

2021/22

# PROSPECTUS

WROCŁAW COSMOPOLITAN SCHOOL





# Welcome

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If I had to choose the one thing I am most proud of, it is our school's sense of ambition. The ambition we have for every child to excel and thrive, and the ambition we have as a school to revolutionise international education in Poland.

Our constant commitment to providing the very best education possible by drawing on research, ideas, experience and expertise from the best international schools around the world has been a long-awaited dream for many in Wrocław. We've immediately captured the attention and imagination of many further afield as we have pioneered the first truly integrated curriculum that seamlessly combines the Polish and British systems under exciting enquiry themes to guide student investigation and contextualise their learning.

We nurture the inner entrepreneurs and innovators of every child, using our values as a driving force for every aspect of school life. Our students learn to create, persuade, investigate, think critically and embrace cultural diversity in order to achieve a better world for the future.

This truly is a school like no other. We look forward to welcoming your family to Wrocław Cosmopolitan School.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Graham Lewis', written in a cursive style.

Graham Lewis TESOL, PGCE, PG Dip, MA

**Headmaster**

# Our school

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Wrocław Cosmopolitan School is the premier international school in the city, offering an unrivalled level of quality. With a truly international team of outstanding, fully qualified teachers we are proud to be pioneering a uniquely integrated curriculum that unites learning across different subject areas under exciting themes of enquiry.

Our school uses English in all areas of learning and is home to a highly international community of families from all corners of the world. Wrocław Cosmopolitan School is a dynamic place to learn and grow as we are guided by our six values in all we do, with students thriving as **intellectual, international, inspired, inclusive, innovative** and **inquisitive** global citizens.

We have an unparalleled commitment to the purposeful use of technology across the school with an impressive provision of tablets, smart screens, robotics and the first 1:1 Google Chromebook programme in the region, with all our Secondary students being issued with their own device.

The pace and rigour of learning at our school is underpinned by two national curricula, with all our students fulfilling both the English and Polish national curriculum requirements leading to the award of IGCSE and A-Level exams.

But above all else, ours is an incredibly happy school with a tangible buzz of excitement as you walk around campus. Our students are committed learners who are excited by the world around them and driven by our ethos to make it a better and more sustainable place for all.





# Mission & values

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# Why us?

Our school was founded in response to calls from families, businesses and local government who were looking for a school that reflected the highest ambitions they hold for their child's, and their city's future.

International parents who had previously lived in expatriate hubs such as Switzerland, Singapore and the UAE saw first-hand the exciting pace of change happening in education and the significantly higher quality of education available in these places.

We spent over a year carefully analysing both the problems and the opportunities of the previous private schools experience in Wrocław. By assembling a world-class team of expertise drawn from across the globe, we're proud to present a radically different school experience which is unique in Wrocław and the wider region.

Find out some of the top reasons why Wrocław Cosmopolitan School is the right place for your child and how we're redefining the very definition of quality in the education sector.



We're proud to have **the best team of teachers in Wrocław** and the highest recruitment standards, with an outstanding group of fully qualified, widely experienced and passionate teachers from around the world.



We aim to be **the most sustainable school in Poland**, with a rigorous commitment to the environment that permeates all areas of learning and school life as a central part of our ethos.



As we are committed to sustainability and tolerance, we have a no meat on campus policy and serve only plant-based school meals. We are therefore **Poland's first vegetarian school**.



We use **English as the language of instruction** in all areas of school life. Every subject area, aside from Polish and foreign languages is taught in English by native or certified proficient speakers of English.



Learning is structured around **exciting units of enquiry** that go beyond subject boundaries, allowing students to dive deeper into content and explore connections across broad areas and contexts.



Our students and teachers are **truly international**, coming from all corners of the globe. All classes thus have a large nationality mix resulting in a thriving, multicultural community across the school.



We are **a fully accredited, registered school** - the first to deliver the Polish MEN programme in English and a pioneer of seamlessly combining both the Polish and English national curricula for every single student.



We strongly believe in the **importance of technology** and equipping students for life in a rapidly changing world. We have an impressive range of technology in use across all subject areas at school.



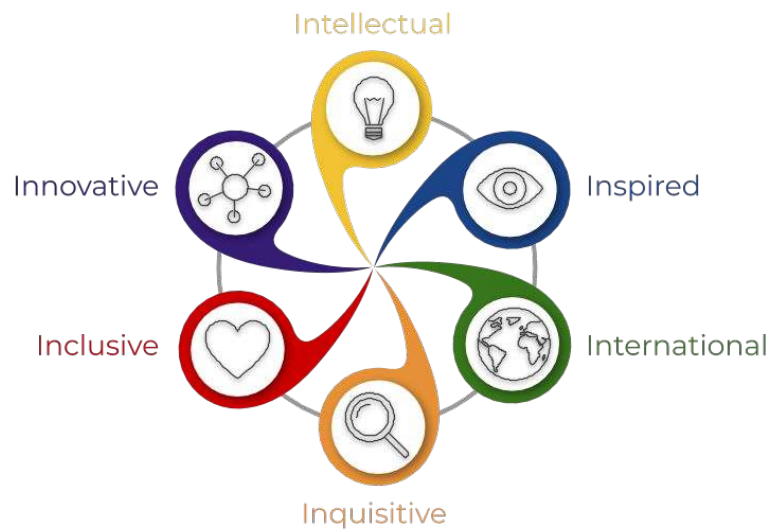
**Learning is connected** and subjects are no longer taught in isolation. By exploring links in English, Maths and beyond connected to the guiding enquiry theme, student motivation is heightened.

# Our ethos

We've thought deeply about the qualities necessary for today's children to flourish in tomorrow's world. We're driven by our values in everything we do and have designed a unique curriculum that prepares our students for life in a rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected world, centred on the values that define an international education.

Our six values inspire all teaching & learning, with the same shared language used in all year groups. Students therefore develop a familiarity with what each aspect means, how these values can be demonstrated in their work, and how they can exhibit these qualities in their daily lives in order to flourish as cosmopolitan citizens of the world.

Learning across the curriculum explores connections between the local, national and global spheres, as well as our interconnectedness with cultures around the world.





**Graham Lewis** | [glewis@cosmo.edu.pl](mailto:glewis@cosmo.edu.pl)

Mr Lewis brings experience from international schools in Poland and Hong Kong alongside an academic background in Linguistics, Education and Leadership. Mr Lewis grew up in the Far East and was educated entirely in international schools, coming from a family of teachers. Mr Lewis is a passionate educator who looks to constantly build upon and reform schooling, providing overall leadership and oversight of the school's strategic development.



**Magdalena Mrozowska** | [mmrozowska@cosmo.edu.pl](mailto:mmrozowska@cosmo.edu.pl)

Ms Mrozowska is from Wrocław and brings a wealth of expertise in the legislative, policy and compliance aspects of school leadership. Having previously led private bilingual schools in the city and worked closely with education authorities on multiple levels, Ms Mrozowska is adept at leading the regulatory side of school operations, while continuing to share her passion for languages and animals with all in the school community.



**Chris Colbourne** | [ccolbourne@cosmo.edu.pl](mailto:ccolbourne@cosmo.edu.pl)

Mr Colbourne has a wealth of teaching and leadership experience from both public and private schools in the UK, as well as top international schools in Beijing and Hong Kong. Mr Colbourne is a relentless champion of learning and providing the very best for every student, leading the development of our curriculum, assessment and pedagogical innovation. Mr Colbourne is a keen footballer and can often be found coaching students to share his love of the game.

# Leadership

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Our school is led by a young and dynamic team combining expertise and experience from the UK, Poland, China and Hong Kong. First and foremost we believe in the unity of being a single school community, so from age 3 to 18, we are a single school without phase divisions in management.

From the outset, we had a very clear vision of the kind of school we wanted to be and how to achieve this. As such, expertise was drawn from across the globe to assemble a world-class Senior Leadership Team.

Our leadership team works closely with teachers, students and parents and are a very visible presence in all areas of school life. Naturally, our leadership team are all experienced, qualified and passionate teachers who are driven by our mission and the opportunities of creating a very unique school designed to educate children for the future.

**Most schools operate in near identical ways, with the same curriculum and approaches.**

**Wrocław Cosmopolitan School is a profoundly different learning experience owing to a very different set of values and a highly innovative curriculum.**



Curriculum & learning

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# What's in a curriculum?

There's a common misconception that a curriculum is a textbook or a defined sequence of activities that works in the same way every year and for every student. Nothing could be further from the truth and this is increasingly viewed as detrimental approach to schooling.

Some things can be standardised - you can make the same shot of espresso time and time again, but no student, class or school year is ever the same. This is why we've got rid of textbooks and instead focus on individualised approaches to learning that are centred around compelling enquiry themes to prompt student collaboration, investigation and questioning.

Behind our curriculum, every unit is underpinned and tracked against two sets of national objectives: the Polish and English National Curricula, with the Welsh Early Years Curriculum used in Preschool. Detailed planning behind every unit tracks content hours and anticipates the many exciting experiences, outcomes, opportunities and projects that will likely emerge from students' investigation and enquiry as they explore the themes.

Every year group follows four bespoke units per year that have been specifically developed for our students and with our values at their heart. We feel this offers a radically different education that is only possible with a bespoke, expertly crafted curriculum to suit our specific context.

*Content Hours*

*Subject Coverage*

*Polish Objectives*

*UK Objectives*

*Outcomes*

*Assessment*

*Activities*

*Experiences*



# Enquiry units

Every unit of learning is united under an exciting theme to guide students' own enquiry. We challenge the notion that knowledge can merely be communicated, but instead teach our students how to ask questions, form hypotheses and design their own investigations. Naturally, every unit and assessment opportunity directly links to our six cosmopolitan values.

Students' passions and curiosity are sparked through unit introductions. All areas of learning form purposeful links to the students' overall topic of enquiry, allowing children to explore the issues, concepts and content of each unit in deep, diverse and meaningful ways.

We ensure students develop the skills of research, investigation and innovation in order to construct their own understanding under the guidance of their teachers. Enquiry therefore reflects the modern world and life in a digital, information-rich era in which the entire world is accessible literally at your fingertips.

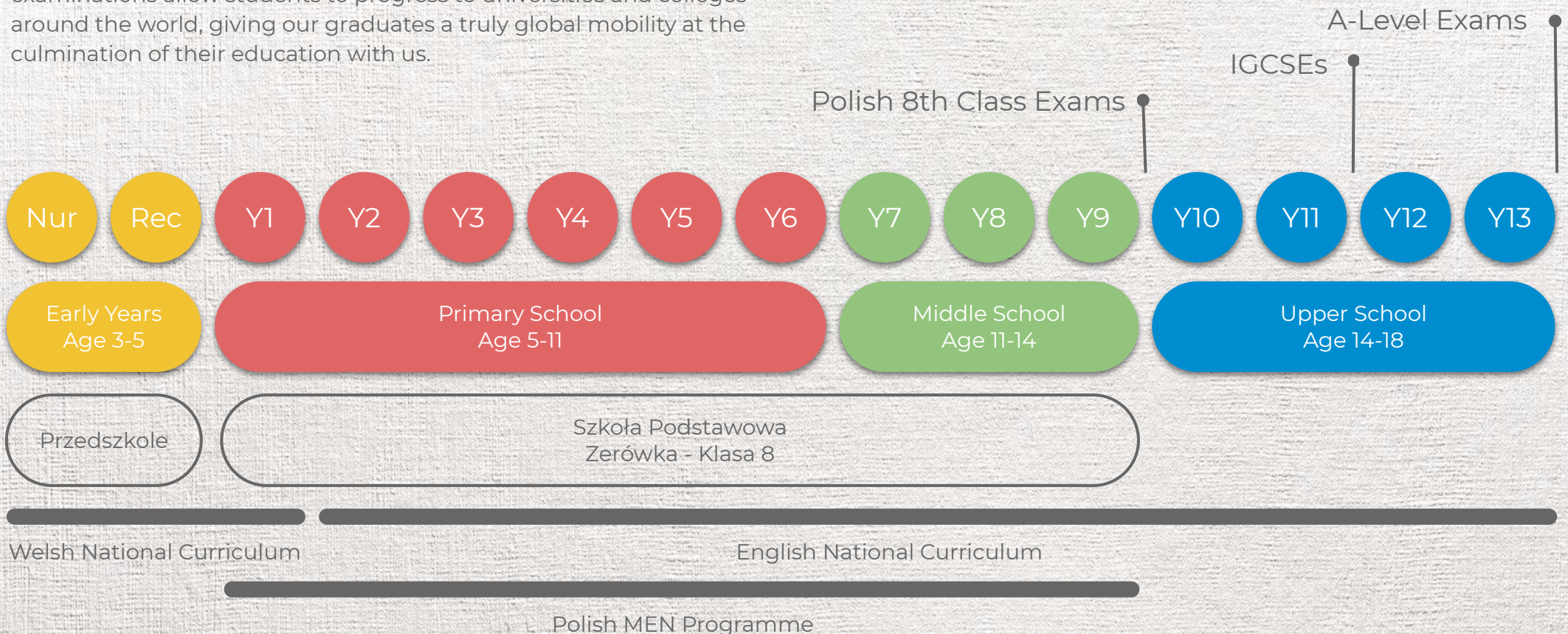


# The learning journey

Learning at Wrocław Cosmopolitan School is an exciting journey from age 3 to 18. Our Early Years phase is a fully registered preschool providing a dedicated environment and nurturing team for our two Early Years groups. The Primary and Middle School phases follow the UK classification of classes, with formal school beginning at age 5. As such, our Zerówka group is termed "Year 1".

Over the course of our students' Secondary education, they complete external assessments at the end of Years 9, 11 and 13. IGCSE and A-Level examinations allow students to progress to universities and colleges around the world, giving our graduates a truly global mobility at the culmination of their education with us.

Wrocław Cosmopolitan School provides an international education for students aged 3 to 18. The school's curriculum is underpinned by both the UK and Polish systems, with external examinations and international qualifications awarded to students in the Upper School.



# Areas of learning

Our students follow a wide and varied curriculum with equal prominence given to sports and the creative arts, alongside academia. All students have art, music and PE lessons with full-time specialist teachers employed by the school.

In addition, we offer French, Spanish and German as foreign language options from Year 2 upwards and all students follow a course of study in Polish, either as a foreign language or a rigorous Język Polski programme for native speakers.

In the Primary phase (Years 1-6), a large amount of time is dedicated to Enquiry which combines History, Geography, the Sciences, ICT and Design & Technology in a purposeful and highly motivating way.

All students from Preschool to Secondary therefore follow an exciting weekly timetable of lessons making use of specialist facilities in the school building, with dedicated teachers who are expert in their respective fields. In all areas, our weekly distribution of subject hours is above the level required by law and significantly higher than in the public sector.

**Languages, Sports and the Creative Arts all have a prominent role in the school, with all students taking specialist lessons multiple times per week, resulting in a rounded, varied and highly exciting weekly schedule.**



# Early Years

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We guide children to discover their passions, talents and identities through a wide range of carefully planned learning activities. Our Preschool is a happy and exciting place for students to learn with an incredible range of experiences each day.

Your child's development is supported in a nurturing and caring environment in which we encourage purposeful play, exploration and experimentation. We have drawn inspiration from the Reggio Emilia approach and the UK Early Years Curriculum for Wales as sources for a truly inspiring preschool experience.

We have two preschool classes, with 12 students in each and a nurturing and highly experienced teaching team. Our dedicated preschool space is spacious and open plan in design, with direct access to the outdoor playground and a dedicated learning deck.

Through the careful utilisation of the learning environment and a wide range of exciting activities for children to engage with through the day, our students are able to direct their own learning and lines of investigation under the care and mentoring of their teachers.

Students also have specialist art, music and PE lessons each week on top of highly experiential pursuits both indoors and outside in the garden.





# Primary

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Central to our Primary education for students aged 5-11 is the joy, importance and unparalleled value of student exploration. We provide students with rich opportunities across the curriculum to 'spread their wings', experiment, make discoveries and learn within authentic contexts centred around our guiding enquiry themes. The English National Curriculum provides the basis for our ambitious curriculum and the emphasis on our students' remarkable progress in English and Maths.

The key to providing our students with the confidence and security to explore and experience learning across diverse areas is a nurturing and caring school environment; and teachers who genuinely care for each and every student, developing strong relationships with everyone in their class.

Our Primary phase spans ages 5 to 11, with one class for each grade level and a maximum of 16 students in each group. All learning takes place in English, with an outstanding Primary teaching team from the UK, USA and South Africa. In addition, we offer Polish language pathways for a range of ability levels and a choice of French, Spanish or German as a foreign language as well as specialist Art, Music and PE lessons.

**By far the most common reaction from parents is that they wish they too could have attended a school like this - a resounding testament to our caring and innovative approaches.**



# Secondary

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Our students are ambitious academically, in their many notable talents outside the classroom and in their drive to embody the school's ethos of global consciousness.

In the Secondary phase spanning age 11-18, students continue to develop increasingly critical and complex understandings of the modern world. We offer students both a depth and breadth of academic development through a varied curriculum that prioritises the connection between subject content in different areas.

The enquiry approach continues with Geography, History and Civics grouped together as a single subject termed "Humanities". A similar approach combines Biology, Chemistry and Physics, giving students greater opportunities to dig deeper and form their own lines of investigation.

Moreover, we are constantly uniting diverse curriculum areas by relating students' studies in literature and the arts to form the basis of project-based work that reflects life in the modern world and the contemporary skill set needed to flourish at university, in the professional world and in life.

Our students sit the Polish 8th Class Exam as well as UK IGCSE and A-Level exams at the end of Years 11 and 13, opening doors to the world by facilitating entry to top universities. Thus, our students leave school with top qualifications, a uniquely global outlook and the skills needed to thrive in all areas of life.

# IGCSE & A-Levels

At the end of Year 11 and 13, students sit British examinations set by AQA and the University of Cambridge. These qualifications allow students to progress to top universities around the world and are universally recognised as school completion certificates.

Students select 9-10 IGCSE subjects which they then narrow to four subjects to take at A-Level, providing a sound foundation for higher level study at university.

Students select a rounded set of IGCSE subjects to study in Years 10 and 11. In addition to our required courses, students choose a foreign language, social science and creative art.

## Required subjects:

English Language

World Literature in English

Polish

Science (double award)

Global Perspectives

Mathematics

## One foreign language from:

French

Spanish

German

## One social science from:

History

Geography

## One creative art from:

Art & Design

Music



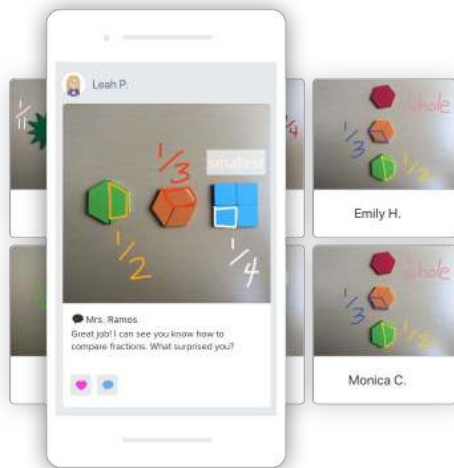


# Assessment

Assessment is at all times authentic and motivating, identifying students' successes as well as informing them of their next steps. We don't believe in points, grades or percentages and instead utilise a rounded system of assessment that considers students' performance in three areas: **Knowledge & Understanding, Enquiry & Investigation** and **Effort & Attitude**.

Every student has a digital learning journal as a portfolio of their learning which is further used as an assessment and feedback tool. Parents also have access through a dedicated app, giving families an insight into their child's learning and encouraging them to be part of the dialogue.

Assessment objectives in the Knowledge & Understanding domain are drawn from both the English National Curriculum and the Polish MEN Programme.







tsunami

School life

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# Technology

Imagine a school that celebrates the boundless opportunities of technology, both to discover the world and present understanding in compelling ways. Wrocław Cosmopolitan School has an unrivalled commitment to ensuring technology is integrated in every single area of learning.

Computing, robotics, multimedia, 3D design and product development are some of the exciting outcomes of our enquiry units, with students and teachers discovering new and innovative applications, using technology to solve the world's most pressing issues.

We have also embraced technology as the basis for our assessment and recording systems, with every student developing an online, interactive portfolio to record their learning which is shared live with parents via a mobile application. This allows students, parents and teachers to be part of a real-time learning dialogue.

Students have access to a range of different devices, learning how to self-select and use these purposefully within their learning, leaving school as innovators and experts in pioneering new technologies. We're also the first school in the region to have a 1:1 device programme in Secondary. All students from Year 7 upwards are issued with their own Google Chromebook to use in lessons and at home.



# Creative Arts

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Creativity is an essential skill that should be nurtured in order for students to reach their full potential. Our values and curriculum emphasise two sides of the creative process, with students taking inspiration from the people, places, culture and history of the world and relating this to diverse areas of learning and project-based outcomes through innovation.

All students at Wrocław Cosmopolitan School have specialist art and music lessons with our incredibly talented and inspiring Creative Arts teaching team. Over the course of the year, students explore the theory, history and practical skills of different artistic media in units that directly relate to the guiding enquiry theme and lead to impressive final projects as a culminating celebration of their achievements.

We have a dedicated art studio and acoustic music room in which Creative Arts lessons take place and all students make use of these facilities, including our youngest students in the Preschool classes.

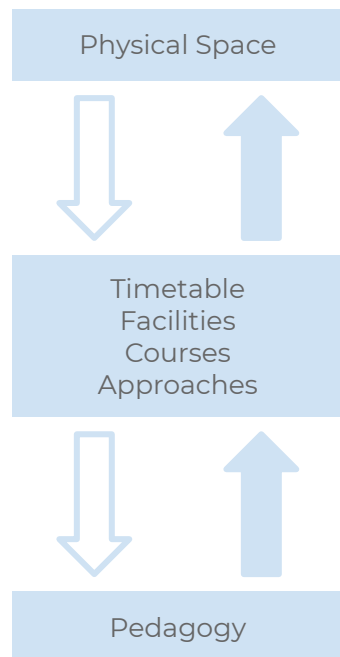
**There is a strong emphasis on the development of creativity in all areas of the curriculum. All students have specialist art and music lessons, with thematic and contextual links between these and other subject areas, providing a powerful platform for students to explore and express themselves.**



# Campus design

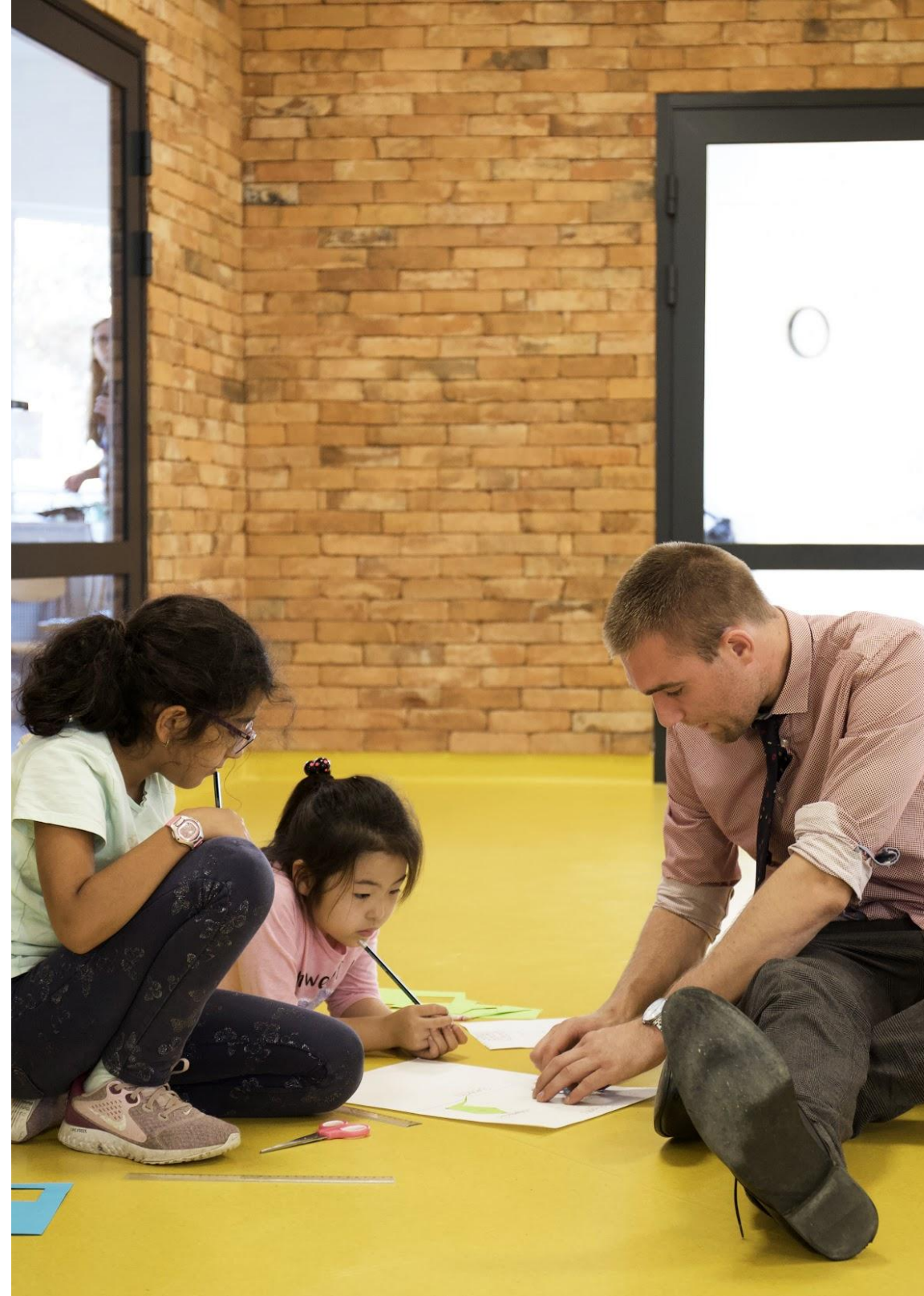
From the school's inception, we consulted research studies and the architecture of schools around the world with a similar philosophy. It was essential to create a learning environment that reflects our enquiry-based curriculum, with the architecture encouraging students to collaborate.

Following a complete reconstruction programme, our school is housed in a converted train factory and boasts large open plan spaces and internal glass to give visual connection between the classes. Using the model of a learning neighbourhood, the Primary and Secondary classes each occupy their own floor and open out onto a spacious, open-plan "hubs" in which students collaborate and shared resources are accessible to all.



All areas of the school are accessible to wheelchair users and over 10km of new cabling provides top IT infrastructure, fire safety systems and video surveillance throughout.

**The school building is modern, light and transparent in design, completely redefining the look and feel of schools and intentionally reflecting the progressive approaches to learning taking place.**



# Sports & PE

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Students enjoy varied sporting opportunities in the Physical Education (PE) programme including a range of individual and team sports in nearby professional facilities.

By taking a motivational approach, students learn to appreciate the myriad benefits of physical exercise, as well as the enjoyment of sport. All students have specialist PE lessons, with two 90 minute lessons a week up to Year 9, and one 90 minute lesson a week from Year 10 onwards.

We are fortunate to be located less than ten minutes away from several professional-quality sports facilities which are scheduled throughout the year to provide our students with rich and varied Physical Education opportunities.

The PE curriculum includes the development of gross motor skills, sportsmanship, health and wellbeing as well the development of proper technique within a wide range of sports.

Typically, students follow half-termly units that focus and hone their abilities in a sport or activity of focus, with popular examples including swimming, dance, gymnastics for individual sports, football, basketball, volleyball and touch rugby for team sports and individual racquet games such as badminton, tennis and squash.

We are further developing competition teams in several areas to compete in regional inter-scholastic tournaments and events.







# Sustainability

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Our students are challenged and inspired to explore the issues and questions of ecological living in authentic ways. Through links with our school values, many of the enquiry units explore environmental issues and human impact across multiple cultures.

Our school has a beautiful and functioning science garden in which students take an active role in planting, nurturing and growing a range of plants as a key means to learn about permaculture and sustainability.

Moreover, two unique school policies enshrine our commitment to the environment: we are the first vegetarian school in Poland and offer only healthy, plant-based school meals as both a statement of our commitment to living more sustainability, as well as the importance of tolerance in the school community. Secondly, our school uniforms are made of a high-performance sports fabric with eight recycled plastic bottles in the fibers of every school shirt!



The school has a profound commitment to the environment, reflected not only in the curriculum, but also in the outdoor experiences available to students, the design of uniforms and a progressive vegetarian policy for school meals.



# Wellbeing

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An innovative wellbeing programme provides students with opportunities to develop techniques in mindfulness and the tools needed to flourish in all areas of their lives by doing good and feeling great.

Cutting-edge wellbeing provision supports students' social and emotional development throughout their time at school. All students have two allocated form tutors who provide guidance and mentoring in both academic and social areas, providing a close point of contact for students to seek guidance as needed.

In addition, we are pioneering a comprehensive wellbeing programme with weekly sessions with the school's Wellbeing Coach in which students explore aspects of their own emotional life, mindfulness techniques that can be put into practice in students' own lives, as well as guidance on exploring meaningful purpose as a key route to flourishing.

Our school has implemented approaches drawn from the Positive Psychology approach to promote a holistic development of the multiple areas of personal wellbeing. This approach is rapidly gaining popularity in leading schools around the world and we're proud to be leading in this area in Poland.

Exploring multiple dimensions of wellbeing allow students to utilise the tools that best suit them - be it yoga, mindful breathing or the nurturing of purpose and self-worth. A solid sense of wellbeing is fundamental to thriving academic success.



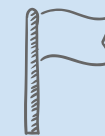


# Our students

Our students currently come from 23 different countries from the four corners of the world. The majority of our students have previously studied in other international schools, either in Poland or abroad, or join us directly from having previously lived in an English-speaking country. As such, the level of spoken English across the school is of a very high-standard.

We welcome students who have not previously attended school in English and offer an English as an Additional Language (EAL) programme within the regular timetable for students who would benefit from this support.

Polish citizens form our largest nationality group, followed by South Korean and Indian nationals. Owing to the diverse background of our students, our classes and school atmosphere has a strong multicultural feel.



Our students comes from **23** different countries, the majority coming from other international schools or overseas.



Our **5** largest nationality groups are Polish (41%), South Korean (13%), Indian (8%) Ukrainian (6%) and American (3%).



Our classes have a maximum of **16** students per group, giving every student individual and personalised attention.



Admissions

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# Tuition fees

Wrocław Cosmopolitan School is a very special place for children to learn and grow. All children who would benefit from, and be able to contribute to our unique curriculum and learning community are welcome to apply for admission.

We have made the tuition fee structure as simple as possible for families, with a single all-inclusive payment structure that includes all learning materials, resources and school meals.

School fees are set as annual amounts which can be paid monthly in 12 equal instalments, or as a single payment which is discounted by 15%.

The School Board has determined the 2021/22 fees as follows:

<b>Enrolment Fee</b>	One-off fee per child	3 000 PLN
<b>Preschool</b> age 3-5	Monthly tuition fee <i>12x monthly payments</i>	3 000 PLN
	Discounted annual fee <i>1x annual payment</i>	30 600 PLN
<b>School</b> age 5-18	Monthly tuition fee <i>12x monthly payments</i>	3 500 PLN
	Discounted annual fee <i>1x annual payment</i>	35 700 PLN



# Next steps

We trust this prospectus has given you an insight into the dynamic and exciting approaches of our school. There is of course no substitute for visiting us in person for a tour and to see the school in action. We encourage parents to visit with their children and for them to be an active participant in the decision to continue their education at Wrocław Cosmopolitan School.

If you would like to enquire further about admissions, you are very welcome to contact the School Secretary by email on [admin@cosmo.edu.pl](mailto:admin@cosmo.edu.pl), or book a school tour and admissions meeting with the Headmaster. In order to confirm your child's admission, a signed enrolment contract is required to be submitted either in person, by post or by email.



## Contact us by email

We invite any queries by email and an appropriate member of the team will respond with further details.



## Visit us in person

You are warmly welcome to book a school tour and admissions meeting with the Headmaster.



## Book a video call

For overseas families, we are happy to arrange a video call to discuss and assist with the admissions process.



## Return the enrolment contract

Please submit a completed enrolment contract in order to confirm and finalise your child's admission.



**Wrocław Cosmopolitan School**

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