

### **Our Vision**

Educating for self-awareness, curiosity, and integrity in a changing world.

### **Our Mission:**

Our mission is for every student to enjoy their youth.

We will do this by providing innovative approaches to learning, encouraging achievement, fostering international mindedness with local and global engagement, modelling ethical behaviour and acting respectfully and with honesty.

### **Our Core values:**

respect, responsibility, relationships and courage.

### **Our Culture:**

- Love for and enjoyment of learning,
- Joy in achievement,
- High expectations
- Collaboration
- Tolerance, Diversity and Belonging
- Sense of Service

### **Our Performance:**

- Providing a broad, balanced and connected curriculum.
- Developing innovative and outstanding pedagogy.
- Fostering inquiry, action and reflection.
- Promoting multilingualism and intercultural understanding.
- Addressing the school community's social, emotional and physical well-being.
- Identifying and valuing learning diversity.
- Modelling citizenship, leadership and lifelong learning.

## **What is the most salient characteristic of RISS?**

RISS holds a special place both within the Wolfert School Group and across Rotterdam and the wider country. Partly private and partly state subsidised, it exists to service the growing need the city has for high quality international education for foreign nationals or returning Dutch citizens, one that is not based on privilege or exclusivity.

While many schools claim to be international simply because of the curriculum they offer, RISS is a genuinely comprehensive coalition of teachers and students drawn from across the globe, united by a common belief in the importance of an inclusive, culturally diverse, child-centred, enquiry-driven education that not only prepares young people for university and life beyond but that ensures students actually enjoy their youth too.

Accredited by the Cambridge International Education Board, the International Baccalaureate Organisation and Pearson Btec, RISS students are well placed to go on to further study, training and employment anywhere in the world, including accessing some of the top universities in The Netherlands. With English as the language of instruction, students are also encouraged to continue to study their own language and sit their own language examinations and, of course, study the Dutch language too.

## **What does RISS add to the Wolfert School Group?**

At a time when so many countries are turning inwards and looking to close borders, having a truly international school within the Wolfert School Group means that the views and needs of colleagues and students from diverse backgrounds and cultures are constantly being reflected on, and considered. Through RISS, the Wolfert School Group is an active member of an international network of schools, educators and families, encouraging its members to look beyond simply the needs of the city or the country to have a genuinely global perspective. As Rotterdam becomes ever more international and

cosmopolitan, RISS ensures The Wolfert School Group is central to the city's continued growth and prosperity.

### **How does RISS contribute to the standards of BOOR?**

Any international school has to not only satisfy local and national standards of quality and accountability - RISS adheres uncompromisingly to the Wolfert and BOOR's Identity and Core Values Framework - yet it also has to measure up to the high standards expected from such international bodies as the IB and the Council of International Schools. On top of this, RISS takes its responsibilities very seriously when it comes to abiding by legislative frameworks such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In doing so, RISS is in a position to not just follow but to help set the standard for schools across Rotterdam and beyond.

Highly focused on well-being and health and safety matters for all members of the school community, RISS is determined to put the experience of the children and young people front and centre in all it does. From an increasingly wide, diverse and innovative curriculum offer, delivered by staff with access to a growing range of training and development opportunities, to an extensive range of extra-curricular and holiday-time activities for all students, the staff at RISS knows that academic results are just a part of what makes for a successful and happy school. What's more, following an international curriculum means that students have to take an active role in the needs of their community as well as spending time developing reflective, critical thinking skills. This, combined with a growing list of leadership opportunities within the school, ensures that all students have the chance to develop the leadership and teamwork skills needed to take a leading and collaborative role in their future endeavours.

Linked to its internationally-minded outlook, the school addresses issues associated with human rights, diversity, equity, and tolerance and all new families joining the school will sign up to be part of a multicultural and fully inclusive school community.

## **Our Strategic Goal:**

To be an exceptional example of an international school.

## **Our Key Strategic Drivers:**

1. Leadership & love of learning
2. Curriculum & love of Learning
3. Community, well-being and love of learning
4. Professional Development and love of learning
5. Organisation and love of learning

## **1. Leadership & love of learning**

- 1.1. Ensure that RISS develops a dynamic approach to leadership with emphasis on transformational and instructional principles of pedagogy and andragogy within a coaching culture that fosters leadership at all levels.
- 1.2. Strengthen or develop school systems that directly or indirectly aid learners to achieve and progress within our commitment to inclusion via diversity, equity and anti-racism (I-DEA) in a changing world.
- 1.3. Ensure that RISS is able to respond to levels of uncertainty and crisis not seen before via fostering resilience, flexibility, community cohesion and collaboration across all school statements.
- 1.4. Strengthen RISS policy implementation by fostering ownership and empowerment of creation and delivery within the school community where it is distinctively necessary.
- 1.5. Foster a love of learning which will create a positivity towards our ongoing self-study process in line with our own expectations, but also in response to our external accreditation needs.

## **2. Curriculum & love of learning**

- 2.1. Strengthen our conceptual understanding, knowledge and skills-based expertise to confidently deliver instruction with emphasis on student agency, current affairs, experiential learning and school values.

- 2.2. Design individual pathways to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, understandings and dispositions/attitudes to confidently navigate a changing world.
- 2.3. Encourage a professional learning culture in which teachers share, explore and implement new practices, research and innovative approaches to teaching and learning.
- 2.4. Continuously monitor our delivery of curriculum with a proactive approach to respond to the needs of all our students.
- 2.5. Prepare our students for a more independent academic life starting from early years, so they become more accountable to their learning and progress.

### **3. Community, well-being and love of learning**

- 3.1. Continuing to focus on ensuring that the two-campus RISS is seen by all stakeholders as one coherent school that fosters a love of learning amongst its students.
- 3.2. Create a PR charter that promotes involvement with a wider variety of community groups and organisations such as business, parents, press and charities.
- 3.3. Foster compassion, empathy, tolerance and adaptability in the RISS Pastoral Programme with all students across all grades to promote happiness and help students and the community to deal with complexities of modern life.
- 3.4. Foster, strengthen relationships with our feeder school and Wolfert schools to promote our school as a provider of International Education for young students.
- 3.5. Raise levels of long-term meaningful actions on student agency, environmental sustainability and current affairs that celebrates our bias free participation on global issues.

### **4. Professional development and love of learning**

- 4.1. Create a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Pathway that is in line with our new vision, mission and values that celebrates our staff commitment to lifelong learning.

- 4.2. Promote Professional development that strives to be positive, engaging and in line with the school's ethos, mission and values and based on collaboration and ongoing Personal Reflection and Development (PRD) conversations.
- 4.3. Develop an atmosphere of sharing and research-informed practice, where conversations on teaching and learning are the norm and feed forward thinking into producing an atmosphere of curiosity and a love of learning.
- 4.4. Being proactive in the identification of skills gaps and/or performance by ensuring that systems of support are provided as a sustainable and ongoing approach.
- 4.5. Encourage staff to seek and engage with a range of accredited training opportunities that add value to their professional practice and fulfilment to their personal lives.

## **5. Organisation and love of Learning**

- 5.1. Control levels of expenditure that allows the school to invest in areas of development that support equity, wellbeing and quality instruction.
- 5.2. Grow the school profile across our partnership schools and larger organisations to promote our mission, vision and values as representative of a model education.
- 5.3. Explore other forms of fostering student numbers and closer participation and partnership in the provision of an International Education offer.
- 5.4. Invest in learning technology that maximises teaching and learning and community integration as well as developing a palpable love of learning amongst the students.
- 5.5. Prepare all systems of the school organisation to be ready for a new international campus, so the new facilities are able to sustain the demands of the RISS Spirit to ensure an effective happy transition.