



SEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

DUBLIN



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Welcome to SEK International School Dublin

At **SEK International School Dublin**, we inspire students to become confident, internationally minded learners who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world. As part of the renowned **SEK Education Group**, which has a legacy of educational excellence dating back over 130 years, we offer a truly personalised learning experience built on innovation, academic rigour and global citizenship.

A pioneer in International Baccalaureate education, SEK was among the first schools in Spain to implement the IB programmes and went on to make history in Ireland as the first and only school to offer both the **IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)** and the **IB Diploma Programme (DP)**. Today, we continue to lead the way in international education, providing students with a transformative learning journey that extends far beyond the classroom.

Our distinctive **SEK Future Learning Model** combines the internationally recognised principles of the International Baccalaureate with the standards of the **New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)**, creating a dynamic educational environment where curiosity, creativity and critical thinking flourish. Through inquiry-based learning, conceptual understanding and the development of essential life skills, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning and become active participants in shaping their future.

The International Baccalaureate is globally respected for its academic excellence and holistic approach to education. Through the MYP and DP, students develop intellectual independence, intercultural understanding, strong communication skills and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world. Our programmes challenge students to think critically, engage meaningfully with real-world issues and embrace a lifelong love of learning.

Reflecting the international spirit of our school, SEK International School Dublin is home to students representing more than 20 nationalities and a diverse faculty of highly experienced international educators. This multicultural community fosters respect, global awareness and a genuine appreciation of different perspectives, preparing

students to succeed in leading universities and careers around the world.

At SEK, education is about more than academic achievement. We are dedicated to nurturing each student's unique talents, character and aspirations, empowering them with the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to achieve personal success and contribute positively to society. Through individualised support, innovative teaching and a truly global outlook, we help every student discover their potential and become the leaders of tomorrow.

We are grateful to you for the trust our students and their families have placed in us, and we are at your disposal, with the support of the school's teaching team, to ensure the full academic and personal development of your children.

Kind regards,

Alberto Domínguez Álvarez

Head of SEK International School Dublin



Introduction

SEK Dublin is located in an exclusive setting, between Bray and Greystones and just 30 km from Dublin. The school blends traditional architecture with the most cutting-edge technology in a space spanning over 52 acres, with first-class sports facilities and beautiful green areas. Founded in 1981, we have welcomed over 4,000 students between the ages of 12 and 18, who have been taught by our Irish and international teaching team. The school offers next-generation learning technology.

SEK Dublin was the first school in Ireland to be authorised by the International Baccalaureate Organisation to teach the Middle Years Programme and the Diploma Programme.

We are aware that education does not only take place in the classroom; therefore, SEK Dublin offers numerous and varied extracurricular and cultural activities that ensure students' all-round personal and academic development, such as football, golf, horse-riding, tennis, guitar and violin, among others.

Our students' experience is enriched with visits to museums, historical landmarks and participation in events off campus, all of which provides an invaluable, unforgettable experience which, without doubt, contributes to students' all-round development as global citizens.

1981
FOUNDED

52
ACRES OF CAMPUS

20+
NATIONALITIES

4,000+
STUDENTS
WELCOMED

30 km
FROM DUBLIN

Ethos, mission and values at SEK Education Group

Ethos

Our Ethos is a framework enshrined throughout the SEK Educational Community and reflects the Group's unique nature. Drafted almost half a century ago, its spirit remains unchanged.

SEK Education Group is **'at the service of the common human spirit of achievement, striving for a better society'** and is founded on the following principles:

I. Students and their world are the measure of the life and education at the SEK Group: it respects them as individuals, strives to awaken their abilities and to ensure they fully realise their potential as individuals.

II. SEK Education Group **believes in educating in freedom for freedom.** SEK accepts the challenge implied by this, and encourages students to accept responsibility for their own actions.

III. It aims to respect the **pluralistic values** of its students (individual, historical, cultural and religious values).

IV. It encourages the principles of universal **solidarity** in its teaching staff and students. It values work, an essential factor in personal worth and advancement, as an aspect of sociability, not in terms of rivalry and ambition.

V. SEK Education Group is **open to the world and the age we live in;** it is open to innovations in educational quality and to those teaching and cultural bodies that share its aspiration of creating a more cultured society and bettering humanity as a whole.

Mission

Our aim is to help students become proactive **global citizens** by providing learning experiences which focus on concept-based inquiry and reflection, thus helping them develop intellectually and emotionally, while acquiring a lifelong passion for learning.

Values

These are the values that guide our teaching activity and that we encourage in the classroom:

- **Biological:** physical and mental health.
- **Ethical conduct:** personally and towards others.
- **Aesthetics:** raising awareness, good taste and creativity. Respecting diversity, respecting other ways of being, thinking and acting.
- **Universal coexistence:** justice, peace and solidarity.
- **Intellectual:** wisdom, logical rigour and discipline.
- **Work:** as a means to personal realisation and dignity.
- **Truth:** adapting thinking to reality.
- **Freedom:** a supreme ideal and tied to responsibility.
- **Personality:** behavioural standards, knowing how to be, how to act and to behave.
- **Metaphysical:** open to transcendence.

"SEK Dublin provides a very friendly family environment for children. They know each other and all the staff make the school a really comfortable place. SEK Dublin brings out the best in children, engaging them, involving them in projects and developing their own way of thinking. It is our son's second year and he is very happy. A truly enriching and life-worthy experience."

José Javier Delgado García – Father of a former SEK Dublin student





An International Baccalaureate Education

Middle Years and Diploma Programmes

At SEK Dublin, teaching and learning are inspired by the International Baccalaureate philosophy, where **inquiry, action and reflection** work together to create meaningful and lasting learning experiences. Students are encouraged to become active participants in their education, developing the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to thrive in an ever-changing global society.

IB pedagogy is embedded in every aspect of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP), fostering intellectual curiosity, personal growth and a lifelong love of learning. Our approach places students at the centre of the learning process and encourages them to make connections between their studies and the world around them.

Through the IB framework, students are not only academically prepared for success at leading universities worldwide but are also equipped with the values, skills and global perspective needed to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world.

SEK Dublin is an IB World School, authorised to deliver the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP) for secondary students aged 12–18.



Key features of IB teaching and learning

Concept-based learning

Students explore powerful ideas and concepts that transcend individual subjects, enabling them to develop a deep understanding of knowledge and make meaningful connections across disciplines.

Inquiry-driven education

Curiosity is at the heart of the IB. Students are encouraged to ask questions, investigate real-world issues, think critically and independently, and take ownership of their learning journey.

Language and identity

The IB recognises language as central to learning, communication and cultural understanding. Through a multilingual environment, students strengthen their communication skills while developing a deeper appreciation of their own identity and the perspectives of others.

Diversity, inclusion and international mindedness

Students learn in a diverse and inclusive community where different cultures, backgrounds and viewpoints are valued and celebrated. This fosters empathy, respect and the ability to engage confidently in a globalised world.

Academic excellence and meaningful assessment

A rigorous and challenging curriculum develops strong subject knowledge, critical-thinking skills and intellectual resilience. Assessment is purposeful and authentic, helping students understand their progress, set goals and achieve their full potential.

Action and community service

Learning extends beyond the classroom. Through service opportunities, leadership experiences and community engagement, students develop a sense of responsibility and are empowered to make a positive impact locally and globally.

Reflection and personal growth

Students regularly reflect on their learning, experiences and achievements. This process promotes self-awareness, resilience and continuous improvement, helping learners become confident, balanced and reflective individuals.

Characteristics of the IB learner profile

The MYP and DP foster the development of the following attributes:

Inquirers	Knowledgeable	Thinkers	Communicators	Principled
Open-minded	Caring	Risk-takers	Balanced	Reflective



Parent testimonials

“The local and international community aspect ensures that my children are exposed to a diverse range of knowledge and experiences, promoting personal growth and cultural enrichment. SEK Dublin offers a stimulating and secure experience for children, promoting personal development and providing peace of mind for parents. Overall, I would highly recommend SEK Dublin for any parents looking for a nurturing and well-balanced education for their child.”

Céline Schmutz – SEK Dublin parent

“Choosing SEK for our daughter has been one of the best decisions we’ve made for her academic prospects. The IB programme offers a fantastic alternative to the traditional Irish curriculum, preparing students for universities worldwide with its strong academic standards. What truly sets SEK School apart, though, is its small class sizes, creating a personalised experience and a supportive learning environment, amplifying each student’s strengths and helping them develop elsewhere by giving them the attention they deserve. The international community within the school has also been a huge advantage, as our child has made wonderful friendships with students from all over the world which will stay with her for life.”

Cristian Varela – SEK Dublin parent





21st century learning experiences

SEKMUN – SEK Model United Nations

One of the SEK Education Group's flagship international events. Students take on the role of diplomats, debating global issues, negotiating solutions and drafting resolutions following real UN procedures, while developing research, public speaking and negotiation skills alongside peers from other international schools.

The PlayMusic Project

An SEK initiative, launched at SEK-Ciudalcampo in Madrid, that integrates music into the curriculum. Students learn an instrument and perform in orchestral and percussion ensembles, supporting memory, concentration, language acquisition, logical thinking and creativity.

NASA Space Programme Experience

Students can take part in international programmes at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, tackling authentic engineering and space exploration challenges, building leadership and teamwork skills and gaining first-hand insight into STEM careers.

Arrowsmith Cognitive Enhancement Programme

Based on the science of neuroplasticity, Arrowsmith uses targeted cognitive exercises to strengthen memory, reasoning, attention, comprehension and executive functioning, helping students become more confident, independent and effective learners.

Kumon Programme

Integrated into the school day, Kumon helps students build strong foundations in mathematics and literacy while fostering independent learning and confidence. Combined with our IB philosophy, it strengthens our commitment to academic excellence and personalised learning pathways for every student.

Saturday Programme

Our recently launched **Academic Excellence Programme** takes place on two Saturdays each month. Fully integrated into the academic programme and included in the school's educational provision, it complements the regular curriculum with dedicated time for consolidation, deeper learning and skill development, with teachers offering personalised support.

On alternate Saturdays, students visit historical landmarks and natural attractions:

- **Cultural and heritage experiences** that explore Ireland's history, traditions and communities.
- **Outdoor activities** that encourage teamwork, independence and an appreciation of nature.
- **IB-linked activities** that support learning through real-world experience, reflection, community awareness and global citizenship.



Transition Year at SEK International School Dublin

Transition Year at SEK International School Dublin is a dynamic and enriching programme that empowers students to grow academically, personally and socially while preparing for future success. Built around five key pillars, the programme combines **Academic Excellence, Personal Growth, Learning Beyond the Classroom, International Perspective** and **Future Readiness** to provide a truly holistic educational experience.

Students continue to develop strong academic foundations through challenging and engaging learning experiences that foster critical thinking, creativity, communication and problem-solving skills. At the same time, they build confidence, independence, resilience and leadership through opportunities that encourage self-discovery and personal development.

Learning extends beyond the classroom through project-based learning, educational visits, workshops, guest speakers, industry engagement and work experience opportunities. These real-world experiences help students connect their learning to future academic and career pathways while developing valuable transferable skills.

As part of SEK's diverse international community, students gain a global perspective, learning alongside peers from different cultures and

backgrounds. This fosters open-mindedness, cultural understanding and the adaptability needed to thrive in an interconnected world.

Community engagement and leadership are central to the Transition Year experience. Through volunteering, sustainability initiatives and collaborative projects, students develop empathy, responsibility and a strong sense of global citizenship.

Transition Year at SEK Dublin is more than a bridge between Junior and Senior Cycle. It is a year of exploration, challenge and growth that equips students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to embrace future opportunities with ambition and purpose.

The five pillars of Transition Year

01

Academic
Excellence

02

Personal
Growth

03

Learning
Beyond the
Classroom

04

International
Perspective

05

Future
Readiness

Personalise your Transition Year

Real Madrid Foundation Transition Year Programme

For those seeking an additional challenge, the **Real Madrid Foundation Transition Year Programme** offers an exclusive optional pathway that enhances the core experience through a unique blend of education, leadership and football-inspired learning.

Designed to complement rather than replace academic study, the programme combines academic excellence with personal development, wellbeing, leadership education and high-quality football experiences. Students continue to participate fully in all subjects, projects, work experience, educational visits and community engagement activities while benefiting from the internationally recognised educational methodology of the **Real Madrid Foundation**.

Using sport as a powerful tool for learning, students develop essential life skills including teamwork, communication, resilience, responsibility and leadership. Through structured football sessions, students improve their technical and tactical understanding of the game while learning the habits and mindset associated with high performance and continuous improvement.

The programme also explores sports psychology, wellbeing, coaching and team management, helping students build confidence, focus, goal-setting skills and emotional resilience. Opportunities to train and compete through local football clubs further enrich the experience, allowing students to develop both as athletes and as individuals.

At its heart, the Real Madrid Foundation pathway is about much more than football. It is about character, leadership and personal excellence. Students leave with stronger academic foundations, enhanced communication and leadership skills, greater self-confidence and the mindset needed to succeed in education, sport and life.



Sports and extra-curricular activities

Sport is an integral part of life at **SEK International School Dublin**, promoting physical wellbeing, teamwork, leadership and resilience while helping students develop healthy habits that last a lifetime. Set within an exceptional natural environment in Greystones, the school's extensive grounds provide students with numerous opportunities to engage in outdoor activities and pursue their sporting interests.

Students can participate in a variety of sports and physical activities, including **football, golf, tennis, kickboxing and padel**, with programmes designed to accommodate different ages and levels of experience. Through regular training and participation, students develop technical skills, self-discipline, confidence and a strong sense of sportsmanship.

A unique feature of the school's sporting programme is its partnership with the **Real Madrid Foundation**, which gives students access to football coaching based on the club's renowned methodology. Through these programmes, students not only improve their technical and tactical abilities but also learn values that extend beyond the pitch, including respect, teamwork, perseverance, leadership and integrity. This world-class sporting experience reflects SEK Dublin's commitment to developing well-rounded individuals who excel both academically and personally.

Sport at SEK Dublin is viewed as an important complement to academic learning. Participation in physical activities encourages students to challenge themselves, collaborate with others and develop essential life skills such as communication, goal setting and resilience. Whether pursuing competitive sport or simply enjoying an active lifestyle, students are supported in reaching their full potential in an environment that values personal growth, wellbeing and enjoyment.

By combining high-quality coaching, outstanding facilities and a philosophy that emphasises character development alongside performance, SEK International School Dublin offers a sporting experience that enriches every student's educational journey.

Real Madrid Foundation

The **Real Madrid Foundation Educational Football Programme** is one of the most exciting recent additions to the extracurricular and international opportunities available at SEK International School Dublin.

A unique partnership

In 2024, SEK International School Dublin and the Real Madrid Foundation announced a partnership to launch the Foundation's **first Educational Football Programme in the European Union**, bringing the renowned Real Madrid methodology to Ireland. The programme is based on the Real Madrid Foundation philosophy of **"Education, Values and Sport."** Students receive football training while developing important life skills.

The aim is not only to improve sporting performance but also to support students' personal growth and character development.

The partnership includes several pathways:

- **Educational Football Programme** for students combining an International Baccalaureate education at SEK Dublin with football development.
- **After-School Football Programme** delivered on the SEK Dublin campus.
- **Real Madrid Foundation Summer Clinics and Camps**, with training from coaches using the official Foundation methodology.
- International football experiences linked to the wider SEK network.





Day student life at SEK International School Dublin

Life as a day student at **SEK International School Dublin** is about much more than academic success. Students become part of a welcoming, diverse local and international community where learning, personal growth and wellbeing go hand in hand. Each day offers opportunities to engage in stimulating classroom experiences, participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities and develop meaningful friendships with students from diverse cultural backgrounds. The campus's unique natural setting, surrounded by extensive green spaces and close to the stunning Dublin and Wicklow coastline, provides an inspiring environment in which students can learn, explore and thrive.

Throughout the school day, students benefit from a personalised educational approach that encourages curiosity, critical thinking and collaboration. Beyond the classroom, they can participate in sports, creative activities, cultural events and leadership opportunities that enrich their educational experience and help them discover new talents and interests.

As members of a community representing more than 20 nationalities, day students develop valuable intercultural understanding and global perspectives through daily interaction with peers from around the world. This international environment, combined with the school's strong pastoral support and sense of community, ensures that every student feels known, valued and supported throughout their educational journey.

At SEK Dublin, day student life is designed to provide a balanced and fulfilling experience, combining academic excellence with personal development, wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging. The result is a vibrant school community where students are inspired to achieve their potential, build lasting friendships and create memories that will stay with them for years to come.



Options for international students

SEK Dublin is an **IB World School** which is authorised to deliver the **Middle Years Programme (MYP)** and **Diploma Programme (DP)** for secondary students aged 12–18.

Study options

- 1 Term (September to December)
- 1 Semester (January to June)
- Full academic year

Students may join the year group appropriate to their age or the equivalent grade level they are currently attending, ensuring a smooth and seamless transition.

Preparation of external English language exams

The curriculum may be enriched further since students can prepare for the **Cambridge** external exams: **PET**, **First Certificate**, **Advanced Certificate** and **Proficiency Certificate**.

Additional English classes

For students enrolled during the academic year who may require extra help with English, we offer the following options:

1. English Language Immersion

This is initially for 3 months and involves 10–15 hours of English per week with a private tutor and an adapted timetable. It is suited to students who are academically strong in other subjects. Further recommendations are made after a 3-month review.

2. Tailor-made “360”

This involves 5 hours of extra English per week during school hours with a private tutor, with support through English in other core subjects.

Immersion Programmes (for groups of 8 or more)

Our Immersion Programmes offer students aged 12 to 17 an unforgettable opportunity to learn, grow and experience Ireland in a truly international environment. Whether choosing the **English Immersion Programme**, the **Football Training Programme powered by the Real Madrid Foundation**, or the combined **English Immersion & Football Programme**, students benefit from a unique blend of academic, sporting and cultural experiences tailored to their interests.

Participants can improve their English language skills through lessons taught by fully qualified native-speaking teachers, train under certified coaches following the official Real Madrid Foundation methodology, or enjoy the best of both worlds through a programme that combines language learning with elite football coaching.

Beyond the classroom and training pitch, students take part in a variety of cultural

excursions to some of Ireland’s most iconic destinations, including Dublin City, Glendalough, Greystones and Bray, helping them develop confidence, independence and global awareness.

All programmes include accommodation with carefully selected Irish host families on a full-board basis, providing a safe, welcoming and immersive experience that encourages students to practise their English and engage with Irish culture on a daily basis. With airport transfers, daily transport to and from school, entry to excursions and weekday meals included, every aspect of the programme is designed to ensure a rewarding, enriching and memorable stay.

Combining education, sport, cultural exploration and personal development, these programmes create lifelong memories while fostering valuable skills, friendships and international connections.



Accommodation options

International boarding

Boarding at SEK International School Dublin offers students a true home away from home within a vibrant and diverse international community. Living and learning alongside peers from around the world, students gain a deeper appreciation of different cultures, perspectives and traditions while developing lifelong friendships that extend far beyond their time at school.

English is the language of everyday communication within the boarding community, providing students with a natural and immersive environment in which to strengthen their language skills and build confidence. Beyond the classroom, boarders continue learning through daily interactions, shared experiences and a rich programme of social, cultural and recreational activities.

Supported by experienced and dedicated boarding staff, students benefit from a safe, caring and structured environment that promotes wellbeing, independence and personal growth. Boarding encourages students to develop essential life skills such as responsibility, organisation, resilience and self-confidence, preparing them for success both at university and beyond.

Combining academic support, cultural enrichment and a strong sense of community, boarding at SEK Dublin provides a rewarding and transformative experience, helping students grow into confident, globally minded young adults while creating memories and friendships that last a lifetime.



Host family

Our carefully selected host families provide students with a genuine home-away-from-home experience, offering a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Irish culture, traditions and everyday life. Living with a local family allows students to experience Ireland beyond the classroom, gaining first-hand insight into the country's customs, values and way of life while developing meaningful connections within the community.

The wellbeing of our students is always our highest priority. Every host family is carefully screened and thoroughly vetted to ensure the highest standards of care, safety and support. We take great care in matching each student with a family that best suits their personality, interests and individual needs, helping them feel comfortable, welcomed and fully integrated from the very beginning.

Living in an English-speaking environment provides students with continuous opportunities to practise and improve their language skills naturally through daily conversation and family activities. At the same time, they develop confidence, independence and cultural awareness, gaining valuable life skills that will benefit them long into the future.

Throughout the programme, students receive personalised attention and ongoing support from both their host families and the SEK Dublin team, ensuring a positive, enriching and rewarding experience. Many students form strong bonds with their host families, creating lifelong friendships and lasting memories that make their time in Ireland truly unforgettable.



Summer courses

At SEK Education Group we have over 15 years' experience in organising summer experiences. We have always maintained the objective of developing proposals to deepen improvement through unique experiences and great memories that young people will always remember.

The essence of our summer camps and courses for children and young people is the generation of experiences that foster the development of the SEK competency profile, a set of skills and competencies. These include teamwork, leadership, creativity, ingenuity, the discovery of new environments, the approach to the world of technology and a spirit of improvement, which allow our students to engage and apply knowledge to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Join the SEK Dublin community

SEK Dublin welcomes students from Ireland and around the world into a vibrant international learning environment. Students may join the grade corresponding to their age and educational background, with admissions available throughout the year, subject to availability.

Whether you are seeking a day school experience, boarding accommodation or an Irish host family placement, our Admissions Team is available to guide you through every step of the journey.

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TEMPLE BAR

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Educational
Football Program

