



SEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# DUBLIN



International  
School  
Dublin · Ireland





## Welcome to SEK International School Dublin

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Dear families,

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome you to the new 2019-2020 school year. I have been newly appointed Principal of SEK-Dublin this year and I feel honoured to be part of a school whose priority is to offer each student the best life experience and education. It is a privilege, and a challenge, to lead a committed team of professionals who work with passion and talent to provide their full support to students, ensuring the highest educational quality and the best extracurricular opportunities. We all feel a great sense of pride in belonging to a school like ours, which has earned a prestigious place as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School and which teaches its highly valued and world-renowned Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme.

In this new stage of my professional career, I hope to be able to bring to bear my passion for education and my twenty years' international experience in developing, coordinating and organising academic programmes in several learning institutions in the United States. Furthermore, for the past four years I was a member of the leadership team of SEK International School El Castillo in Madrid. Today, my goal at SEK-Dublin will be to ensure that students receive the best possible all-round education. This implies excellent training provided by high quality teachers, as well as extracurricular activities that help students develop their character, enjoy their hobbies and passions and explore the world outside the classroom.

After receiving the IB accreditation to teach the Diploma Programme in record time, I am pleased to inform you that our first class is now taking this rigorous curriculum. These students are now receiving a highly demanding and tailored individual education, with the support and commitment from all the members of the school's educational community.

The implementation of different projects in all areas of knowledge throughout this academic year will make our students' educational experience even more valuable. One of these is known as the Global Citizenship initiative. At SEK Education Group, we firmly believe that we must create a learning environment that helps students to develop competencies useful for our current reality and in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Council of Europe defines education for global citizenship as "education that opens people's eyes and minds to the realities of the world, and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all." Therefore, we work on instilling in our students crucial values and teaching them skills to improve our world, making it a safer, fairer and more sustainable place.

It is only left to me to thank you on behalf of the entire SEK-Dublin team for the trust you have placed in us and to reiterate our firm commitment to focus all our efforts on the academic and personal development of your children.

**Monica Prieto**

Principal of SEK International School Dublin



## Introduction

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Studying at SEK International School Dublin is much more than just going to school.

It is a learning experience that fosters the development of students' intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills and affords them an international perspective.

SEK-Dublin is located in an exclusive setting, between the towns of Bray and Greystones and just 30 km from Dublin. The school blends traditional architecture with the most cutting-edge technology in a space spanning over 250,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with first-class sports facilities and beautiful green areas.

SEK-Dublin was founded in 1981, and since then over 4,000 students between the ages of 12 and 16 have been taught by its international teaching team. The school offers next-generation learning technology, an education programme meeting SEK Schools' rigorous quality standards.

SEK-Dublin is the first school in Ireland to be authorised by the International Baccalaureate Organisation to teach the Middle Years Programme and the Diploma Programme.

We are aware that education does not only take place in the classroom, therefore, SEK-Dublin International School offers numerous and varied extracurricular and cultural activities that ensure students' all-round personal and academic development.

SEK-Dublin offers our students a variety of extracurricular activities such as football, golf, horse-riding, piano and among others. Our students' experience is enriched with visits to museums (The Natural History Museum and The National Print Museum), historic cities, and participation in events outside the school premises, providing a unique opportunity to appreciate the local culture.

All of this provide an invaluable, unforgettable experience which, without doubt, contributes to students' all-round development as global citizens.

# Ethos, mission and values at SEK Education Group

## Ethos

Our Ethos is a framework enshrined throughout the SEK Educational Community and reflects the Group's unique nature. Drafted almost half a century ago, its spirit remains unchanged.

SEK Education Group is 'at the service of the common human spirit of achievement, striving for a better society' and is founded on the following principles:

**I. Students** and their world are the measure of the life and education at the SEK Group: it respects them as individuals, strives to awaken their abilities and to ensure they fully realise their potential as individuals.

**II.** SEK Education Group **believes in educating in freedom for freedom.** SEK accepts the challenge implied by this, and encourages students to accept responsibility for their own actions.

**III.** It aims to respect the **pluralistic values** of its students (individual, historical, cultural and religious values).

**IV.** It encourages the principals of universal **solidarity** in its teaching staff and students. It values work, an essential factor in personal worth and advancement, as an aspect of sociability, not in terms of rivalry and ambition.

**V.** SEK Education Group is **open to the world and the age we live in,** it is open to innovations in educational quality and to those teaching and cultural bodies that share its aspiration of creating a more cultured society and bettering humanity as a whole.

"SEK places individual freedom above all else".

1<sup>st</sup> SEK Convention, 1969

## Mission

Our aim is to help students become proactive **global citizens** by providing learning experiences which focus on concept based inquiry and reflection thus helping them develop intellectually and emotionally, while acquiring a lifelong passion for learning.

## Values

These are the values that guide our teaching activity and that we encourage in the classroom:

- **Biological:** physical and mental health
- **Ethical conduct:** personally and towards others
- **Aesthetics:** raising awareness, good taste and creativity. Respecting diversity, respecting other ways of being, thinking and acting
- **Universal coexistence:** justice, peace and solidarity
- **Intellectual:** wisdom, logical rigour and discipline
- **Work:** as a means to personal realisation and dignity
- **Truth:** adapting thinking to reality
- **Freedom:** a supreme ideal and tied to responsibility
- **Personality:** behavioural standards, knowing how to be, how to act and to behave
- **Metaphysical:** open to transcendence





## Academic programme

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The SEK Group, a pioneer (1977) in the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IB) programmes.

SEK-Dublin International School is an **IB World School** which is authorised to deliver the **Middle Years Programme (MYP)** and **Diploma Programme (DP)** for secondary students aged 12-19.

### Middle Years and Diploma Programmes

IB teaching and learning is based on interaction between **inquiry, action** and **reflection**.

IB pedagogy is expressed in every aspect of the MYP and DP teaching and learning experience with a focus on:

- Concept-based learning
- Inquiry
- Language and identity
- Diversity in learning and inclusion
- Rigorous academic curriculum with meaningful assessment
- Community Service

### The characteristics of an IB pupil

#### The MYP and DP facilitate pupil development:

The MYP and DP develops students into life-long learners who will become global citizens based on the attributes of the **IB Learner Profile**. Students strive to become:

- Creative and critical thinkers
- Reflective
- Supportive
- Open-minded
- Able to take action and solve problems
- Participative
- Respectful

# 21<sup>st</sup> century learning experiences

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## An experienced and professional teaching team

The SEK Schools teaching team is innovative, experienced and has a true passion for teaching. They are also very aware of the new role they play in classrooms in planning and mediating in learning, identifying strengths and weaknesses, raising awareness of new knowledge, fostering understanding and transference of skills to all areas of life and ensuring the whole teaching process is focussed on each student.

## A wide range of sports and cultural activities

Academic subjects are complemented with an extensive programme of sports activities, outings and cultural visits, promoting active participation, reflection and appreciation for the local culture.

## Personal development

These unforgettable experiences enable students to mature, develop self-confidence, accept responsibility, learn to adapt to new environments, get to know another culture, improve their language skills and make new friends.

## Language development

As a school we believe that learning languages and the culture associated with those languages will help students develop internationalmindedness.

Our curriculum is delivered fully in English but we encourage and support the learning of other languages. As such, we offer Spanish, French and German at the school. We also try to support other mother tongues and facilitate classes for other languages such as Irish and Chinese.

Our students can prepare and take External Language Exams:

DELF exams for French, Goethe Institute exams for German and Cervantes Institute exams for Spanish.

## International experience

Students will be able to live experiences abroad, spend a term or an academic year in one of our SEK schools in Spain (SEK-El Castillo in Madrid or SEK Catalunya in Barcelona) or in France (SEK-Les Alpes), as well as sailing the Mediterranean aboard our tall ship “La Goleta”, during the summer.

## SEK support

SEK Education Group is made up of a large team of professionals that are committed to students and their families and are on hand to provide advice and any help that may be required in terms of organising and managing travel, insurance and making the necessary arrangements.

## Summer courses

- **Spanish camp.** The course combines Spanish classes at SEK-Dublin with sports and leisure activities.
- **Irish Experience,** for 10 to 17 year olds, an opportunity to combine English classes at SEK-Dublin with sports and leisure activities, offering foreign students full immersion with stays with local families.
- **Golf & English Camp** is for golf enthusiasts between the ages of 10 and 17 who wish to combine honing their golf skills with learning English and a stay in superb surroundings.





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