- For detailed information about the programmes in the European School Bergen, and in all the European Schools, go to the website [www.eurasc.eu](http://www.eurasc.eu) and on "Studies and Certificates".
- All programmes are approved by the Board of Governors of the European Schools which consist of representatives from the member state delegations.

### *The school day*

School starts every day at 09:00 and finishes at 16:25 and the school week is from Monday - Friday.

For the younger pupils it is normal to have at least one free afternoon every week, and this is often on a Friday.

The pupils in the upper classes can expect to have their lessons distributed during the week.

Each lesson is 45 minutes in length with 5 minutes or a longer break.

In exceptional cases some courses for small groups can start before the beginning of the normal school day if pupils are able to attend, and for some groups the lunch break can be at a different time so that they can be fitted into the timetable and to offer more options.

Depending on the year group and the options chosen, pupils will have a minimum of 31 lessons and a maximum of 35 lessons per week.

### *The structure of the full day is shown below:*

Start	Period	Start	Period
09:00-09:45	1	12:30-13:15	5
09:50-10:35	2	13:15-14:00	Lunch break (6)
10:40-11:25	3	14:00-14:45	7
11:25-11:40	Short Break	14:50-15:35	8
11:40-12:25	4	15:40-16:25	9

### *Years S1-S3 - the Lower Secondary classes*

- During the first three years of the Secondary cycle the pupils follow mainly the same compulsory courses in their

### ***Years S4-S5 - the Middle Secondary classes***

- In S4 pupils have a wider range of options to choose from.
- The first major choice to be made is whether to do Mathematics as a foundation (4 period) course or a more advanced (6 period) course. This is an important decision to be made, and pupils and parents should take the advice of the teachers before choosing.
- Other choices may involve choosing a fourth language or Economics, or continuing with subjects such as Art, Music, Latin and ICT.
- In addition Integrated Sciences is replaced by separate subjects for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Human Sciences is replaced by History and Geography in the second language.
- In these two years the pupils have an opportunity to study a wide range of subjects and find out about their strengths for the future choices in the European Bacculaureate.

### ***Years S6-S7 - the European Bacculaureate classes***

- In S5 the pupils make their choices for the European Bacculaureate which is a two year programme.
- They have a wide range of choices which enable the pupil to put together a "package" of subjects which will prepare him or her for courses in higher education.
- There continue to be compulsory courses, including a course in Philosophy.
- In Mathematics there are options again for a foundation (3 period) or more advanced (5 period) or Advanced Maths as an extra option for the more ambitious.
- It is possible for pupils also to do the three sciences if they wish, and if their strengths lie in languages, History or Geography, Art and Music for example, they can specialise more in this direction.
- The marks for the Bacculaureate are made up from 50% in internal examinations and class work in S7, the final year, and 50% from external written examinations in 5 subjects (Language 1, Language 2, Mathematics and two options) and oral examinations in 3 subjects which are based on work in the final two years of study.

### ***Choice of options and group sizes.***

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- For new pupils in the Secondary cycle it is sometimes difficult to integrate into the second language because



### ***Events and Projects***

- The school is involved in all the activities organised by the European Schools. They provide opportunities for our pupils to participate in larger events organised across the European Union.

#### ***Currently our pupils are involved in:***

<b>MEC</b>	Model European Council	Every 1/2 years. In different European Institutions.
<b>MUNOM</b>	Model United Nations	Every year, Munich
<b>ESSS</b>	European Schools Science Symposium	Every year. In different European Schools.

**EUROSPORT** Team of 30 pupils in different sports.

### *Extra-Curricular Activities*

- Other than the normal school events, musicals, plays, competitions and other activities organised in the school, including the programme of educational trips and visits.
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# Frequently asked questions

## *What are European Schools?*

- European Schools were set up for the families of employees of the institutions of the European Union
- Other local and international families may join if there are spaces available.
- Thirteen of these Type 1 school

### ***How long is the school day?***

- The official school day is from 09:00-16:30 from Monday to Friday.
- The younger pupils have shorter days (until 13:10) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday depending on the group they are in.
- See the information in the different parts of the school.

### ***Are there school buses?***

- There are various organised transport services.
- The school can also be reached by public transport.

### ***Are there child-care services?***

- It is possible for parents to enrol their children in the child-care service before and after school which is arranged by AllesKits.

### ***Are there Open Days?***

- As many of our new parents come from abroad we have found it better to make every day a possible "Open Day".
- In this way parents can make an appointment to visit the school when it is convenient, ask questions, and see the school operating normally.

### ***How easy is it for parents to meet the teachers?***

- Parents can make an appointment to meet teachers if they have concerns, and each teacher is available at a specific time each week in the Secondary cycle.
- Parents have the chance to see the teachers at the Parents Evenings in November and February and on other occasions throughout the year depending on the class and level.
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*What is the difference between the European Bacculaureate and the International Bacculaureate?*

- The EB is a qualification unique to the European Schoo





### *Can pupils learn musical instruments?*

- During music lessons pupils are exposed to a range of different instruments.
- Although the majority of pupils have music lessons outside school, partly because of where they live, there are also some opportunities to learn an instrument through the Extra-Curricular Programme organised by the parents.