2026 - 2027
Primary School Guide



European School
The Hague
Rijnlands Lyceum

Colophon

This is a publication of the European School The Hague for the 2026-2027 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 noticed any incorrect information, please contact our organisation.

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European School The Hague
Rijnlands Lyceum

Rijnlands Lyceum



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1 GENERAL INFORMATION



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

Wouter Abrahamse, Director

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 2026-2027.

The ESH school guide is split into two separate editions: one for the Primary School and one for the Secondary School. They are updated every school year.

1.1 Senior Management

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

1.2. Mission Statement

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. Three Values to Guide Us

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

Ambition

We strive to reach our full potential.

We accept challenges and have a passion for finding solutions.

Positivity

We focus on the positive aspects in situations.

We build a constructive and positive environment from which everyone benefits.

Respect

We show respect for people, possessions, our planet, protocols, and ourselves.

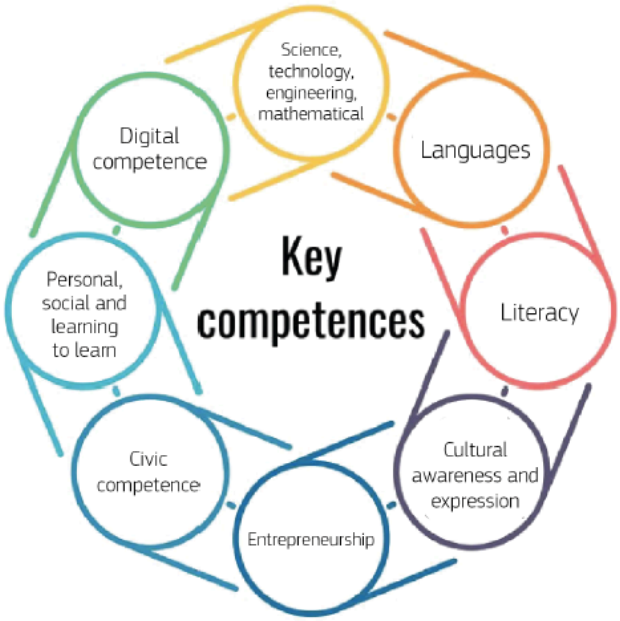
We accept the differences, strengths, and weaknesses of others.

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 fulfilment and development, active citizenship, social inclusion and employment are what we aim for our pupils to achieve.

Key competences for lifelong learning:

1. Literacy
2. Multilingualism
3. Numerical, scientific, and engineering skills
4. Digital and technology-based competences
5. Active citizenship
6. Entrepreneurship
7. Cultural awareness and expression
8. Interpersonal skills, and the ability to adopt new competences



1.4. Quality Assurance

The school places great importance on the quality of education and safety, and monitors results in a cyclical manner using a quality calendar.

1.5. Language Scenarios

The school follows the European Schools Language Policy, under which the Director determines each pupil's language section (mother tongue) at enrolment. This placement is intended to remain stable, ensuring continuity in the student's language pathway. Changes to L1, L2, or L3 are generally not allowed and may only be considered in rare, well-justified pedagogical or exceptional circumstances, provided they comply fully with European Schools regulations and remain organisationally feasible. Families are therefore encouraged to make language choices with a long-term perspective.

1.6. Admissions

The full admissions process to the European School the Hague is outlined on our website.

1.6.1. School Fees

School fees for the 2026-2027 school year can be found in the Fees section on our website.

1.6.2. Withdrawal

If your child(ren) will be leaving ESH, a signed withdrawal form is required to formally terminate the enrolment contract. This applies to all pupils leaving the school, including graduates, with the exception of P5 pupils who transfer to ESH Secondary in the following school year.

The Withdrawal form is available to download from the Community Portal, and the full withdrawal process is on our website.

To avoid additional fees, notice of withdrawal before the start of a new school year must be submitted by the **1st of May**. Withdrawals submitted during the school year may be subject to applicable school fees.

Information about the financial implications of terminating enrolment can be found in the ESH Provisions Document on our website.

Documents Issued upon Withdrawal
When a pupil leaves the school, parents receive a certificate of attendance. For children transferring within the Netherlands, a Leavers Report will be prepared. For transfers abroad, a Leavers report can be prepared upon request. These documents will only be issued once all outstanding fees have been paid.

1.7. Student Absence Policy

ESH is obliged to adhere to the Dutch regulations related to mandatory schooling. Parents need to inform the school administration if their child will be missing school. This rule applies to all students at ESH. Regular or persistent absences will be followed up by the school as any unexplained or unapproved absences need to be reported to the Compulsory Attendance Officer (Leerplicht). See the Lates and Absences Policy in the community portal.

1.8. Bad Weather

KNMI is the official government body that issues weather warnings across the country. When the weather calls for extra vigilance due to icy conditions, fog, or storms, KNMI may issue a weather alert. The weather alarm is the highest level of warning. Further information can be found at www.knmi.nl

Different stages are distinguished: a warning for dangerous weather (code yellow), a warning for extreme weather (code orange) or a weather alarm (code red). The weather alert only applies to certain weather conditions if they occur on a large scale. In case of extreme weather, and the school deviates from the normal class schedule, we follow our bad weather protocol found in the Community portal.

1.9. Data Privacy

At ESH, the GDPR rules for Education apply. ESH processes personal data for all its pupils. We are responsible for the careful handling of your child's personal data. For details, please see the explanatory notes in the Privacy Policy on the website.

Video recordings may be made for the purpose of improving lesson quality. These recordings are not shared with anyone outside of school staff and are deleted after the review.

1.9.1. School Photography

Each year, a school photographer visits the school to take pupil portraits and class photos. There is also the opportunity for siblings from the primary school to be photographed together. Portrait and class photos are taken during school hours. Photos for pupils in P1–P5 are taken at the beginning of the new school year, while photos for Early Years pupils are taken towards the end of the school year. Parents will be informed of the dates in advance. Pupil portraits are used for administrative purposes. Parents may choose to purchase the photos directly from the photographer. We have an agreement with the photographer to ensure all data are handled safely and in accordance with applicable privacy requirements.

1.10. School Calendar 2026-2027

This year's ESH School Holiday Calendar can be found on our website.

1.11. 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 Mother Tongue teachers - together with the pupils and the community - typically host a celebration in the Primary Atrium. Information about these events will always be shared in advance on Social Schools. Highlights from these events are often posted on Social Schools and our Linkedin Page.

1.12. Staff Professional Development at ESH

An Organisation Day is an In-Service Training Day, also known as a PD Day (Professional Development Day). Professional development delivers benefits to the staff and pupils. The goal is to ensure that staff are skilled, have learning opportunities to keep pace with the current standards in education and promote engagement and teambuilding. You can find the dates of the Organisation Days in the School Holiday Calendar. Pupils are either not in school or have lessons until 12:45 during Organisation Days.

Next to these days, every staff member has a budget (hours and financial) for personal and professional development that can be used during the school year.

1.13. Satisfaction Survey

As we must adhere to Dutch education law and highly value feedback, it is our responsibility to conduct a satisfaction survey within our school community, using nationally recognised benchmarks tools. As part of our commitment to providing high-quality education for our students, we may also include additional questions in the survey relevant to our community. These results provide us with feedback related specifically to ESH, enabling us to define clear points for improvement. Surveys are conducted every school year and the survey results are shared from Senior Management to the entire community also every school year, typically after the May holidays.

1.14. Useful Contacts

Stichting Rijnlands Lyceum
Executive Board: Mr Arjan Kastelein (chairman)
and Mr Martijn Verheus (member)
info@rijnlandslyceum-csb.nl
www.rijnlandslyceum.nl

External Confidential Counsellor
Centrum Vertrouwenspersonen Plus
+31 6 81 31 69 36
www.cvp-plus.nl

Centrum voor Jeugd en Gezin (CJG)
For all questions about children's development
and education, childcare and the school doctor.
0800 28 540
https://www.cjgdenhaag.nl/

Compulsory Education Office
For all questions about the attendance regulations in
the Municipality of the Hague

Compulsory Education Department
Compulsory Education Officer for Primary
Ms. Fatima el Makkaoui
06-14216662
fatiha.elmakkaoui@denhaag.nl or leerplicht@denhaag.nl

National Complaints Committee
www.onderwijsgeschillen.nl

Rijnlands Klachtenregeling
071 573 0912
071 573 0914
www.rijnlandslyceum.nl

Dutch Inspectorate of Education
info@owinsp.nl
Inspectors' hotline: 0900 111 3111

Questions about education
088 669 6000
www.onderwijsinspectie.nl



2 PRACTICAL INFORMATION



The start of a bright future

Head of School Message 2026-2027

Dear ESH Community,

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, develop confidence and learn to work and play positively with others. We believe that, with a positive attitude, kindness and curiosity, children can achieve amazing things. As we begin a new school year, we are excited about all the learning, fun and friendships that lie ahead. With ambition, respect and positivity as our guiding values, we look forward to a year filled with smiles, proud moments and a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

This Primary School Guide, together with the school calendar, will help you understand what life at ESH Primary is like. It provides useful information about our school and about how things work from day to day. Further details can also be found on the Parent Portal. And, of course, if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask, we are always happy to help.

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

Our work at ESH Primary is guided by the School Plan 2025–2029, built around the four ambitions of the Rijnlands Lyceum Foundation. These ambitions shape our direction by ensuring high-quality education, embracing innovation, supporting staff development, and providing a safe and respectful learning environment with modern facilities. Together, they reflect our commitment to continuous improvement and to preparing pupils to become responsible, engaged European and global citizens.

Nicoline Mostert
Head of School Primary

2. Contact Information

European School The Hague Primary
Houtrustweg 2
2566 HA The Hague
primary@eshthehague.nl

2.1. Primary Management Contact Information

Head of School	**Nicoline Mostert**	n.mostert@eshthehague.nl
Head of Operations	**Fabienne Kramer**	f.kramer@eshthehague.nl
Team Leader Early Years	**Montse Florez**	m.florez@eshthehague.nl
Team Leader Lower Primary, Library & Specialists	**Alison Donnelly**	a.donnelly@eshthehague.nl
Team Leader Upper Primary & Specialists	**Mark Davies**	m.davies@eshthehague.nl
Team Leader Subject Quality, P.E., & Music	**Kasja Ouwerkerk-Kortekaas**	k.ouwerkerk-kortekaas@eshthehague.nl
Team Leader Support, Section Quality, & Specialists	**Ingeborg Hendriks**	i.hendriks@eshthehague.nl
Facility Manager	**Fabio Pinto**	f.pinto@eshthehague.nl

2.1.1. Operational Contact Information

For any operational queries, please contact:

Admissions	admissions@eshthehague.nl
After School Activities	afterschool@eshthehague.nl
Bus/Transport	prim-absences@eshthehague.nl
Communications	communications@eshthehague.nl
Concierges	prim-concierge@eshthehague.nl
Facility Manager	f.pinto@eshthehague.nl
Internal Confidentiality Person	s.planche@eshtheague.nl or c.delaney@eshthehague.nl
Invoices/Pupil Administration	primary@eshthehague.nl
Library	library@eshthehague.nl
Primary Participation Council	pc@eshthehague.nl
Primary PTA	pta@eshthehague.nl
Reception	prim-absences@eshthehague.nl
School Sports	j.serracasas@eshthehague.nl

2.1.2. Internal & External Confidentiality Person

The Internal Confidentiality Person is there for staff members 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 and 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 the 2026-2027 school year, we will have two Internal Confidentiality people:

- Ms Soizic Planche - s.planche@eshthehague.nl
- Ms Cyndi Delaney - c.delaney@eshthehague.nl

Parents who wish to discuss integrity-related concerns can contact the **External Confidentiality Person**. In addition to the Internal Confidentiality Persons, this External Confidentiality Person is available to parents and staff regarding suspected financial, educational, or safety irregularities, integrity incidents, or abuse, including undesirable behaviour, within the organisation. For the schools of the Rijnlands Lyceum Foundation, this role is fulfilled by Centrum Vertrouwenspersonen Plus.

The External Confidentiality Person can be reached at:

Centrum Vertrouwenspersonen Plus
Telephone: 06 8131 6936
Email: info@cvp-plus.nl
www.cvp-plus.nl

2.2. 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 and/or Team Leader, or the Head of School. If 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.

2.3. Parent Financial Contributions

2.3.1. Lunch Break & Canteen Services

Warm lunches are available in the school canteen for pupils and staff. Should parents wish to partake in school-provided lunches for their children, parents must register with the canteen provider themselves. ESH will inform parents about the registration process.

During Primary School 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. These fees will be adjusted in line with Collective Labour Agreement raises to keep them aligned with actual expenses. After lunch, pupils go outside for a 30-minute recess.

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.

2.3.2. Residential Trips

Parents will be asked to contribute to the cost of the P5 Residential Trip. This contribution is mandatory, and non-payment will lead to the exclusion of the pupil from the trip.

P5 parents will be invited to an online information evening during the year to receive more information about the residential trip, which is a highlight for our P5 pupils.

Aside from the P5 Residential Trip, no extra costs are incurred for school activities or excursions.

2.3.3. 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 resulting in an injury or hospital visit, the health insurance of the child must be used first - only costs not reimbursed through the personal health insurance can be claimed through the school's insurance. In case of an accident, this will be discussed with the parents/guardians.

2.4. School Day

School opens from 08:30 and the first lesson begins at 08:45.

School ends at 15:00 except on Wednesdays, 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.

2.4.1. Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures

2.4.2. Arrival at School: Drop-off

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 08:30 onwards for pupils.
- If your child is on school grounds before 08:30, they are 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 (08:45), all pupils are expected to be in class ready to start learning by 08:43. Late arrivals will be reported in accordance with our Lates and Absences policy.
- If you need to contact a member of staff first thing in the morning, please send an email to prim-absences@eshthehague.nl

2.4.3. Leaving School: Pick-up

- Lessons end at 12:45 on Wednesdays 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 (see section 2.4.6.).

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.

2.4.4. Unplanned Absences

If your child will be absent due to illness or for any other unexpected 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, afterschool activities provider, or the after-school care provider.

2.4.5. Special Leave Request

If a pupil must be absent for reasons other than an 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 review the Special Leave Request Form in the Community portal.

2.4.6. Permission to Leave School Independently

If you permit 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. Parents may ask reception for a copy of the form or email prim-absences@eshthehague.nl

2.4.7. Teacher Absences

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 absences, 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. In very exceptional cases, parents may be asked to keep their child(ren) at home.

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

2.4.8. 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 review the Mobile Device Policy in the Community Portal.

2.5. Pupil Health, Safety, and Security

2.5.1. School ID Badges

- Staff Members: Staff wear an ID card with a blue lanyard, at all times, in the building.
- Primary Parents: Primary Parents are expected to visibly wear their personal school badge with a green lanyard when inside the building and show it upon request.

    - All Early Years parents 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 visitor's badge must be displayed at all times while a visitor is in school and returned to Reception when leaving.
    - Whilst the visitor is in school, the visitor should remain with the member of staff they are meeting with. This includes alumni 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 pupils who may be visiting The Hague to visit the school unannounced or unaccompanied.

2.5.2. 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.

2.5.3. 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.

2.5.4. Drug Policy

2.5.4.1. Smoking

Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on or near the school premises. All staff, visitors, parents, and contractors are requested to refrain from smoking/vaping or to do so out of sight of the school's premises.

2.5.4.2. Alcohol and Other Drugs

Please review our Drug Use Policy, which can be found in our Community portal.

2.5.5. 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 continues to 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 manager.

For first aid needs, the pupils can visit the Primary concierges' office. At ESH, the First Aid team looks after pupils 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, the school will call an ambulance.

2.5.6. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Children cannot develop and learn effectively if their physical and mental health is negatively affected. This is a priority for all staff. We work hard on building relationships with pupils 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 obligated by law to take our responsibility and follow the Meldcode Kindermishandeling en Huiselijk geweld. Abuse, as defined in The Netherlands, includes physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, as well as physical or psychological neglect. Witnessing acts of abuse is also 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 members receive 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 of/with our pupils. Our responsibility is always to protect and safeguard their welfare. Safeguarding Leads are staff members who are appointed to ensure that the safeguarding process and follow-up are handled properly.

During the 2026-2027 school year, the 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

2.5.7. Sickness

Cases of a contagious disease need to be reported to the receptionist and class teacher as soon as possible. If a contagious disease is identified or suspected within the school community, the school will act in accordance with applicable public health regulations and, where required, involve the GGD for advice, reporting, and follow-up measures.

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.

2.5.8. Medical Details

In case of specific medical needs, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that a Medical Information and Declaration Form is completed and regularly updated for their child or children. It is necessary that all parents supply the school with updated and relevant medical information so we can act accordingly in case of an emergency. If a medical condition develops after admission to the school, it is important that the school is informed as soon as possible. Any updates regarding medical conditions need to be shared with the school by sending an email to primary@eshthehague.nl

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 a recent photo of the child. The MFS is distributed to all relevant areas in the school: the child's classroom, school canteen, and staff room. Any medication related to known medical conditions is stored in the concierges' office located next to the main entrance.

If a pupil requires short-term medication during school hours, the school can support by securely storing the medication, administering it according to the Medicine Permission Form and medical instructions.

If the pupil could self-administer their medication, it will still be stored securely in the concierges' office. Parents should always contact the school (including class teacher) in these cases.

2.5.9. Head Lice

Head lice is 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.

2.6. After School Activities

In collaboration with Skills for Kids, ESH offers an After School Activity (ASA) Programme. The programme 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 Skills for Kids.



3 CURRICULUM & LEARNING

3.1. 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 at different reading levels for the pupils to borrow.

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 08:30 - 08:45. 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.

3.2. 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 of Spanish Section Phase-out

School Year	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Classes	P3/P4	P4	
Specialist MT Lessons	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 section classes.

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

3.3. 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.

3.4. 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.eursc.eu

	P1-P2	P3	P4-P5
Subjects	**Hrs/Week**	**Hrs/Week**	**Hrs/Week**
Literacy	5,5	3	3
Mother Tongue (MT)	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	0,75	0,375
Physical Education	1,5	1,5	1,5
European Hours	0	1,5	1,5
Various Subjects	2,25	0	0
Lifestyle	0	0	2,75
Total	**24,75**	**24,75**	**24,75**

3.5. Primary Curriculum Subjects

3.5.1. 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 programme should be done after careful consideration of language level and exposure. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or considerations.

3.5.2. Second Language (L2) P1-P5

The starting point for L2 lessons is the European School's Curriculum for L2. The learning objectives are aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for children, covering levels A1 to B1.

When learning their second language, pupils develop five key skills: listening comprehension, productive and interactive speaking, and, from P3 to P5: reading comprehension and writing.

Lessons include a wide range of language activities based on themes connected to pupils' experiences, interests, and everyday lives. As proficiency levels within a single year group may vary significantly, teaching is differentiated to ensure appropriate support and challenge for all learners.

Teachers employ a variety of pedagogical approaches, resources, and assessment strategies to promote effective language acquisition and progression.

3.5.3. Dutch as an Additional Language (DAL)

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.

In P2 (when the timetable allows for it), P3, P4, and P5, pupils are grouped for DAL lessons according to their language proficiency. Children who speak German tend to adapt to Dutch more readily so pupils in the German Section receive DAL in their own classes.

3.5.4. 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, focusing on European Community, Culture and Civilisation, Environment, Developing World, and Communication. It helps nurturing a sense of personal identity, self-esteem and awareness of their capabilities. European Hours is taught in the L2 language or in Dutch, with a focus on group projects.

3.5.6. Literacy EY-P5

Literacy lessons develop the pupils' language skills in their section language, enabling them to grow in confidence, access learning across the curriculum, and participate fully in school life. Through speaking, listening, reading and writing, pupils communicate ideas and information, express aspirations, attitudes and emotions, and explore imaginative possibilities. Our two well-resourced libraries support this development with a diverse collection of books in 16 European languages, helping to foster a strong reading culture across the school.

3.5.7. Mathematics

Mathematics is taught in line with the European Curriculum. Intermaths is our core mathematics programme, designed specifically for the European Schools and available in all language sections. Teachers enrich this with carefully selected national resources appropriate to their language section.

There are five main topics that the European Schools Mathematics' Curriculum is divided into: numbers and the number system, calculation, measures, shape and space, and data handling.

Mathematics equips our pupils with the skills and understanding they need for both academic success and everyday life. By supplementing the European Schools' whole-school curriculum with the national resources of each language section, we provide a consistent mathematical education for all children. This approach enables our pupils to become confident, adaptable mathematicians who can apply their knowledge across contexts and meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

3.5.8. 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.

3.5.9. 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-P5 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.

3.5.10. Digital Literacy

At ESH, Digital Literacy education supports pupils in developing digital skills. Although Digital Literacy is not covered by a specific primary level curriculum in the European Schools, it is integrated across subjects and assessed within the mathematics competence framework. All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards, and teachers receive training to master these tools and integrate them effectively into their teaching. Laptops and iPads are available for classroom use, and ESH also has an ICT lab that staff can use with their students if they wish.

3.6. Specialist Subjects

3.6.1. Music

An important goal of music lessons is to allow pupils 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 playing, listening to, and composing music. The Primary school has a dedicated music room to teach the pupils to play many different instruments and enjoy other music-related activities like singing and dancing.

3.6.2. Physical Education

ESH employs specialist teachers to deliver all Physical Education (P.E.) lessons. From an early age, the focus is on practicing motor skills and developing fundamental techniques across a variety of sports. Enjoyment of physical activity is central to physical education, as this supports a positive attitude towards an active lifestyle. In addition, pupils develop important social skills such as cooperation, consideration for others, safety awareness and sportsmanship.

Pupils receive two PE lessons per week of 45 minutes. The school is well equipped with two modern gymnasiums, a synthetic sports field, a basketball court, and a dedicated play hall for the Early Years. Weather permitting, lessons also take place outdoors on the sports fields.

ESH actively encourages participation in local sports tournaments for Dutch primary schools. These events provide valuable opportunities for children to become familiar with Dutch sports clubs, while promoting friendly competition and team spirit. Depending on the tournament, pupils from P2 to P5 may take part.

P.E. Clothing
Pupils are required to wear appropriate sports clothing during Physical Education lessons. This includes indoor sports shoes with non-marking soles, which are compulsory for all pupils from Early Years to P5. For lessons scheduled outdoors, pupils are encouraged to wear clothing suitable for the prevailing weather conditions. A school sports shirt may be ordered via https://gymkleding.com/product-categorie/european-school-the-hague-primary-school/

3.7. Assessment

ESH teachers assess the academic progress of each pupil. Assessment is carried out both informally and formally. For informal assessments, a variety of tools (sometimes) specific to each language section are used. For formal assessments, 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 under Evidence Me (an observation and registration tool), which is shared with parents, to record and share details of the development of each child.

More information on semester reports and Parent-Pupil-Teacher meetings can be found in section 4.7.

3.8. 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 P3/P4/P5 Pupils' Council and Eco-Schools 'One Chance' Team, pupils in upper Primary (P3-P5) can develop their leadership skills.

3.9. 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. A number of students, invited by the support team, have reflected on the support provision and the basic support facilities.

Section	Name	Email
Dutch	Mr Joost Rietbergen	j.rietbergen@eshthehague.nl
French	Ms Anne Grasset	a.grasset@eshthehague.nl
German	Ms Ines Foster	i.forster@eshthehague.nl
Spanish	Ms Teresa Nuño Martín	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

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. Our programmes and facilities are designed to support many types of learning needs, however, some pupils may require a level of specialised provision, therapeutic support, or adapted facilities that extend beyond what the school can reasonably provide.

If, at Admissions, it turns out that a pupil needs additional or different support to be successful, our Support team will reach out to make sure that ESH is either 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. Since the international education specialised settings in the Hague are limited, this might indicate a recommendation into the Dutch Educational System.

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) 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.

3.9.1. External Support Partners

As an Accredited European School, ESH participates in the Dutch Network for Appropriate Education and Inclusion, SPPOH. SPPOH provides a framework for support based on the Law on Appropriate Education, which ESH follows as well.

From January 2024, Kracht and RondomJou are the providers of Youth Care in the area of Haaglanden. As determined by postal code, ESH is working closely together with Kracht for (preventative) support: Homepage - Kracht Den Haag

Furthermore, cooperation with parents is important, as the need of the pupil is the base of our education and support. ESH will always reserve the right to ask external parties for their expertise on how to best move forward – even anonymously, if necessary.

External Support Contacts

- SSPOH Advisor - Ms Krystle Verkerk
- Kracht School Social Worker - Ms Alessia Ruggiero
- Bazalt Educational Psychologist - Ms Femke Stad

3.9.2. 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.

3.9.3. Gifted and Talented Pupils

ESH provides adapted curriculum and/or participation in our Plus Project and/or Challenge Programme 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 Programme, 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.

More information about the G&T programme can be found on our website. If you have additional questions, please approach the class teacher or support coordinator, who can refer your questions to our G&T contacts: **Ms Ines Forster** and **Ms Alina Paalvast-Bosma**.

3.10. 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 behaviour 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 behaviour 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.

Since last school year, our Positive Behaviour Policy has been implemented and we have introduced a Behaviour Specialist connected to the whole school to further strengthen our education, our team, and our pupils in the area. By promoting Positive Behaviour, we create a learning environment where every child feels valued, included, and ready to do their best.

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.

3.11. 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.

3.12. 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 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. Please note ESH Primary will share the names and birth dates of the children with CJG. 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 also offered the State Vaccination Programme: Rijksvaccinatieprogramma

3.13. 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 Rondom 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.

3.14. Transition to Secondary School (P5-S1)

The P5-S1 transition programme at ESH is tailored to the needs of P5 pupils and follows the Transition Guidelines of the European Schools. The transition programme 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 answers to questions.
- 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.

Please note that ESH Primary transfers relevant student data to ESH Secondary using a safe governmental service to ensure data privacy.

3.14.1. Transition Programme for the Spanish Primary Pupils

For children in the Spanish language section, a particular transition programme has been created, as there is no Spanish Language section in the Secondary School. This transition programme aims to prepare these pupils to continue their education in a different Language Section when entering the Secondary School. The transition programme is implemented in P4 and P5 - the last two years of the Primary cycle.



4 PARENTS

4.1. Communication with Parents

ESH is committed to engaging in open communication with parents. To this end, the school has the following procedure in place to ensure proper dialogue between parents and the school.

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 the 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 help children learn and succeed. See the following sections to see how we communicate at ESH Primary.

4.2. Change of Address and Contact Details

Any changes to residential addresses, email addresses, and/or telephone numbers of parents/guardians or pupils must be communicated by email to primary@eshthehague.nl

4.3. 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 on a weekly basis. The Social Schools calendar on the main page feed is used to help parents be aware of upcoming events. 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.

Please note: Social schools is not used for private or direct messaging between parents and staff. Messages sent this way will not be monitored.

4.4. Communication from Staff to Parents

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

4.5. Information Messages from Management

When there is relevant information for all parents, relevant ESH teams will send school-wide messages via Social Schools from collective usernames: Primary Leadership Team, Primary Office, Primary Participation Council, Reception, After School Activities, Positive Behaviour Specialist, and the Library.

All updates and announcements and important school information will be included, plus reminders of upcoming events. Highlights from school events are posted on Social Schools and occasionally our LinkedIn page. It is important that all parents are updated and familiarise themselves with the use of Social Schools, as all important information from the teachers and departments will be found there.

4.6. Website and Community Portal

The ESH Community Portal on our website contains important information including minutes of Primary PTA and Primary Participation Council (PPC) meetings. Important documents and policies are in the password-protected Community Portal. Parents can access the Community Portal with their full email address as username and a password they set themselves.

More information on accessing the community portal can be found here.

4.7. Information Evenings

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.

4.8. Parent-Pupil-Teacher Meetings

The pupils in Lower and Upper Primary receive a school report in February/March for the first semester, and again at the end of the school year. Pupils who join ESH after the start of the school year may not receive a first semester report depending on their start date. Class teachers will inform the parents of any new pupils that they will not receive a report in February but will be invited to attend a meeting.

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.

4.9. Parent 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.

4.9.1. Primary Participation Council (PPC)

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. Regular updates about the PPC are shared via Social Schools while meeting minutes are uploaded into the Community Portal.

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

Name	Representative
Cordula Kurthen	Parent
Marlene Yaha Haage	Parent
Victor Cojocaru	Parent
Pe Pe One	Staff Member
Hagen Styra	Staff Member
Madonna Simon	Staff Member

4.9.2. 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@eshthehague.nl

4.9.3. 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, responding to 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.

Key Tasks for Class Reps

- To welcome and identify yourself to new (this may be throughout the year) & existing parents.
- To request and coordinate parent help for events within the class or for school trips/educational visits and other events.
- To support the PTA by encouraging parents to contribute, for example: cakes/cookies for bake sales and to encourage parents to volunteer at PTA events.
- Keep connected to the PC and share information and concerns when necessary.
- To arrange a gift for children leaving ESH. The office has a supply of ESH kites that the class will sign it then it can be presented to the child when they leave.
- To keep your class parents up-to-date with upcoming, relevant events and school matters.
- To collect money for the class fund. This money can be used at your discretion and communication with parents.

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

4.10. Parent Café

At ESH, we have a room dedicated as the 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. Free coffee and tea is available daily. ESH encourages parents to meet others and make new friends in the ESH community. Parents' supervision of (siblings and) children is expected. The PTA often meet on Tuesday mornings in the Parent Café. All parents are welcome.

Opening hours are from 08:30-10:00 and between 15:00-16:00.

European School
The Hague
Rijnlands Lyceum