

2025 - 2026 School Guide



★ ★
★ ★ **Europese School**
★ ★ **Den Haag**
★ ★ Rijnlands Lyceum

The European School The Hague
Primary School

Draft Version September 2025

Colophon

This is a publication of European School The Hague for the 2024 - 2025 school year. The contents of this document have been compiled with the utmost care. However, it is possible that it contains incorrect information about which no rights can be granted. If you notice any incorrect information, please contact our organization.

Primary School

Houtrustweg 2
2566 HA Den Haag
+31 (0)70 700 1600

Secondary School

Oostduinlaan 50
2596 JP Den Haag
+31 (0)70 700 1600





GENERAL INFORMATION



"The rich diversity of nationalities and languages within the ESH Community is truly fascinating. Being part of such a vibrant and multicultural group fills me with gratitude and appreciation."

1. Welcome to ESH

Welcome to a new school year at the European School The Hague. As our pupils embark on the next step of their educational journey, the European School The Hague is committed to providing a positive, respectful community to foster their ambition. Through the rich cultural and academic experiences, we aim to inspire our pupils to be responsible, future focused and proactive citizens of Europe and the world. The information provided in this school guide outlines the functions in our school that will allow us to achieve success in 2025-2026. This year, the school guide is split into two separate editions: one for the Primary School and one for the Secondary School.

1.1. Senior Management

General Director	Wouter Abrahamse
Head of School Primary	Nicoline Mostert
Head of School Secondary	Juliet Palmer
Head of Operations	Fabienne Kramer

1.2. Mission Story

The European School The Hague is unique compared to the other international schools in The Hague. Established in 2012 to educate the children of employees of European Union institutions/agencies, we provide a multilingual and multicultural education to Early Years, Primary and Secondary school children culminating in the European Baccalaureate. We are an officially Accredited European School; partly administered and financed by the Dutch national education system and accredited by the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

The European School The Hague (ESH) is affiliated with the European Schools by means of an Accreditation and Cooperation Agreement. We offer The European Schools curriculum which leads to the European Baccalaureate certification at the end of pupils' Secondary studies with us.

ESH is part of Stichting Het Rijnlands Lyceum (Rijnlands Lyceum Foundation). The Foundation stands for 'Excellent Education and more' and supports its schools in realising the best education for their pupils. The Rijnlands Lyceum Foundation offers Primary and Secondary education in Leiden, Wassenaar and The Hague area. The Foundation is made up of three schools for Primary Education and five schools for Secondary education with an international character.

1.2.1. Vision

Our Vision is to inspire pupils to be responsible, future focused and proactive citizens of Europe and the world.

1.2.2. Mission

Our Mission is to provide a positive, open-minded community that fosters ambition through rich cultural and academic opportunities, inspiring lifelong learning.

1.2.3. Community

Our community is enriched by our multicultural and multilingual pupils, staff, and parents as we connect, collaborate and celebrate a culture of learning.

1.2.4. Values

Our core values provide the foundation for how the ESH community, pupils and staff achieve our mission:

Ambition	Positivity	Ambition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We strive to reach our potential. We accept challenges and have a passion for finding solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We focus on the positive aspects in situations. We build a constructive and positive environment from which everyone benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We show respect for people, possessions, our planet, protocols and ourselves. We accept the differences, strengths and weaknesses of others.

1.3. Eight Key Competences

ESH pupils are being equipped to thrive as citizens of Europe and the wider world. As such, they need a range of competences to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world. In 2006, the European Council and European Parliament adopted a European Framework for Key Competences for Lifelong Learning. These competences are incorporated and embedded in the European Schools curriculum. The eight key competences, which all individuals need for personal fulfillment and development, active citizenship, social inclusion and employment are what we aim for our pupils to achieve.

Key competences for lifelong learning

- Literacy
- Multilingualism
- Numerical, scientific, and engineering skills
- Digital and technology-based competences
- Active citizenship
- Entrepreneurship
- Cultural awareness and expression
- Interpersonal skills, and the ability to adopt new competences.



1.4. Parent Financial Contributions

1.4.1. School fees

School fees for 2025-2026 can be found in the Fees section on our [website](#).

1.4.2. Lunch Break and Canteen Services

Warm lunches are available in the school canteen for pupils at Primary and students at Secondary who register with [Jouw school Kantine](#) B.V. Please contact them directly for details and arrangements at canteen@eshthehague.nl

At the Primary school, a dedicated team of lunchtime supervisors ensures a safe and organised environment during lunch breaks, overseeing both students who purchase warm lunches and those who bring packed meals. This allows for teachers to have a short lunch break. The costs for lunchtime supervision are invoiced to parents through ESH. Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, these fees are adjusted in line with Collective Labour Agreement to keep them aligned with actual expenses.

1.4.3. Residential trips

For the Primary School, no extra costs are incurred by parents for school trips and excursions. Parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution to the cost of the P5 Residential Trip. P5 parents will be invited to an online information evening during the year, to receive more information about the residential trip, a highlight for our leaving P5 pupils. This contribution is voluntary and non-payment will not lead to the exclusion of the pupil.

1.5. Safety

1.5.1. School ID Badges

- Staff Members

Staff wear an ID card with a blue lanyard.

- Primary Parents

Primary Parents are expected to wear their personal school badge with a green lanyard visible when inside the building and show it upon request. All parents of Early Years receive two badges per child.

If you forget your badge, please register at Reception as a visitor.

- Visitors

To ensure safety and security at our school, all visitors must sign in and sign out at Reception. All visitors must wear a school- issued identity badge with a yellow lanyard. The visitors badge must be displayed while a visitor is in school and returned to Reception when leaving. Whilst the visitor is in the school, the visitor should remain with the member of staff they were meeting with.

This includes previous (alumni) students of the school, who are welcome if invited to speak about their experiences after leaving the school.

It is not possible for visiting family members or previous students who may be visiting The Hague to visit the school unannounced or unaccompanied.

1.5.2. Weapons

Weapons of any kind are strictly forbidden at the school's premises. Any weapons that are found will be confiscated and the police will be contacted.

1.5.3. Dogs

Dogs are not permitted on school grounds, except personal assistance dogs. Please inform the reception if you will need to enter the school premises/building with a Personal Assistance dog.

1.5.4. Drug Policy

1.5.4.1. Smoking

Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on or near the school premises.

1.5.4.2. Alcohol and other drugs

Our [drug policy](#) is available on our community portal.

1.5.5. First Aid

ESH has a dedicated First Aid team and an Emergency Response team (BHV) that consists of staff members who have been trained and receive a yearly refresher training. The school has a designated Head of BHV and a certified Prevention Officer. For any questions about safety procedures, please contact the facility coordinator.

For first aid needs, the students can visit the concierges' office (Primary) or Reception (Secondary). At ESH, the First Aid team looks after students who fall sick or are injured during the school day. They will contact parents to collect them if necessary. In the event of serious injuries, school will call an ambulance.

1.5.6. Insurance

The school has a broad accident insurance for all pupils. This insurance is valid when the pupils are at school, as well as during transport from home to school and vice versa. The insurance also covers school trips and sports tournaments. However, this insurance does not cover lost or stolen personal belongings. In case of an accident this will be discussed with the parents / guardians.

1.5.7. Privacy

At ESH the GDPR rules for Education apply. ESH processes personal data for all its students. We are responsible for the careful handling of your child's personal data. For details, please see the explanatory notes in the [Privacy Protocol](#) on the website.

1.5.8. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Every student has the right to develop physically, mentally, and socially in a safe and secure environment. Children cannot develop and learn effectively if their physical and mental health is negatively affected. This is a priority for all responsible staff who work hard to build relationships with students to promote a safe, caring and supportive environment inside and outside the classroom.

At ESH, any allegations or signs of abuse or neglect of a child are taken very seriously and will be followed up accordingly. We are by law obliged to take our responsibility and follow the [Meldcode Kinder mishandeling en Huiselijk geweld](#). Abuse, as defined in The Netherlands, includes physical, psychological, sexual abuse and physical or psychological neglect. Also witnessing acts of abuse is considered harmful. When signs or concerns are observed, a conversation with parents will take place to help clarify the situation and determine if a next step is necessary. A next step may include contact with the organisations responsible for child protection in The Netherlands (e.g., Veilig Thuis, Crisis Intervention Team) and/or arranging external support.

All staff receives a refresher session on Safeguarding and Child Protection at the beginning of the school year to make sure all members of staff recognise their role in the identification and response to signs of possible abuse or neglect in/with our students, and their responsibility to always protect and safeguard

their welfare. Safeguarding Leads are appointed to ensure that the safeguarding process and follow-up are handled properly. During school year 2025-2026, ESH Primary Safeguarding Leads are:

- Ms Alison Donnelly a.donnelly@eshthehague.nl
- Ms Ingeborg Hendriks i.hendriks@eshthehague.nl
- Mr Mark Davies m.davies@eshthehague.nl

In all Primary staff, a dozen trained Attention Officers (Aandachtsfunctionarissen) are available in all 5 section languages to support teachers and parents on these matters.

1.5.9. Medical Details

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that a Medical Information and Declaration Form is completed and regularly updated for their child or children in case of specific medical needs. It is necessary that all parents supply the school with the relevant medical information so we can act accordingly in case of an emergency. If a medical condition develops after intake, it is important that the school is informed as soon as possible.

If a child has a medical condition (i.e., allergies with serious risks, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, heart condition etc.) all relevant medical information and emergency procedures are collated and gathered in a Medical Fact Sheet (MFS). This MFS includes an up-to-date picture of the child. The MFS is distributed to all relevant staff in the school: child's class, canteen, reception, staff room and First Aid team. Any medication in Secondary is stored at Reception, in Primary medication is stored in the concierges' office.

Any updates regarding medical conditions need to be shared with the school by sending an email to primary@eshthehague.nl

1.6. Complaints Procedure

We are committed to providing good education and a respectful school climate. If, despite our best efforts, things do not go as expected, you can discuss this with us. Our policy is that you should first discuss the problem with the person(s) directly involved and, if this does not lead to a solution, with the teacher/mentor/Team Leader, or the Head of School. If even that contact does not lead to a solution, you can turn to the Director. The Director will hear the parties directly involved and try to find a solution with them. If you feel that the problem cannot be solved at the school, you can file a complaint to the Executive Board of the Stichting Het Rijnlands Lyceum or to the Landelijke Klachtencommissie Onderwijs (LKC, National Education Complaints Committee).

The complete complaints procedure and an explanation of how it works can be found on the website of the Stichting Het Rijnlands Lyceum ([Complaints procedure | Stichting Het Rijnlands Lyceum](#))

1.6.1. Internal Confidentiality Person

The Internal Confidentiality Person is there for pupils, parents and members of staff who need to speak and/or report about matters requiring confidentiality. Examples of reasons for reaching out to the Internal Confidentiality Person include abuse of power, unacceptable behaviour such as harassment, bullying, aggression and discrimination. The Internal Confidentiality Person offers initial support, can give advice and can help explore various options for next steps as well as offer referrals to external support organisations. During school year 2025-2026 we will have 2 Internal Confidentiality Persons. Ms Patricia McAteer p.mcateer@eshthehague.nl and Cyndi Delaney c.delaney@eshthehague.nl

In addition to the Internal Confidentiality Persons, there is an External Confidential Person. The External Confidentiality Person focuses on integrity issues, such as suspicions of financial, educational, or safety irregularities, integrity incidents or abuse (such as undesirable behaviour) within the organisation. The Centrum Vertrouwenspersonen Plus fulfils the role of External Confidential Person for the schools of the Rijnlands Lyceum foundation.

The External Confidentiality Person can be reached at:
Centrum Vertrouwenspersonen Plus
Telephone: 06 8131 6936
Email: info@cvp-plus.nl
www.cvp-plus.nl

1.7. School Holiday Calendar

School Holiday Calendar 2025 - 2026

August 2025							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31					1	2	3
32	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
34	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
35	25	26	27	28*	29*	30	31

* Induction day for staff

September 2025							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
36	1	2	3*	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16*	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

* 3 September First School Day
* 16 September Primary Pupils and staff free whole day, for Secondary students and staff school ends at 12.30

October 2025							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23*	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

*23 April school only ends at 12.30 for S1-S6

May 2026							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026							
wk. no.	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6*	7*	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

*6 and 7 July school ends at 14.45 (not at 12.30) for Secondary Students

- All Students & Staff
- All Students
- Primary Pupils
- Secondary Students
- All Students & Staff
- Primary Pupils
- Secondary Students
- Secondary Students

All students and staff are free because of the school holidays

All students from both Primary and Secondary are free

Primary pupils are free

Secondary students are free

School ends at 12.45

School ends at 12.30 for Primary Pupils

School ends at 12.45 for Secondary students

School ends at 12.45 for Secondary students due to Class Councils



1.8. European National Days

As European diversity is at the core of the European schools, we feel strongly about celebrating National Days. These celebratory events aim to honour the rich history, culture, and contributions of the countries for which we offer language tuition. The celebration can include an art exhibition, cultural performances, and enjoying some typical food of the country. Representatives from the Embassies are invited to attend, showcasing the unique and enduring ties between our institutions and promoting European understanding. The teachers of the language program together with the students and the community host a wonderful celebration in the Primary Atrium.

Country	Date	Name of the day
Austria	26 October	Nationalfeiertag
Belgium	21 July	National Day
Bulgaria	3 March	Liberation Day
Croatia	25 June	Dan državnosti
Cyprus	1 October	Independence day
Czech Republic	28 October	Independence day
Denmark	5 June	Grundlovsdag
Estonia	24 February	Independence day
Europe	9 May	European Union Day
Finland	6 December	Independence day
France	14 July	National day
Germany	3 October	Tag der Deutschen Einheit
Greece	25 March	National day
Hungary	15 March	National day
Ireland	17 March	St Patrick's Day
Italy	2 June	Proclamazione della Repubblica
Latvia	18 November	National Day
Lithuania	16 February	Independence day
The Netherlands	27 April	Koningsdag
Poland	11 November	Święto Niepodlegosci
Portugal	10 June	Dia de Portugal
Romania	1 December	Ziua națională a României
Slovakia	1 December	Constitution day
Slovenia	25 June	National day
Spain	12 October	La fiesta de la Hispanidad
Sweden	6 June	Sveriges nationaldag



PRIMARY SCHOOL



2

PRIMARY SCHOOL

At ESH Primary, we want every child to feel happy, safe, and supported as they grow and learn. Our goal is to help each pupil do their best, build confidence and learn how to work and play well with others. We believe that with a positive attitude, kindness and curiosity, children can achieve amazing things. As we start a new school year, we're excited for all the learning, fun and friendships ahead. With ambition, respect, and positivity as our guiding values, we look forward to a year full of smiles, proud moments, and a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

This Primary School Guide, along with the school calendar, will help you understand what life is like at ESH Primary. It gives you lots of useful information about our school and how things work day-to-day. You can also find more details on the Parent Portal. And of course, if you ever have questions, just ask, as we're always happy to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all new families, staff and pupils joining ESH. We hope you will soon feel at home and enjoy being part of our vibrant, supportive and culturally diverse school community.

*Kind regards,
Nicoline Mostert*

Head of School	Nicoline Mostert	n.mostert@eshthehague.nl
Early Years Team Leader	Montse Florez	m.florez@eshthehague.nl
Lower Primary Team Leader	Alison Donnelly	a.donnelly@eshthehague.nl
Upper Primary Team Leader	Mark Davies	m.davies@eshthehague.nl
Subject Quality & Specialists Team Leader	Kasja Ouwkerk-Kortekaas	k.ouwerkerk-kortekaas@eshthehague.nl
Support & Section Coordinator Team Leader	Ingeborg Hendriks	i.hendriks@eshthehague.nl

2.1.1. Operational contact information

For any operational queries, please contact:

Bus/Transport	prim-absences@eshthehague.nl
Reception	prim-absences@eshthehague.nl
Update of Medical Details	prim-absences@eshthehague.nl
Canteen	canteen@eshthehague.nl
Facilities Coordinator	j.wijsman@eshthehague.nl
Concierges	prim-concierge@eshthehague.nl
After School Activities	afterschool@eshthehague.nl
School Sports	j.serracasas@eshthehague.nl
Admissions	admissions@eshthehague.nl
Invoices/Pupil Administration	primary@eshthehague.nl
Primary PTA	pta@eshthehague.nl
Primary Participation Council	pc@eshthehague.nl
Internal Confidential Person	p.mcateer@eshthehague.nl

2.2. Curriculum

2.2.1 Early Education Curriculum

Early Education is the foundation of developing lifelong learners. Teaching and learning in the Early Years supports, and develops a pupil's communication skills as well as their physical, psychological, social, cognitive and emotional development by providing high quality opportunities, experiences and learning environments.

Children learn through play, so the planning and environment encourages exploration, engagement and experimentation. The focus is on practical, hands-on, active learning and is developed through child-initiated play which is often inquiry-led and is appropriate and meaningful to young children.

The [Early Education Curriculum](#) of the European Schools forms the basis of the planning for the Early Years children. Daily, the pupils are offered opportunities to be curious in their learning: they are encouraged to ask questions, to explore and to research their answers through a range of play activities and experiences.

In the Netherlands, children can start school when they turn 4 years old, but they are not legally obliged to begin until the first of the month after they turn 5 years old. The Early Years cycle will last a minimum of 2 years and, for some children, as long as 2,5 years depending on their birth date and starting date at school.

When children start their education at ESH, they are invited for a series of introduction days. These are shorter days that allow the children to settle in and familiarise themselves with their new teachers, classmates, classrooms and routines.

In the Early Years classes, the youngest (Early Years 1) and oldest pupils (Early Years 2) work together in a mixed group. This way, the pupils learn from and with each other. Early Years classes are supported in the morning by a classroom Teaching Assistant.

To start school, children must be fully toilet trained, meaning that they are able to use the toilet facilities independently.

2.2.2. Primary Curriculum

After Early Years, the children begin the 5-year Primary cycle of the European School. The European Schools curriculum is written specifically for the European Schools. For further information please visit the European Schools Website: www.eurasc.eu

	P1 - P2	P3	P4 - P5
Subjects	Hrs/week	Hrs/week	Hrs/week
Literacy	5,5	3	3
Mother Tongue	2,5	3,75	3,75
Mathematics	4	5,25	5,25
Language 2	2,5	3,75	3,75
DAL (Literacy for NL Section)	1,5	1,5	1,5
Discovery of the World	1,5	3	3
Art	2	0,75	0,375
Music	1,5	1,5	1,5
PE	1,5	1,5	1,5
European Hours		0	0,75
Various Subjects	2,25	0	0,375
Total	24,75	24,75	24,75

2.3. Language Sections

ESH Primary currently has five language sections: Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish. It should be noted that the Spanish language section has started a phasing out process. All children originally enrolled in the Spanish language section may remain in the Spanish language section until the end of P4. In P5, the children will join a different language section, but it will be the section in which they have had the transition (ideally the section of their L2). They will continue to receive Spanish Mother Tongue lessons. Via the Admissions department, prospective parents can inquire about language scenario options.

Timeline Spanish Section phase-out

School Year	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Classes	P2 / P3 / P4	P3 / P4	P4	
MT Lessons	EY / P1 / P5	EY / P1 / P2 / P5	EY / P1 / P2 / P3 / P5	EY - P5

Our SWALS (Students Without A Language Section) are placed in the language section of one of the official European languages: English, French, German or Dutch, the host country language section.

At the core of the European Language curriculum is education in the pupils' Mother Tongue Languages. At ESH primary, we offer: Czech, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovenian, Finnish and Spanish. Starting in Early Years all pupils receive 1.5 hours per week of Dutch as an Additional Language (DAL) as well, except for the Dutch Primary classes.

Pupils take most subjects in their own language section, or L2 language. For some subjects, PE and Music, the pupils will be taught in English or Dutch.

2.4. Primary Curriculum Subjects

2.4.1. Mother Tongue/L1 EY-P5

Mother Tongue/L1 language lessons aim to maintain and develop a pupil's mother tongue. The lessons focus on the speaking, understanding, reading and writing of the language, ability to express and interpret thoughts, feelings and facts in both oral and written form (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and to interact linguistically in an appropriate way in the full range of societal and cultural contexts, education and training, work, home and leisure.

Choosing to participate in the MT program should be done after careful consideration of language level and exposure. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or considerations.

2.4.2. Second Language (L2) P1-P5

The starting point for L2 lessons is the [European School's Curriculum for L2](#). The objectives are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). When learning their second language, the pupils focus on a variety of skills: listening/understanding, speaking, reading comprehension (P3-P5) and writing (P3-P5). The lessons offer a wide variety of language activities, covering themes related to pupils' experiences. The levels within one year group can be very diverse and this will be considered within the themes. The teachers make use of a variety of resources and methods for these lessons.

2.4.3. Dutch as an Additional Language

All pupils in the English, French, German and Spanish language sections also receive Dutch as an Additional Language (DAL) lessons twice a week. As there is no official curriculum for DAL within the European Schools system, we have developed our own curriculum, which is available on our website.

Pupils from P3 – P5 are streamed for DAL lessons, according to their language proficiency. Only the German Section teaches DAL in their own classes. P2 classes are streamed when the timetable allows.

2.4.4. European Hours P3-P5

European Hours as a subject develops knowledge and fosters pupils' awareness of their national and European heritage (present and past) and identity, together with a global awareness and a respect and care for the rights and beliefs of others to create tolerant and caring members of society. As citizens of Europe and of the world, the pupils will have an understanding and critical appreciation of the values of other citizens, while nurturing a sense of personal identity, self-esteem and awareness of their capabilities. European Hours is taught in the L2 language or in Dutch.

2.4.5. Literacy EY-P5

Literacy lessons aim to develop the language of the section. This enables the pupils to be able to learn and develop the language of their section and access the rest of the subjects in the curriculum. Through speaking, listening, reading and writing, ideas and information are expressed and communicated, aspirations, attitudes and emotions are articulated and imaginative possibilities are explored. Our two dedicated, well-resourced libraries have books in 16 European Languages to support literacy at ESH.

2.4.6. Mathematics

Mathematics lessons enable pupils to develop mathematical knowledge and skills and an understanding of how to use them appropriately in real life situations. There are five main topics: numbers and the number system, calculation, measures, shape and space and data handling. Within each topic, pupils will be able to:

- understand and learn facts, procedures and concepts
- interpret results and communicate information using mathematical language
- make connections between mathematical concepts and procedures
- use these skills in practical and meaningful problem-solving situations

Intermaths is our core teaching tool for Mathematics. It has been especially developed for the European Schools and is available for all language sections. Teachers complement the Intermaths resources with additional national resources and materials, sourced appropriately for their language section.

2.4.7. Discovery of the World

The Discovery of the World subject includes Geography, History, Biology, Technology and Socio-cultural areas of study. Each area of study is further divided into specific topics for each year group. The teachers in each year group jointly plan topics to ensure all objectives are covered throughout the year.

2.4.8. Art

Art education is provided by the class teacher at ESH. It prioritises expression (self-expression and communicating to others), while we engage, inspire and equip children with the skills to invent, imagine and create works of art and craft. Art hours for P3-4-5 are incorporated in the pupil's European Hours or Discovery of the World curriculum. For P1 and P2 pupils, separate art lessons are offered in class.

2.4.9. ICT

Although ICT is not a European Schools Curriculum subject, ICT education at ESH provides pupils with the opportunity to develop their ICT skills and understanding. These skills and knowledge can then be applied in a variety of situations and in different subject areas. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards (SMART) or LED projectors with whiteboards. Teachers are trained for proficiency and encouraged to infuse education with technology. Laptops and iPads are available for classes to use and ESH also has an ICT lab for staff to use with their classes when desired.

2.5. Specialist Subjects

2.5.1. Music

An important goal of music lessons is to give pupils the opportunity to enjoy various aspects of music. The social and cultural dimension plays an important role, as do different musical styles. During the music lessons, some of which are taught by a specialist subject teacher, attention is paid to the development of musical skills including making, listening to and composing music. The Primary school has a dedicated music room to teach the pupils to play instruments and enjoy other music related activities.

2.5.2. Physical Education

ESH has specialist teachers to teach all PE lessons. Early on, the emphasis is on practising motor skills and developing basic techniques for different sports. In physical education it is important for pupils to enjoy movement. In addition, attention is paid to social skills, such as consideration for others, cooperation, attention to safety and sportsmanship. Pupils receive two PE lessons a week. The school has two well-equipped gyms, a synthetic /artificial field, a basketball court and a play hall for the Early Years. Weather permitting, classes are also held outdoors on the sports fields.

ESH encourages participation in the local sports tournaments for Dutch primary schools as an opportunity for children to be introduced to Dutch sport clubs, to encourage friendly competition and team bonding. Depending on the tournament, P2 to P5 classes can participate.

PE Clothes

An appropriate sports kit includes indoor sports shoes with non-marking soles and all pupils EY-P5 need these. Pupils are encouraged to wear clothes appropriate for the weather conditions for lessons scheduled outside. A school sports shirt can be ordered from www.gymkleding.com

2.6. Assessment

ESH teachers assess the academic progress of each pupil. Assessment is carried out both informally and formally. For informal assessment, a variety of tools (sometimes) specific to each language section are used. For formal assessment, tools available through official assessment agencies from the country of each language section are used. These results are recorded and then used to track the progress and development of pupils throughout the years.

In the Early Years cycle each pupil has a digital portfolio, which is shared with parents, to record and share details of the development of each child.

2.7. Pupil Leadership

At ESH, we have a valuable opportunity to help pupils develop and exercise leadership in a responsible manner. Through the opportunities provided to participate in our P5 Pupils' Council and P4 Eco-Schools 'One Chance' Team, pupils in upper Primary (P3-P5) can develop their leadership skills.

2.8. Positive Behaviour

At ESH Primary, we believe that a safe, respectful and positive school environment helps every child thrive—both academically and socially. We aim to support pupils in developing the skills they need to become kind, responsible and confident members of our school and wider community. We encourage positive behavior through clear expectations, consistent routines and meaningful relationships between children and staff. Pupils are guided to make good choices, reflect on their behaviour and learn from their experiences. Praise, encouragement and recognition play an important role in helping children grow. When behavior needs to be addressed, we do so in a supportive and constructive way. We help children understand the impact of their actions and find positive ways to move forward. We work in close partnership with parents and carers to ensure a shared understanding and consistent support.

By promoting Positive Behavior, we create a learning environment where every child feels valued,

included and ready to do their best. During school year 2025-2026 a policy on Positive Behaviour will be implemented.

When a pupil shows repeated or serious misbehaviour, close communication between school and home is essential. In such cases, teachers or members of the Leadership Team will contact parents to share concerns and to work together on a plan of support. Our aim is always to understand the underlying causes of the behaviour, help the child reflect on their choices and guide them towards more positive actions. By working in partnership with parents, we can ensure a consistent and supportive approach that helps the pupil learn and grow in a safe and respectful environment.

In the case of extreme misbehaviour, the ultimate measures are to suspend or expel a pupil. ESH has a disciplinary procedure in place which involves consultation between School Leadership and the Board of the School as well as informing the Inspectorate of Education.

2.9. Primary Support Information

ESH Primary has a dedicated multilingual Support Team, offering educational and social/emotional support tailored to the needs of the pupils and their surroundings (class, peers, teachers, parents). A Support Coordinator connected to the Language Sections oversees and coordinates all internal and external support for our pupils. Dedicated Support Teachers remediate any academic difficulty or social and emotional need. If you have any questions related to support at ESH you can contact the Support Coordinator of the specific language section.

Section	Name	Contact Details
Dutch	Mr Joost Rietbergen	j.rietbergen@eshthehague.nl
French	Ms Anne Grasset	a.grasset@eshthehague.nl
German	Ms Ines Forster	i.forster@eshthehague.nl
Spanish	Ms Teresa Nuno Martin	t.martin@eshthehague.nl
Lower English (EY-P2)	Ms Caroline Harris	c.harris@eshthehague.nl
Upper English (P3-P5)	Ms Rebecca Slegg	r.slegg@eshthehague.nl
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	Ms Denise Clenton	d.clenton@eshthehague.nl

According to the Law on Passend Onderwijs (2014) all regular primary schools have a duty of care for the pupils in their school and for the pupils in the Admissions process. We have a strong belief in creating the best educational environment for learning and put a lot in place at Primary. But we also face limitations within our multilingual Curriculum. If at Admissions it turns out that a pupil needs additional or different support to be successful, Support will reach out to make sure that ESH is able to offer this education and support or help find an alternative educational setting if we can't. If over the years at ESH it turns out that a pupil can be more successful in a different educational setting due to individual needs, Support will take the lead in finding the best possible alternative.

Educational and social/emotional needs are closely monitored by the teachers and the support department. In case of need, a pupil's development can be discussed in a Multi-Disciplinary Meeting (MDO's) which are frequently organised throughout the school year; round table meetings, where all relevant parties are invited to discuss a pupil's development and come up with a plan to help them forward. An MDO is held with our external partners present: Bazalt, Kracht and SPPOH, with Youth Healthcare upon request.

2.9.1. Speech and Language and Other Specialist Therapies

Speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, counselling and psychotherapy are not offered by the school, as in the Dutch system, these are considered as medical interventions.

Parents should consult their family doctors for a referral to the appropriate outside agencies.

ESH does collaborate with a pool of International Speech and Language Therapists based in The Hague. Please contact the Support Team for more information about this.

2.9.2. Gifted and Talented Students

ESH provides adapted curriculum and/or participation in our Plus Program for gifted and more able children. Parents may approach school, or school may approach parents to discuss this. ESH determines which pupils participate in the Plus Program, based on needs and gains. Differentiation in class, compacting curriculum or skipping a year group may all be relevant options for gifted pupils. ESH has G&T certified coordinators and can also reach out to the Steunpunt Hoogbegaafdheid for external expertise. For more information or questions please approach the class teacher or support coordinator of your child's language section.

2.10. Pupil Health, Safety and Security

2.10.1. Sickness

Cases of a contagious disease need to be reported to the receptionist and class teacher as soon as possible. Pupils with fever, diarrhoea, eye infections or other infectious symptoms, should be kept home due to the risk of infecting other children and staff. It is important that pupils stay at home until they have been fever-free for at least one day before returning to school. If a child shows symptoms of infectious diseases in school, the guidelines from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (GGD) are followed.

2.10.2. Medication at School

If a pupil is required to take medication during the school day, parents need to come to school to administer the medication themselves or sign a statement that permits the pupil to take their medication in school.

2.10.3. Head Lice

Head lice are a common problem, transmitted mainly through head-to-head contact. Children are prone to head lice because they tend to have close physical contact with each other. If a child has lice, parents will be asked to pick up their child and immediately treat them to eliminate the lice and prevent spreading before they return to school.

2.10.4. Centre for Youth and Families (CJG)

All children living in The Hague or going to school in The Hague are monitored by one of the Youth and Family Centres in The Hague. [CJG Den Haag - Centrum Jeugd & Gezin](#). Periodic visits help signal issues at an early stage, that might otherwise hinder a healthy development.

Youth and Family Centres are situated in all areas of The Hague. These centres offer services to families on many aspects related to children and parenthood e.g., managing children's behaviour, healthy eating habits, bedtime, internet safety, the impact of divorce/separation on children, etc. They are here to help both Dutch and international families and have a large team including doctors, nurses and social workers. Some are also able to provide services in English. ESH Primary is connected to CJG Segbroek.

ESH Primary has developed a strong connection with CJG Segbroek, allowing the Early Years screening of hearing and eyesight when the children are 5 years old, to take place at the school during school hours. The Youth Health Care (JGZ) initiates and organises the information, invitation and permission with the parents. Parents do not have to come into school for this 5-minute screening.

In the Netherlands children are offered the State Vaccination Programme, [Rijksvaccinatieprogramma](#)

2.10.5. Youth Support

Since January 2024, Youth Care in The Hague can be applied for through two central organisations who operate in different areas. Depending on the home address postal code, a family can apply for support with Kracht or Rndom Jou. ESH has a direct contact person from Kracht and a Kracht Preventative Support Provider is working in school with small groups of children. If you have a support related question in relation to this, please reach out to our Support Team or check the website for more information: [Jeugdhulp Den Haag](#)

2.10.6. No Blame Approach to Bullying

ESH has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. The No Blame Approach, which aims to quickly bring about change, is implemented across the whole school. The core principle of this successful approach is to use the group dynamics as part of the solution.

In case bullying is flagged, by the teacher or the child, the parents will always be informed, as bullying prevention and interventions are a joint responsibility. Parents can also reach out to us if they have a concern.

For more information on our [Anti-Bullying Policy](#), please refer to the Community Portal on our website.

2.11. Communication with Parents

ESH is committed to engaging in open communication with parents. To this end, the school has several channels/platforms for communication with parents:

Who to Contact:

- If you would like to discuss your child's development, a concern, a language scenario question, or any other class related matter, please contact your child's class teacher, the section's Support Coordinator or subject teacher.
- If your concern has not been resolved by the teacher, please then contact the relevant Team Leader.
- As a final measure, please contact the Head of School.

Contact between home and school helps children learn and succeed. Here is how we communicate at ESH Primary:

2.11.1. Communication from Teachers to Parents

Important information that needs to be communicated individually will be sent to parents by email.

2.11.2. Social Schools Communication App

As children start at ESH, parents are required to open an account on the Social Schools App. This is an important channel of communication. Social Schools is a GDPR compliant, safe and secure platform and allows parents to set their child's image preferences – giving or withholding permission to use photos or videos of your child(ren). Class and subject news will be regularly communicated to parents in the language of the section and outlines information about current topics of study and future activities both in and outside of school. Language and specialist lesson learning news will also be shared by the relevant teachers via Social Schools. The Social Schools calendar is used to help parents be aware of upcoming events. The use of Social Schools is an essential part of parents' connection to school. Social Schools also offers digital portfolios. Portfolios are a requirement of the European Schools Assessment Policy. With Social Schools every child from P1 – P5 has their own account.

Moreover, the teacher can set the group's settings so that the list of names of the individual parents/guardians are visible.

To ensure everyone's comfort, the platform allows you to adapt your settings based on your preferences. You can choose whether to share only your name or, if you're comfortable, also your contact details with other parents/guardians in the same group.

2.11.3. Information Evening

Parents will receive an email inviting them to the Information Evening and Education Market at the beginning of the school year. The teachers welcome all parents in their classrooms, sharing and explaining the education and activities in the year ahead. Expectations on parental involvement, communication and pupil behaviour will be shared and questions can be answered. We strongly recommend parents attend this evening to get acquainted with the teacher and each other. Together can we create a fun, memorable educational experience for the children.

2.11.4. Parent-Pupil-Teacher Meetings

The pupils in Lower and Upper Primary receive a school report in February/March and again at the end of the school year.

In addition to school reports, parents and pupils are invited to attend individual meetings with their child's teacher to discuss progress and development. These pupil-parent-teacher meetings take place twice a year—once in October/November, and again in February/March—following the release of the school report. They offer an opportunity to reflect on achievements, set goals, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Parents may, upon request, have an optional third meeting with a class teacher in July.

If a pupil is at risk of repeating a year group, the school will ensure early and ongoing communication with parents. Teachers will arrange meetings to discuss the child's progress, explore any underlying challenges, and work together with the Support Coordinator to identify appropriate support strategies. Decisions are made carefully and in close partnership with families. The final decision on whether to progress a pupil to the next class or to repeat a class, rests with the School Leadership and is made with the child's overall development and best interests in mind.

Early Years pupils do not receive school reports, but parents will be linked to their child's digital portfolio which reflects the progress and development of their child throughout the Early Years. New pupils' parents will be invited to a 'settling in' meeting approximately 6 weeks after their child has joined school. EY teachers will hold parent-teacher meetings for all pupils in October/November and again in March/April.

2.11.5. Leavers Report

When a pupil leaves school mid-year (i.e., due to a move), parents receive a certificate of attendance. For children transferring within the Netherlands, a Leavers Report will also be prepared. For transfers abroad, this can be prepared upon request. The leavers report is written in the language of the section but may also be written in a different language (English or Dutch) upon request. This leavers report will only be shared when all fees have been paid.

2.11.6. Information Messages from Management

When there is relevant information for all parents, ESH sends a brief, text only message via Social Schools. All updates and announcements and important school information will be included, plus reminders of upcoming events. All events are also posted on the Social Schools Calendar and "Highlights" are posted on the ESH website. It is important that all parents are updated and familiarise themselves with the use of Social Schools, as all important information from the teachers will be found there.

2.11.7. Website and Community Portal

The ESH website contains important information including minutes of PTA and Primary Participation Council (PPC) meetings. Important documents and policies are in the password protected Community Portal. Parents can access these with a username and password issued by the school.

2.12. Parents' Participation

Like all successful schools, ESH is dependent on the positive contribution of parents. As partners in education, parents can get involved in many ways. We are very proud of our involved and supportive ESH parents. Besides participation in formal consultative bodies, such as the Participation Council, parents are also invited to help supervise on excursions or field trips, help with celebrations, join other committees including the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), focus-groups and the Canteen Committee, and to get involved in other school activities, as requested by the teacher or school.

2.12.1 Primary Participation Council

By law, every school in the Netherlands is set up with a Participation Council (PC). This is an organisational body of elected staff and parent (and in Secondary also student) representatives. The PC is consulted by the school management on various matters concerning school policies, organisation and official matters. As prescribed by law, there is a separate PC for the Primary and Secondary schools. There is also a General Participation Council (GMR) that deals with matters related to the whole Rijnlands Lyceum Foundation. Again, represented by staff and parents from the various schools in the foundation.

Meetings are open to all parents and staff. Questions and concerns can be shared with the PPC via email pc@eshthe Hague.nl

Name	Representative
Cordula Kurthen	Parent
Marlene Yaha Haage	Parent
Victor Cojocar	Parent
Frederiek Meulendijks	Staff Member
Moira O'Hare	Staff Member
Joost Rietbergen	Staff Member

2.12.2. Class Representatives

Every class has at least one Class Representative. This is a parent (or parents) who volunteer to support the class teacher by helping to organize class activities. The Class Representative can also act as the contact person for new parents, concerning general questions about the school. This role is usually arranged during or before the Information Evening. If you are interested, please let the class teacher know in advance.

Furthermore, the Class Reps may approach you for assistance with some activities such as birthday or leaving celebrations, Sinterklaas (5th December), winter holiday celebrations, Summer Fair, talent show etc. and to support the many PTA initiatives.

2.12.3. Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Every parent who has a child at ESH is automatically a member of the PTA with full voting privileges, as is every teacher working at ESH. Every other year a new PTA board will be elected from those who volunteer.

Usually, the PTA meets (bi)monthly to organise fun and social events like European coffee mornings, the Summer Fair, or to fundraise with cake and book sales, and to help organise certain school events, such as Sinterklaas, Christmas, etc.

The PTA can best be reached at the following email address: pta@eshthe Hague.nl. Updated PTA information can be found on the school website. Currently the PTA is looking for volunteers for this school year 2025-2026.

2.13. Practical Information

School opens from 8:30am and the first lesson begins at 08:45am. School ends at 15:00pm except on Wednesday which is a half day and school ends at 12:45. All classes have a 15-minute break in the morning and a 45-minute lunch break. At the beginning of the school year, you will receive a detailed timetable from your child's class teacher.

2.13.1. Lunch

Warm lunches are available in the school canteen for pupils at Primary who register with [Jouw school Kantine B.V.](#) Please contact them directly for details and arrangements at canteen@eshthe Hague.nl

At the Primary school, during lunch breaks pupils may eat their own packed lunch or the warm lunch served by the canteen. All pupils eat lunch in the canteen (atrium). They are supervised by a dedicated team of lunchtime supervisors ensuring a safe and organised environment during lunch breaks, overseeing both children who purchase warm lunches and those who bring packed meals. This allows for teachers to have a short lunch break. The costs for lunchtime supervision are invoiced to parents through ESH. Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, these fees will be adjusted in line with Collective Labour Agreement raises to keep them aligned with actual expenses. After lunch, pupils go outside to play for 30 minutes.

As an alternative, parents may collect their child(ren) for lunch break so they can eat at home. If you choose to send your child to school with a packed lunch, we encourage healthy eating at ESH and ask you not to give your child any sweets, fizzy drinks or other unhealthy snacks. Unfortunately, we do not have any facilities for storing packed lunches in a refrigerator or for heating them up. Additionally, due to pupils with severe (pea)nut allergies, we want to prevent bringing products with nuts and peanuts into the school as much as possible and reminders for this will be sent out throughout the school year.

2.13.2. Pick-up and Drop off Procedures

2.13.2.1. Arrival at school - drop off procedure

- To ensure the safety of all pupils when dropping off your child(ren) please adhere to the arrival and drop off procedure of the school:
- The school doors will open from 8:30am onwards for pupils
- If your child is in school grounds before 08:30, he/she is still under the responsibility and supervision of the parent / guardian
- Early Years pupils must enter and exit via the Early Years entrance / playground only.
- Parents are asked to stay outside during drop off. Primary pupils may be brought by parents to their usual entrance to the school building (main entrance or porta-cabin classrooms). Pupils from P1 – P5 are expected to walk independently to their classroom.
- So that lessons can start on time (8.45 am), all pupils are expected to be in class ready to start learning by 8. 43 am. Late arrivals will be reported.
- If you need to contact a member of staff first thing in the morning, please send an email to prim-absences@eshthehague.nl.

2.13.2.2. Leaving school - pick-up procedure

- Lessons end at 12:45 on Wednesday and 15:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Early Years pupils are collected by parents at the Early Years gate. Each EY teacher will communicate the pick-up procedure for their class to parents in their welcome information.
- Primary pupils are brought out by the class teacher to their line-up areas. P1 and P2 children line up in the back playground, P3, P4 and P5 children line up at the front of the school.
- We kindly request that parents wait outside the school in the courtyards.
- Children in P4 and P5 may leave school alone, if a 'permission to go home alone' form has been signed by parents.

For safety reasons, Primary teachers hand the children over to their parents or responsible adults. Please support your class teacher by ensuring your child stays with them until you arrive. Please make sure that your child, reception and the teachers are fully informed if another adult will pick them up. The green parent lanyard and badge should be with the person picking up the child. Teachers will not hand children over to adults that they do not know, unless parents have given written permission.

Please pick your children up on time. The teachers' working day continues after the children go home and we would like to avoid unnecessary delays for staff and ensure a smooth transition from school to home.

2.14. Absence Protocols

2.14.1. Unplanned Absence

If your child is absent due to illness or for any other reason, please report this to reception before 08:30, either by email: prim-absences@eshthehague.nl or by telephone: +31 (0)70 700 1600.

Wherever possible, medical or any other appointments should be scheduled outside regular school hours. If appointments cannot be scheduled outside school time, reception should receive notice beforehand, or at the latest upon arrival at school.

For logistical reasons, children should be picked up for their appointment either before or after breaktime or lunchtime, not during.

If your child returns to school, please also notify Reception. If your child will not return to school after the appointment, please don't forget to notify all other relevant organisations such as the bus company, after-school activities provider or the after-school care provider.

2.14.2. Special Leave Request

If a pupil must be absent for reasons other than illness, doctor, hospital, dentist or orthodontist appointments, a 'Request for Special Leave' form should be completed and returned to the reception or to prim-absences@eshthehague.nl; at least 15 working days prior to the requested leave date. ESH reserves the right to deny a request for special leave, if it is not in accordance with the Dutch regulations (Leerplicht). For more details regarding the [conditions for Special Leave](#), please see the school website.

2.14.3. Permission to leave school independently

If you allow your P4 or P5 child to leave school independently / unaccompanied and go home alone at the end of the day, you need to complete and submit a permission form to reception. This is available on in the Community Portal or parents may ask reception for a copy (or email prim-absences@eshthehague.nl).

2.14.3. Absences - Teachers

When a teacher is absent, ESH has a procedure to ensure the least possible disturbance for the pupils. In case of a planned absence, the absent teacher provides a detailed lesson plan for the class to be covered. In case of unplanned absence, the cover teacher will follow the general timetable and planning available. As much as possible we try to schedule a native speaker to cover the class. If no teacher is available to cover, pupils will be split over the other classes in the same year group.

Long Term Absences

The Leadership team will communicate any changes to staffing with parents as soon as they have relevant information.

2.15. After School Activities

The ESH offers an After School Activity (ASA) Program delivered by external ASA Tutors in the school building and on the sport fields. The program offers a variety of ASAs in Sports & Fitness, Creative Arts, Music, Dance & Performance and Technology. While hosted at ESH Primary, these are not school-run activities - parents will have a contract with the activity provider.

The vision behind the ASAs is that pupils can try various physical or creative activities to see what they might like and where their interests lie. Once they have found an activity that suits them and that they wish to pursue, they can join local clubs or teams. Furthermore, the ASAs give pupils the chance to be around peers from other language sections which gives them the opportunity to make new friends throughout the school and practice their languages.

The ASAs for Primary and Early Years are divided into two terms of a schoolyear- one starting after the Autumn holidays (in October/November), the other after the Spring holidays (in February/March). The exact

dates when registrations for ASA are open, as well as contact details to external ASA providers to register your child will be announced nearer the time.

We expect pupils to cooperate and work well with the ASA tutors. In exceptional circumstances a pupil can be deregistered from ASA. This decision will be taken by both the ASA Tutor, after conversations with the parents.

2.16. After School Care (ASC) or BSO

In the Netherlands, all schools are required by law to work together with an ASC provider. ESH works together with Zein International Childcare located on the school premises. ESH families also use several other after school childcare providers, including, but not limited to: Big Ben Kids, CompaNanny Voorburg/ Statenkwartier, Kindcentrum David DAK, Kindcentrum Onno DAK, 2Samen, Triodus, Villa Bloom, Stepping Stones and Zo Kinderopvang.

ESH maintains regular contact with all ASC providers. Registration for ASC should be arranged directly via the ASC provider. For more about the ASC providers used by ESH families, please see the [website](#).

ESH is not responsible for sharing information with the BSO provider. While ESH maintains regular contact with the BSO providers, to ensure smooth transitions for the children please note parents must contact the BSO directly.

2.17. Bikes

Bike parking for pupils is available on the school premises or outside the Early Years entrance. Cyclists should walk their bicycles to and from the bike parking and follow the instructions of the ESH staff to ensure the safety of everyone on school property. No cycling or scooting is allowed on school premises. ESH is not responsible for any damage.

2.18. Bus Transport

The door-to-door bus transport is organised by Achttax. For registration and information, please use the following email address: planning@achttax.nl. A few companies organise bus transport for the pupils of their employees. Please ask your HR department if this is the case.

Each child will be issued with a bus badge. These badges are to help ensure that each child leaves on the correct bus for the correct destination. If your child takes the bus, it is your responsibility to ensure that your child wears his/her bus badge to school every day, also on the way home. Please keep the badges safe and help your child take responsibility for wearing the badge every school day. Please note that ESH will assist in facilitating a smooth transition for pupils to and from the busses, however if a pupil uses the bus services, bear in mind this is an external contract with an external company.

If a child will not travel by bus on a planned bus-day, because of a playdate or other appointments, parents must inform school at prim-absences@eshthehague.nl as well as the bus company.

For pupils who travel by school bus, we ask that you explain to your children that safety on the bus is very important. Pupils are expected to show respect, listen to their bus driver, remain seated during the journey and keep their seat belts fastened.

In case of questions or complaints: please contact the Facilities team via prim-absences@eshthehague.nl as well as the bus company.

2.19. Extra Clothing

The school has a limited supply of clothes for accidents. Class teachers may request that you send in a change of clothes for your child to keep in school. Please label all clothing.

2.20. Library

There are two libraries in the Primary school; one is for Early Years and P1 and the other for P2-P5. From the moment pupils enter the library, the purpose is evident – to develop a love of reading. There are over 40.000 books, audio books and magazines in 16 European languages available for the pupils to sign out at different reading levels.

Whether a pupil is interested in fact or fiction, an avid or reluctant reader, the librarians can help them to find books to pique their interest. All Early Years and Primary pupils visit once a week. Early Years pupils borrow 2 books and Primary up to 3 books per week. If a child is a bookworm or forgets their books on their library day, there is free access every morning from 8:30am- 8:45am. All pupils are supplied with a yellow library bag when they arrive at school. Books that are more than 4 weeks overdue, lost or damaged must be replaced by the family. Parents can access the catalogue from home. For more information contact the librarians via library@eshthehague.nl.

2.21. Lost Property

Please label your child's belongings clearly to avoid losing them. You can find lost property in the lost and found cupboard in the ESH Parent Café. At the end of each term, any belongings that have not been collected will be donated to charity.

2.22. Mobile devices

Pupils are not allowed to use personal mobile devices, including smart watches at school. If parents require that their child carry a mobile device, the device needs to be switched off and kept in the child's bag the whole school day. Children have full responsibility for their mobile devices. In addition, we kindly request that parents limit their own use of mobile phones on school premises. Please read the Mobile Device Policy on the Community Portal.

2.23. Parent Café

ESH has invested in a stylish Parent Café for parents to enjoy a place to socialise after drop-off or pick-up. The parent café is on the ground floor, next the Concierge's office. There is free coffee and tea available daily. ESH encourages parents to meet others and make new friends in the ESH community. Parents' supervision of (siblings and) children is expected, especially after school. The PTA often meet on Tuesday mornings in the Parent Café. All parents welcome. Opening hours are 08:30 – 10:00 and 15:00- 16:00.

2.24. Transition to Secondary School

P5-S1 Transition

- The P5 - S1 transition program at ESH is tailored to the needs of P5 pupils and follows the Transition Guidelines of the European Schools. The transition program runs over the course of a year and covers:
- An information evening for parents during which subjects such as curriculum, language choices and organisation of studies are explained by the school management and teachers.
- A Secondary School orientation day, during which the children enjoy a tour of ESH Secondary with the S4 student mentors, as well as experiencing "taster" lessons to prepare pupils for the different teaching and learning styles at Secondary level.
- A sports day, involving mixed groups of P5 and S1 pupils.
- Secondary Mentor teacher visits at the end of P5, providing pupils with an information session about "Life at Secondary" and answer questions, face to face.
- Collaborative meetings between P5 teachers and S1 teachers to ensure a smooth and progressive academic transition for pupils to secondary.
- Administrative support for parents as they register their children for the various language sections and subject choices.
- For newly registered pupils, individual appointments can be made with the admissions officer and parents and pupils may discuss options and choices.

2.25. Transition Program for the Spanish Primary Students

It is the school's responsibility to provide a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary education for all pupils. For the children in the Spanish language section, a particular transition program has been created, as there is no Spanish Language section in the Secondary School. This transition program aims to prepare these pupils to continue their education in a different Language Section when entering the Secondary School. The transition program is implemented in P4 and P5, the last two years of the primary cycle.

