

Independent Bonn International School



Curiosity, friendship and ambition



Welcome to IBIS

This is a **warm** and **inspirational** school where children learn to be **happy, resilient** and **confident** about the world and their place in it.

We are a non-profit school for children aged 3 – 12 and have served the international and local communities of Bonn since 1963. Small class sizes, bilingualism and inspirational teaching are supported here by a family-like atmosphere, where children feel safe to be themselves and to reach their potential.



Our Headteacher

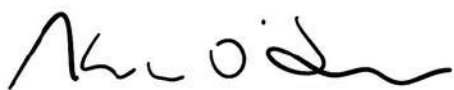
This is a school where children are taught in small classes to think independently by inspirational teachers, and it is my pleasure to introduce you to it.

When you visit, you'll discover our family-like atmosphere, and an identity of which we are very proud, rooted as it is in kindness, international-mindedness, curiosity and the ability to speak and understand both English and German.

This identity underpins everything here, as we help our students to understand that there are no limits to what is possible and that all doors are open to them, now and in the future.

For parents, our doors are open to you, too, with the assurance that we will be at your family's side, every step of the way.

I encourage you to visit us, to see for yourself what makes IBIS such a special school and I look forward to meeting you!



Tara O'Shea
Headteacher



About Us

We are a non-profit school for children aged 3 – 12. Our small size, family atmosphere and quality of teaching has attracted local and international families for over sixty years.

With small class sizes and excellent teaching staff, **children flourish academically**, preparing them for their future in a rapidly changing world.

Happy and socially secure children are better learners and more likely to grow into happy, healthy and confident adults. We have a full-time Wellbeing Lead and are proud to be the first school in Germany to be awarded the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Bronze Award.

We have an **average class size of 15 pupils** (maximum of 22), who are supported every step of the way by a class teacher and a teaching and learning assistant. These are ideal circumstances for children to develop, as every child is prioritised.

IBIS is an 'anerkannte Ersatzschule'. That means we are inspected and accredited by the German authorities (as well as by international accreditors) and are able to seamlessly integrate pupils into the German system of education as well as international systems the world over. Children overwhelmingly gain entry to their first choice Gymnasiums after IBIS and we are highly respected as a source school in the area.



Location and Facilities

We are based in Heiderhof, a rural suburb of Bonn. The location is easy to get to, via car or public transport, and well known as a safe and green place for families to live.

Every class has its own air-conditioned room and is equipped with a digital 'smart' whiteboard and access to:

- A large number of laptops and iPads
- A fully equipped hall where the children meet for assembly, for special performances and to eat lunch
- A science laboratory
- A well-stocked library
- A music room
- A large shaded playground (with a ringfenced Kindergarten playground)
- A soft-fall sports pitch
- A German department for German as a Mother Tongue (DaM), and German as a Foreign Language (DaF)
- A full sized sports hall a few minutes walk from the school
- Extra rooms for English as an Additional Language (EAL), Learning Development, group learning and wellbeing support.



Entry and Placement

Entry

We welcome children aged 3 – 12. All interested families are encouraged to visit and be shown our school by our headteacher. The ages of children in any one class are measured according to the academic year from the 1st of October. On entry to the school, children may receive a basic assessment to establish their levels in certain areas.

Placement

The basic criterion for placement is age. Our cut-off date is the 1st of October in each year. The school reserves the right to place each child in the class year group deemed to be the most appropriate and beneficial. Children coming from a different system are placed with their chronological peers in the appropriate year level.

The numbering of year groups varies according to country and system. Please see the table below to establish how we compare to the German and American equivalents.

	Age	IBIS Class	American Grade	German System
Early Years	3 - 4	Kindergarten	Preschool/Early Learning/Early Childhood	Kindergarten
	4 - 5	Reception		
Key Stage 1	5 - 6	Year 1	Kindergarten	1. Klasse
	6 - 7	Year 2	Grade 1	
Key Stage 2	7 - 8	Year 3	Grade 2	2. Klasse
	8 - 9	Year 4	Grade 3	3. Klasse
	9 - 10	Year 5	Grade 4	4. Klasse
	10 - 11	Year 6	Grade 5	5. Klasse
Key Stage 3	11 - 12	Year 7	Grade 6	6. Klasse

The School Day

Monday - Friday

Pre-school Supervision

From 08:00 – 08:40

Kindergarten and Reception

08:40 – 12:00 half day

(Kindergarten only)

08:40 – 15:00 full day

(Kindergarten and Reception)

Year 1 - Year 7

08:40 – 15:20

Lunch/Playtime

The children eat lunch together in their classrooms and the Bolik Hall. Hot lunch is offered for a small fee every day, or children are welcome to bring their own packed lunch with them. After food has been eaten, children have playtime and a large playground and sports pitch to use, with the option of lots of free-to-attend clubs to participate in.

After-school Supervision

From the end of the school day until 17:00, Monday – Thursday, and until 16:30 on Friday.

There are also a large range of extra-curricular activities, most of which take place between 15:30 and 16:30.



Kindergarten and Reception (3 - 5 Years Old)



Learning is fun!

Learning begins as soon as children join our Kindergarten and Reception classes at IBIS.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, which focuses on the following areas of learning:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We aim to stimulate our children's social skills and encourage a sense of cooperation and independence.

Year 1 and Year 2 (5 - 7 Years Old)

The teaching programme at IBIS for this age group is designed to foster excitement about learning. The curriculum reflects our belief in supporting the development of the child not only academically but also socially and emotionally.

In Years 1 and 2, children are given the tools to form a solid foundation of core subjects, like maths, science and English, and the opportunity to flourish as happy, social and confident individuals.

Pupils at this stage of the school learn German, either as a foreign language or as a mother tongue. Those who need it are offered English as an Additional Language (EAL) support to help them integrate.



Years 3, 4 and 5 (7 - 10 Years Old)

From Year 3 onwards, learning gathers pace as we build on curiosity and enthusiasm. Students are encouraged to become more independent, and with a teacher and teaching and learning assistant in every class and a maximum class size of 22, they have all the support they need to get there.

As we aim to prepare our students for the next steps in their education, we fully support those students moving on to secondary schools, either in the German or international system, to make this transition seamlessly. In German lessons (for German as a native language), we follow the NRW state curriculum.

There is also great social and personal development during this period. Students at IBIS are encouraged to develop social skills including tolerance, good behaviour, respect, responsibility and understanding of the needs of others.



Years 6 and 7 (10 - 12 Years Old)

Children in Year 6 are in the final year of primary school, and those in Year 7 have transitioned into a secondary school setting.

These year groups compliment each other, and as a result are paired in all subjects (except for languages, maths and science). The curriculum operates on a rolling programme.

Supplementing our curriculum at this level is the internationally recognised Cambridge Curriculum, for Mathematics and Science. In addition, pupils increasingly use an inquiry based programme which builds upon the pupil's own interests and develops a research-based style of learning.



At this age, children are encouraged to take on more responsibility both for themselves and around the school, for instance helping to organise IBIS events, like the annual Talent Show.

Each year, students of these classes also have the opportunity to take part in an extended class trip (a 'residential'). Recent destinations include Paris, Luxembourg and London.

Pupils leaving IBIS after Year 6 or 7 go to international schools or German system secondary schools.



Subjects Studied

The school operates an internationalised programme based on the English National Curriculum.

The main language of instruction is English. Subjects studied, from Year 1 – Year 7, include:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Computing
- German
- German Maths
- German Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Art
- Music
- History
- Geography
- Design and Technology
- Spanish
- French
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Studies (PSHE)



If you would like to see an extensive overview of what is studied in each year group, please go to our website:
www.ibis-school.com/curriculum-overview-at-ibis/

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Small group instruction by an EAL specialist in our well-equipped EAL room is like a small 'haven'. It is a place to take first risks in speaking English and is a stepping-stone to full integration in classroom activities at IBIS.

Children who have little experience with English are assessed to identify their stage of language acquisition. They are then given support in small groups in an EAL room by a trained teacher during the English lesson. This allows for maximum individualization.

Through language games, action songs, stories, role-playing activities of familiar situations, information-seeking tasks, sentence starters with visual cues and frontloading of relevant vocabulary, children gain the confidence to take risks in speaking English in the small group and in their classrooms.



Wellbeing at IBIS

Happy and socially secure children are better learners and more likely to grow into happy, healthy and confident adults. The award-winning* wellbeing programme at IBIS is dedicated to prioritising the health of students and does so in a variety of ways:

- Providing advice and guidance for parents, carers and students in areas like conflict resolution, resilience development and emotional regulation
- One-to-one and group support
- Organising the student led 'Wellbeing Champions' group
- Promoting whole school events and activities (like participation in European Mental Health Week)
- Arranging wellbeing drop-ins for pupils
- Delivering expert outside help for families
- Offering a confidential listening ear for everyone in our community

If you would like to find out more about the support on offer, please contact our Wellbeing Lead, Brooke Baker, via: b.baker@ibis-school.com

** IBIS was the first school in Germany to receive the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Bronze Award, and in our most recent whole school inspection by the Council of British International Schools (COBIS), we were labelled a 'Beacon School' for our proactive approach to wellbeing.*



Outdoor Learning

We highly value outdoor learning at IBIS and have a program of specific lessons for ages 7 and up. Since we are so close to the forest, we have the perfect setting to make the most of the environment around us.

As well as using the outdoors as a tool for learning through regular lessons, the curriculum has been developed so that each year group has a topic or subject that can be taught outdoors whereby the children can learn using experiential skills to support the learning of their curriculum subjects.

Outdoor classrooms:

- Provide the perfect setting to enhance curriculum subjects using hands-on experiences
- Support children's holistic development, making connections and relationships with nature and the world around us
- Promote creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking and resilience
- Improve physical health and mental health and wellbeing
- Increase intrinsic motivation
- Activate thinking outside the box
- Have a positive effect on social and communication skills and collaboration
- Promote understanding of risk management
- Have a positive impact on cognitive development therefore encourage better attendance and raise academic standards
- Encourage inclusive learning for all - often pupils who find classroom-based learning difficult, will excel outdoors in a more practical setting
- Are fun and engaging!



Clubs and school trips

IBIS offers a range of activities outside of the curriculum as we aim to inspire our pupils to learn new skills, develop interests and gain in confidence. We run clubs and activities during and after the school day. This programme varies according to availability and demand, but recent examples include:

- Drawing Club
- German Conversation
- Drama Club
- German Homework Help
- Russian
- Sports clubs
- Musical instrument tuition
- French
- Yoga
- Young First Aid Club
- Cooking Club
- Sewing Club
- Dance
- Library
- Sculpture
- Debate Club
- Parent and Child Library Sessions
- Homework Club



School trips are an important part of school life for all year groups. Recent examples include:

- Ice Skating
- Local museums and art galleries
- Indoor Snowboarding and skiing
- Trips to Paris, Luxembourg and Berlin
- Camping and outdoor activities (canoeing, climbing etc.)
- Sailing
- Local Christmas markets
- Visits to castles
- Countryside walks
- Sport events against other schools

Frequently Asked Questions

What Curriculum does IBIS follow?

The internationalised English National Curriculum we use allows our pupils to go onto their next school, whether in Germany or around the world, confident that they are prepared for their next steps in education.

How does IBIS prepare pupils for school after Years 5, 6 and 7?

There are a variety of options open to families post IBIS. German secondary schools (Gymnasiums) and local international schools are most common. Our school tailors approaches for both, including native standard German lessons and specialist subject preparation (German maths for example). We also maintain close contact with possible destinations, helping to make the transition as smooth as possible.

All of our processes, including our education, grading and overall outlook are designed to help families as they make that step.

What are German lessons like at IBIS?

Our German classes are split into native and non-native groups. Both groups receive tailored German lessons (Deutsch als Muttersprache and Deutsch als Fremdsprache respectively) from Year 1 onwards. These groups are fluid (children can move between them), and take into consideration the likely destination of each child after IBIS.

Is school uniform compulsory?

School uniform is compulsory after Kindergarten, and we are happy to explain why: a school uniform fosters a strong sense of community and shared purpose among our pupils, while ensuring the 'right' or 'wrong' clothes and brands never become an issue.



Where do pupils eat lunch, who do we get it from and how much does it cost?

The children eat together in our large and fully equipped Bolik Hall. Lunch can be brought from home, or ordered from our long-term provider, Lehmanns.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will help us if we as a family don't speak English very well?

A majority of staff members speak German as well as English, and are ready to help families and pupils. For children in particular, we are aware that being dropped into a new language environment can be stressful, so we go out of our way to make that process as easy-going as possible.

With our international environment (there are also plenty of French and Spanish speakers on call), we are very used to helping children and families orientate quickly, regardless of their background.

Is there the possibility for pupils to get help in certain subjects?

The expectation is that children will be able to meet standards across subjects within the normal school day, without the need for extra-tutoring, as is common in German schools.

Our school day is longer than is standard in the German system, and since our class sizes are small, and there is a teacher and teaching and learning assistant in every class, children have all of the opportunity and support they need to develop.

We do offer support in some key areas (English as an additional language for instance), and where it is possible, in other subjects.



Are the students tested and graded like the German system?

Although it is changing, the German system traditionally places an emphasis on tests. While testing is an important part of what we do, we consider progress 'in the whole', taking into consideration classroom work and participation, oral feedback, work as individuals and groups - as well as tests. We don't teach children to pass tests, rather we consider them one piece of evidence with regards to progress overall.

However, we do make sure that our grades and reports are delivered in a way that works seamlessly with the German system. This includes the option of receiving a German report (in Year 2 - Year 5) according to the standard in German primary schools. All of which is to say our outcomes are compatible with the German system as well as all other likely destinations.

Next Steps?

We hope that this information has given you an idea of our focus and what life is like at IBIS.

Interested families are encouraged to arrange a personal tour of our school. Our team are here to help and will happily answer any questions you have, or pass them on to the relevant person.

A trial day often follows, and children can (space permitting) start throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



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Arrange a tour and find us on social media:

