



ACS  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
EGHAM

LOWER SCHOOL

READY?



# READY TO THRIVE, FROM DAY ONE.



**MARK WILSON**  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## WELCOME TO THE LOWER SCHOOL AT ACS EGHAM – THE IDEAL FOUNDATION FOR INSPIRING THE WORLD’S NEXT GLOBAL THINKERS AND DOERS.

Within the Lower School, students gain essential skills in core subjects, while also being encouraged to explore the world around them with curiosity and confidence. We follow the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP) which goes beyond traditional academics, connecting learning to real-life experiences in meaningful and authentic ways.

Set on our beautiful, leafy campus, we provide a nurturing and stimulating environment where children thrive through hands-on, cross-curricular learning. Our passionate staff, exceptional facilities, and strong sense of community work together to spark a lifelong love of learning in every child.

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In primary years, teachers ‘draw out the children’s love of learning.’ Topic-based, hands-on learning has children engaged from the off.







**ALISON CARL**  
LOWER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

## AT ACS EGHAM, WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BEING A TRUE COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE WORKS TOGETHER TO FULLY SUPPORT ALL OF OUR CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THEIR TIME HERE.

From Early Years, we believe in the importance of listening to our students' thoughts and opinions, ensuring they are prepared to explore their individual areas of interest within our comprehensive teaching framework.

Our inquiry-led approach, delivered through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP), encourages, challenges, and inspires every child as they embark on their learning journey. With a strong focus on developing curiosity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration, our students are empowered to take ownership of their education.

We continuously monitor and assess students to ensure that our teaching is responsive to their individual needs. Our students perform consistently well in standardised assessments, reflecting our commitment to academic excellence. As a school accredited by the IBO, NEASC, and ISA, we continually strive to provide the best possible educational experience.

Our 36-acre campus offers a spacious and inspiring environment for learning. The Lower School facilities feature light-filled classrooms, including specialist spaces for art, music, drama, a digital learning and Maker Space, as well as a library and beautiful

outdoor learning spaces. Our classrooms are designed to foster creativity and collaboration, providing students with a vibrant space to explore and grow.

We welcome children from the age of four, providing dedicated learning spaces and three developmentally differentiated playgrounds specially designed for younger children. In Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 1, students benefit from their own exciting playground with climbing, sand and water play areas. Grade 2 and Grade 3 have a wooden crafted playground with sand, slides, and climbing areas. Grade 4 and Grade 5 have the use of an adventure playground for more challenging climbing, a football pitch and a parkour area. All students use the playing fields, Forest School, and a multi-use games area. This environment fosters a love of learning and encourages the development of core skills, including problem-solving and teamwork.

At ACS Egham, we also recognise the crucial role parents play in our students' development. We actively seek and value their feedback to maintain a secure, supportive environment. The positive feedback we receive from families speaks volumes about the safe, nurturing atmosphere we provide, reinforcing our commitment to the wellbeing and growth of every child.







# READY TO GROW, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

## LOWER SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Students come to our school from a wide range of countries and curriculums. This table shows the equivalent class age and curriculum for the UK and international systems.

Age	ACS Egham Entry Grade	UK Equivalent Year Group
4-5	Pre-Kindergarten	Reception
5-6	Kindergarten	Year 1
6-7	Grade 1	Year 2
7-8	Grade 2	Year 3
8-9	Grade 3	Year 4
9-10	Grade 4	Year 5
10-11	Grade 5	Year 6



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP)

The IBPYP is a future-focused, curriculum framework designed to provide an engaging, meaningful, and globally relevant education. Implemented in over 109 countries, the IBPYP is designed for learners aged 3 to 12 and is grounded in the belief that all children are capable, curious, and active participants in their own learning.

At the heart of the programme is student agency – learners are encouraged to ask questions, explore their interests, and take ownership of their learning journey. Teachers thoughtfully integrate students' questions and wonderings into their planning,

ensuring learning experiences are responsive, personalised, and developmentally appropriate.

Each grade level engages with six units of inquiry, built around the programme's six transdisciplinary themes:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet



Wherever possible, core subjects such as mathematics, language, science, social studies, the arts, and personal, social and physical education are taught through these units of inquiry. This transdisciplinary approach helps students make meaningful connections across disciplines, deepening their understanding and fostering a lifelong love of learning.

Our dedicated and experienced teaching team crafts each child's learning experience to be both intellectually challenging and joyful. Classrooms are intentionally arranged to promote independence,

collaboration, and creativity. Dedicated learning spaces support a wide range of activities, including reading, writing, art, construction, imaginative play, science, and maths exploration.

The IBPYP at our school nurtures curious, compassionate, and confident learners, equipped with the skills and mindset to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Interested to hear more? The IB provides more information about the programme for interested parties – [ibo.org](https://ibo.org).







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My child feels like they are being challenged with the course curriculum and they are being well prepared in becoming a global citizen.

PARENT

## LANGUAGE

Our language programme encourages students to become confident and enthusiastic communicators, developing their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Taught through a workshop model, students examine, process and apply information gained through reading and listening, with differentiated lessons designed to challenge each child to reach their full potential.

Reading instruction begins in Kindergarten, progressing to a variety of materials, including chapter books, novels and multicultural selections that foster a love of literature in classrooms rich with print and supported by a well-stocked library. Writing is taught

through workshops, which mostly connect to the learning within a unit of inquiry. Mini-lessons cover skills, grammar and the writing process, addressing genres such as narrative, informative, persuasive and opinion writing, with regular opportunities to share work.

Phonics, spelling and regular assessments ensure targeted instruction, while handwriting is introduced once fine motor skills are developed, with a focus on fluency and legibility.

Overall, the programme fosters strong, lifelong communication skills in a supportive and engaging environment.





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My child feels safe in the learning environment created at ACS Egham.

PARENT



## SPELLING AND PHONICS

In Pre-kindergarten, children develop letter recognition and phonemic awareness through kinaesthetic activities. In Kindergarten and Grade 1, the phonics programme focuses on building letter recognition and sound fluency. For Grades 1 to Grade 5, a developmental spelling and phonics programme is used, with students assessed to determine their instructional levels. Small groups meet regularly with the teacher to receive tailored instruction, and students are expected to apply these skills in their everyday writing.

## HANDWRITING

Children also develop fine and gross motor skills through play, which are essential before beginning formal handwriting instruction. The primary goals of our handwriting programme are fluency and legibility. If a student arrives with a different style of legible, joined-up writing, they may continue using that style.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Students at ACS Egham can choose between French and Spanish from Grade 1. They receive taster lessons in both languages in Kindergarten before choosing a language to follow up to Grade 5 and beyond.



## MATHEMATICS

Our programme focuses on skill mastery and conceptual understanding, emphasising problem solving, critical thinking, and mathematical computation, including mental maths. The mathematics curriculum aims to help students understand concepts and apply them in meaningful ways, linked to the Units of Inquiry whenever possible. Hands-on activities build confidence and connect numeracy to real-life situations. The curriculum progresses from concrete to abstract models, with opportunities for mathematical discussions focused on reasoning and argument construction. Instruction is differentiated to meet diverse learning styles and abilities.



## DIGITAL LEARNING

IBPYP students learn through a variety of digital tools that support access to the curriculum content, as well as providing a toolbox of creativity tools to support sharing understanding. Students build strong digital skills that can be applied cross-curricularly. The Digital Teaching and Learning teacher ensures students are gradually introduced to the educational use of technology as they move up in the Lower School. The skills and knowledge that are relevant to each age-level are integrated into the units of inquiry in the curriculum. Screen time is closely monitored to provide a balanced and healthy introduction to digital learning.





## VISUAL ART

As students progress through the early grades, they explore their identity and gain a broader understanding of the world through art. They learn to observe closely, think critically about artworks, and express themselves using different materials and techniques. By reflecting on their own creations and those from other cultures and times, they begin to understand the meaning and purpose of art – building confidence, creativity, and a thoughtful view of the world.

## PERFORMING ARTS – MUSIC AND DRAMA

The music and drama curriculum in the Lower School is a creative and active learning experience in which all Lower School students participate. They are each led by dedicated specialist teachers. The music curriculum provides enriching experiences that become integrated into students' lifelong appreciation of music. Students sing, move, listen, and play instruments to build skills in the musical elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, form, dynamics, and timbre. In drama, students develop an understanding of different kinds of global theatre, acting, role-play and performance. They use these skills in all areas of the curriculum and relish an opportunity to play out their learning in a different way. The students perform for parents in grade-level performances and also Lower School and Whole School events and assemblies. The students develop their confidence to present and perform from a young age.



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From the very first day, our children have felt truly happy at school.

PARENT







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Your child will be interacting with children from all around the world, children with different perspectives and having that cultural understanding is really powerful.

PARENT

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes in the Lower School are designed to develop individual athletic-based and movement-based skills. The programme is taught through progressive instruction; the level and rate at which skills are introduced is dependent on the teacher's view of the abilities and experiences of both the class and the individuals within it. Students use our first-class sports facilities from their first day with us and have access to the sports centre, climbing wall, dance studio, outdoor and indoor gym areas as well as our sports fields. Basic health and fitness concepts, rhythmic body movement, body and equipment awareness, manipulation, movement, control, and coordination are focused on at each grade level.

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE)

PSHE provides both explicit and implicit learning opportunities that reflect students' growing independence and increasing physical and social awareness. It helps students develop effective relationships, take on greater personal responsibility, manage their safety, and become active participants in the wider world.



## LIBRARY

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The library programme supports and enriches the school curriculum, and also encourages children to fall in love with reading. Exposure to literature from all corners of the world gives children an opportunity to learn about the cultures of their classmates. Classes visit the library weekly, share a story read to them by the librarian, and explore a multitude of books they can borrow and enjoy. They often recommend books to each other and swap books they have loved with their friends. Children are encouraged to see books as windows through which to view new ideas, or as mirrors into which they see themselves reflected back. The library's collection is full of diversity where every child can find themselves represented.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

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Lower School students are encouraged to discover and develop their strengths, supported by our exceptional campus and facilities. Our Forest School and outdoor learning programme brings learning to life through play, exploration and meaningful connections with nature. Forest School helps children apply their learning in real-life contexts while building essential skills such as resilience, collaboration and problem-solving. This approach nurtures confident, curious and caring individuals.

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The world is changing  
and ACS Egham does  
a really good job at  
preparing students for an  
ever-evolving future.

PARENT







### SCHOOL DAY

8:30 – 8:40	Registration
8:40 – 9:40	Lessons
9:40 – 10:00	Recess/Morning Break
10:00 – 11:50	Lessons
11:50 – 12:50	Lunch and Recess
12:50 – 13:00	Afternoon Registration
13:00 – 15:20	Lessons
15:20	School ends
15:30 – 15:40	Busing
15:30 onwards	After-school opportunities are available including Home Language Enrichment, music classes, sports and Clubs, or our wrap-around care Jag Club runs until 18:00

### ASSESSMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

Assessment in the IBPYP is an ongoing, integral part of the learning process. Both formative (ongoing) and summative (final) assessments are used throughout the year to support student growth and to inform teaching and learning.

Students are assessed in a variety of meaningful ways to capture a well-rounded picture of their understanding, skills, and progress. These methods include observations, written work, oral presentations, performance tasks, problem-solving activities, tests, projects, posters, videos, as well as peer and self-assessment. This diverse range of tools ensures that each student’s unique abilities, learning styles, and strengths are recognised.

Assessment begins with identifying students’ prior knowledge, helping teachers tailor learning experiences to meet learners where they are. This responsive and reflective approach ensures that every child is supported and challenged appropriately.

The goal of assessment in the PYP is not only to measure learning, but to promote it – empowering students to take ownership of their progress. The insights gained from assessment are shared with students and families, providing a clear and comprehensive view of each learner’s development across the curriculum.

### OUR IB CONTINUUM: A PATH TO SUCCESS

As an IB through school, we offer students a seamless transition from the IB Primary Years Programme into the IB Middle Years Programme (IBMYP) in Grades 6 – Grade 10. In Grades 11 and Grade 12, students can choose between the academically rigorous IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) or the career-focused IB Career-related Programme (IBCP). Our carefully supported transitions ensure continuity in learning and personal growth. Recognised and respected by top universities worldwide, the IB opens doors for our graduates, who go on to study at leading institutions across the UK, US, and beyond.







# READY TO IMAGINE, EXPLORE, BECOME.

## CO-CURRICULAR

### Clubs

Our co-curricular clubs offer a wide variety of activities to engage students in fun, creative, and physical pursuits. A typical selection includes basketball club, choir, climbing, football, science club, yoga, innovation tech, cookery club, drawing club, Judo, the Jag Club (After School Club), and dance. These clubs provide students with the opportunity to explore new interests, develop skills, and enjoy time with their peers outside of the classroom.

### Music

Students can sign up for individual musical tuition in a range of instruments (including singing) from our wonderful music teachers. This can either be scheduled after school or during the school day.

### Sports

In the Lower School, our co-curricular programme places an emphasis on physical fitness and an active lifestyle. Our programme is positive, highly inclusive and helps students develop into well-rounded individuals ready for life. Lower School students at ACS Egham benefit from our sports fields as well as our outstanding indoor sports complex which features a dance studio, basketball courts, climbing wall and badminton courts.

### Visual Arts

We encourage all our Lower School students to engage in creative activities. Students can experience a wide range of activities that awaken their creative talents, boost their cognitive abilities and strengthen their problem-solving skills, all of which directly support their wider academic endeavours. Innovation tech, design club, drawing and craft clubs are just some of the options for students that have a keen interest in creativity and the arts.

### Home Languages

The Home Language Enrichment (HLE) programme supports students whose first language is not English in maintaining their native language and cultural identity. Emphasising the value of multiculturalism, the programme recognises that continued literacy development in a student's home language is essential for both academic success and personal growth. Home languages are seen as vital assets that enhance children's development and promote cross-cultural understanding within the school community. HLE classes are student-centred, with tutors tailoring instruction to each child's needs and proficiency. Held after school for one hour per week, the programme is included in the school fee at no additional cost to parents.



# READY TO FLOURISH INSIDE AND OUT.

## WELLBEING

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We are committed to creating a nurturing and inclusive environment that supports the physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing of every student. Wellbeing is not only valued but actively taught and modelled, empowering children to develop self-awareness, resilience, confidence, and strong, positive relationships.

Our holistic approach includes opportunities for self-care, outdoor learning, movement breaks, mindfulness practices, and access to calming, reflective spaces. These experiences help students feel safe, supported, and ready to engage fully in both their personal and academic lives.

A dedicated Lower School Counsellor is available to support student wellbeing in a variety of ways – assisting with transitions into or out of school, providing short-term guidance during challenging situations, or offering ongoing support to help students build specific social or emotional skills.

Wellbeing is a shared responsibility. Our Student Services Team works in close partnership with teachers, families, and the wider school community to ensure each child feels seen, valued, and empowered to thrive.

## COMMUNITY

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ACS Egham fosters a warm, welcoming environment with a strong sense of community, connecting

students, teachers, parents, and alumni from over 45 different nationalities. We promote global citizenship and ensure everyone feels valued. As a school, we regularly organise events such as the popular International Fair, celebrating diverse cultures.

## STUDENT SERVICES

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### Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We welcome students who need services for English as an additional language and moderate Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Students are challenged and supported in inclusive classrooms and specialist teaching environments, so they can equitably access the curriculum.

### English as an Additional Language

In Lower School, we assess students in four domains: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students who are new to English are supported to move from BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills) to CALPS (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency Skills). Students who have some English are supported in reaching academic fluency while continuing development in their home language. The PYP strongly supports multilingualism and the role of languages to support students as “communicators” and internationally-minded explorers of the world around them. All PYP teachers support language development by meeting students where they are in their language journey.







# READY TO JOIN OUR WORLD?

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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### Admissions

We operate a rolling admissions process that enables students to join us in any Grade and at any time of the academic year, subject to availability and acceptance.

Our online application process takes a holistic approach, assessing each candidate individually by reviewing previous school records, references, student questionnaire answers and standardised test scores. We also ask for additional information such as educational psychologist reports or English as an additional language (EAL) tests, where relevant.

A refundable enrolment deposit is payable after a student has been accepted in order to reserve a place. For more details of the application process please contact our Admissions team.

### Jag Club – After-School Care with Heart

Our Jag Club offers a warm, welcoming, and flexible after-school care option for families across the Lower School. With a flexible booking model, families can choose the days and times that work best for their schedules. Jag Club is available until 6pm each day.

At Jag Club, children enjoy a relaxed and engaging environment where they can play indoors or outdoors, take part in creative crafts, board games, and other fun activities. It's a time to unwind, explore

interests, and enjoy time with friends from across different grade levels.

A dedicated team of two caring staff members ensures each child feels safe, supported, and included. We also provide a balanced, healthy snack each afternoon to keep energy levels up and smiles wide.

Whether building friendships, making art, or just enjoying free play, Jag Club is a place where children end their day with joy, connection, and a strong sense of belonging.

### Catering

Our in-house, award-winning catering team serves fresh, nutritious, and seasonal meals in a modern dining hall, using locally sourced ingredients and following School Food Trust guidelines. Students choose what they would like to eat on the day when they see the options. There is a dedicated Lower School salad bar to add extra nutrition to their meals. There is also the option for children to bring their own lunch from home. The catering team gathers regular feedback from the parents and students.

### Dress Code

Students follow a dress code rather than a uniform, reflecting our belief in independent thinking, creativity, and responsible choice-making.



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The campus is the perfect size.  
Its warm, inclusive atmosphere  
has helped my child feel happy  
and secure.

PARENT

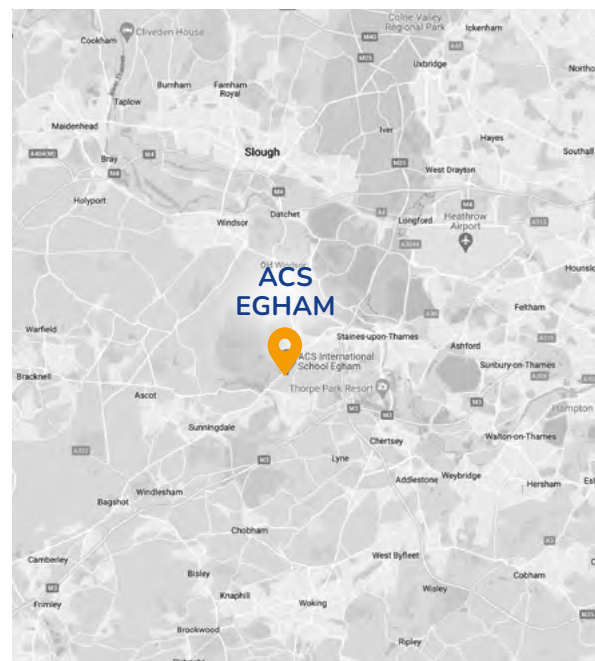
### Busing

We offer a comprehensive bus service with door-to-door and shuttle options, ensuring safe and efficient transportation for students. Led by experienced drivers, the service is designed to recover only costs. Our Transport Coordinator works to arrange busing from your child's first day (subject to availability). To help us organise this, please provide your home address as soon as possible.

Our shuttle service stops are assigned each year according to the home locations of our student populations. Example stops, subject to change, include Chiswick, Hammersmith, Richmond, Twickenham, Virginia Water, Egham, West Byfleet, Weybridge, Windsor and Woking.

### Location

The closest station to ACS Egham is Virginia Water. The station is on the line from London Waterloo and takes around 49 minutes. Egham Station is close to the school, which is also on the line from London Waterloo, taking around 44 minutes.





# READY TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP.

## CONTACT

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To speak with our Admissions team, please call our office on +44 (0)1784 430611 or email [eghamadmissions@acs-schools.com](mailto:eghamadmissions@acs-schools.com)

To apply online, please visit [acs-schools.com/egham](https://acs-schools.com/egham)

We host regular Open Mornings throughout the year, or you can arrange a personal tour or Zoom call with our team.

We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful campus soon.





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2025/2026

