



“Together we learn by heart,  
head and hand”



DEUTSCHE SCHULE KOBE  
INTERNATIONAL









DSK International (DSKI) is a German school abroad and an IB World School for children ages 2 to 12. At DSKI, we provide an exceptional, innovative education anchored by our German heritage and recognized for embracing the rich diversity in our learners and our world. We approach education holistically in order to ensure that students learn using their heart, head and hands.

Our mission is built upon our German heritage and international values and beliefs. As a school community we strive to be lifelong inquirers inspired by and challenged through authentic and meaningful learning experiences. Being committed to providing an exceptional education, we foster international mindedness, critical thinking, inclusion and respect for diversity and the willingness to act with integrity and compassion.





# The Evolution of DSK International

In 1909, our school was founded as a German School in Kobe to serve German, Austrian and German speaking Swiss expatriates, traders and missionaries living in the area. After a long and proud history of teaching the German curriculum we changed our programme in 2002 and started offering classes in English through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). We felt our school's identity and community was evolving to be more international and our change of programme reflected this. We are also proud to say that we were the first IB World School in the prefecture of Hyogo approved to run the PYP.

Although we have always offered Japanese language classes, since 2009 we have put much more emphasis on the Japanese language programme. This was another step in our school's

evolution in becoming a truly international trilingual school with our English programme gaining more and more popularity.

For more than 15 years we were operating and serving our community as a truly international school however we were still called the Deutsche Schule Kobe. Due to our international programme and growing international community we felt we needed a name and logo change in order to better reflect who we are as a school. After a lot of careful thought and deliberation we changed our name from the Deutsche Schule Kobe to DSK International. We are proud of our German heritage and this is still a core part of our identity, however moving forward we are excited to embrace our new logo and name as we feel it better represents the international education we are providing in Kobe.



# Community

Community is important. In 1909 we were a community for the German speaking expatriates and their growing Japanese connections and families to come together, learn and socialise.

Over our more than 100 year history our community has slowly grown to include and support students and families from all over the world. Our core community values of supporting each other, lifelong learning and enquiring about the world haven't changed but our community has changed to become much more international.

When you enrol your child at DSK International, your family is joining a wider community. This has always been the case ever since the founding of the school in 1909. For more than a century,

DSKI has taken great pride in the important community partnerships, relationships and connections which provide a support network and enable students to achieve their learning outcomes. DSKI is a part of the German Schools Abroad Association, the IB Association of Japan, the Foreign School Association Kobe and have a close relationship to Canadian Academy, St. Michael's, Marist Brothers, Osaka International School, the Deutsche Schule Tokyo/Yokohama and is also an IB World school.

We are very passionate about our community and we encourage you to visit us and experience the warm and caring atmosphere.







# Academic Curriculum

## A Multilingual IB World School

DSK International is proud to be an IB World School. We provide an environment that nurtures the academic, emotional, social, physical and creative growth of children of all ages, cultural backgrounds and experiences. As an IB World School, we strive to ignite a passion for lifelong learning and a desire to make positive change in the world.

DSKI has two main programmes: the Programme for German native students and the International Programme (English language). Though learners spend most of their day together in an integrated classroom with both English - and German-speaking homeroom teachers, mathematics and language instruction occurs in either German or English.





Your child will be placed into either the Programme for German native students or the International Programme. The German Programme is usually for native German speakers or for parents who would like their child to have core subjects in German (maths and German language classes).

The International (English) Programme is for parents who would like all of their child's lessons to be in English. Please note all students also take compulsory Japanese lessons taught either as JFL (Japanese as a foreign language) or as KOKUGO (Japanese as a native language). All students in the International Programme also have two German lessons a week.

Languages is an area that is very unique to our school. We offer three languages in primary school with English and German (curriculum) and Japanese as JFL (Japanese as a Foreign Language) and KOKUGO (native Japanese Curriculum).





# Grade Programmes

## Playgroup Programme

The Playgroup at DSKI is a fun and interesting one hour class on Thursday afternoons for native and non-native English speaking children from 1 to 3 years old. Using many songs, picture books, stories, puppets and other props, games, role-play and more fun and stimulating activities, children will learn target language such as greetings, colours, shapes, numbers, action verbs and short sentences.

The class activities are widely acknowledged effective methods of motivating young children to understand and learn language. Educators emphasize that repetition is the key to success in learning a language, and that songs are effective, entertaining tools for mastering pronunciation and rhythm.

As parents will accompany their children to the class, parents can learn the songs, activities and also the target language meaning they can practice with their children at home.



## Early Years Programme

The Early Years programme at DSKI consists of two primary groups: Pre-Kindergarten (children 2-3 years old) and kindergarten (children 3-5 years old). The department is equipped with facilities and resources which were designed with younger children in mind, and created to provide them with an accessible and engaging space to flourish.

The Pre-Kindergarten curriculum follows four units inspired by the IB philosophy of "inquiry-based learning." These help children to build vocabulary, strengthen their developing social and motor skills, and prepare them for entry to kindergarten.

Over the course of two years, students in kindergarten explore 8 units of inquiry, providing a foundation for the development of the skills and approaches to learning contained in the PYP.

In addition to unit experiences in the classroom, kindergarteners embark on a number of exciting excursions throughout the year. Children also enjoy a rich weekly schedule filled with challenging and fun subjects including art, physical education, German as a foreign language, music, and more!

Teachers aid children as they begin their journeys to become Lifelong Learners, providing a safe and support-filled environment where questions are welcome and play is the most important part of the day.

## Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The International Baccalaureate is a non-profit organisation based in The Hague, The Netherlands, with international branches worldwide representing 5000 schools in 153 different countries. It provides an educational philosophy and framework to ensure that schools all over the world are providing stimulating, relevant and balanced programmes for their students.

As an authorised IB World School since 2006 and a German School Abroad, DSKI uses the educational plans from the Thuringia curriculum and the very successful British Columbia curriculum. The two curriculums are used within the framework of the PYP to create a comprehensive, inquiry based programme from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The resulting programme focuses on delivering a holistic curriculum encompassing the academic, social, emotional and physical aspects of learning.

The school year is organised into six units of inquiry under themes about our world and who we are. Through these units, the classroom teachers integrate language, mathematics, science, personal social education, social studies, drama and ICT, while single-subject teachers integrate music, physical education, German/English language and Japanese language.





## Much more than just a school

At DSKI we are much more than just a school. We offer an enjoyable and stimulating journey from one year old up to twelve years old. We strive to develop our students into well-rounded, multilingual global citizens who will have a passion for learning for life and a desire to make a change in the world.

Under the expert guidance and care of our teachers, your child will flourish in an environment incorporating a wide range of subjects through our programmes and extra-curricular activities.

We offer a well-planned assortment of pursuits, activities and services to make sure your child's development and your family's experience is world-class.



## Swimming lessons at DSKI

At DSKI, all students take swimming lessons until age 10. Swimming is a skill for life and we place a strong emphasis on safety and fun in the water. The swimming lessons are incorporated into the timetable and students get used to this as part of their weekly schedule. We have fully-trained instructors teaching swimming at the Entente Building Swimming Pool which is a short bus ride away. Students are required to bring swimwear and a towel on their swim days.

## An Award-Winning Eco-Friendly Campus

The unique and eco-friendly DSK International schoolhouse was completed in 2009. It is constructed out of a sustainably sourced timber to create a two story wooden modern school building. The classrooms are wonderfully designed and fully-equipped providing an ideal learning space. There is a library, a Maker Space, a multifunctional room that has a stage for drama productions and performances, an outdoor sports area, an English as an Additional Language (EAL) support room and further rooms to cater for specialist classes and project related work.



## Performing Arts

At DSKI, students have the opportunity to learn a classical instrument that can help children strengthen their creativity and self-expression. Music can enrich a child's educational experience and we are proud to facilitate this at DSKI. We offer piano lessons to the early years students then piano and violin lessons to the primary years students. Being involved in the arts and music is wonderful for children's development and we hope to welcome your child to our music lessons.

## Languages at DSKI

At DSKI we are proud to offer three languages to all of our students: English, German and Japanese. We are a true multilingual school and the only primary school in Japan offering three languages with Japanese as a Foreign Language (JFL) and KOKUGO (native language). Research has proven the many benefits of studying and speaking other languages and we are very happy to offer this to your child.



## Saturday School

Saturday school at DSK International is a Saturday morning school open to children with English, German or French speaking backgrounds from the ages of 5 years to 12 years.

There are three regular programmes: English, German and French (Language Based Programmes) and one learning and movement based programme: Move to Learn. The 2018 – 2019 year programs start in September 2018. Applications are mainly open from February to June but are also accepted during other months of the year.

We offer unique and educational learning programs not only in English, but in three languages: English, German and French all under one roof. Our teachers in each programme are native or native equivalent, experienced, qualified and or professional language teachers.



## After School Extra-Curricular Clubs at DSKI

At DSKI we offer a range of after school extracurricular activities. From performing arts, sports, crafts, calligraphy, coding, cooking and Makers Club we hope we can offer something stimulating, fun and healthy for your child. There is a minimum number of students required in order for the club to run so please let us know the club you would like to join and hopefully we can run it.





## Holiday Camps at DSKI

At DSKI we offer Summer and Winter camps offering a variety of different activities for your children to take part in. The camps are educational, social, stimulating and a lot of fun! Some of the activities offered are construction challenges, coding, sports and arts. The Summer camps usually run for three weeks and the winter camps are usually a week in duration.

## Information Communication Technology at DSKI

Our commitment to the 21st Century Learning and ICT skills development has led the school to invest in a range of new multimedia technologies and hardware. These skills, concepts and competences will be embedded in the units of inquiry to enhance learning and presentation opportunities. Hand in hand with these practical skills will be an appropriate Digital Literacy and Citizenship curriculum to explicitly teach the students about Internet safety, security and the issues related to the use of Social Media Technologies.









## Admissions

Early enrolment is recommended. Your first step to enrolling at DSKI is filling in the application form. You can do this by downloading and submitting the form or by completing our online application form on our website from the Admissions page.

We will contact you to let you know we have received your application, inform you of the next steps, and organise a date to visit the school for a meeting with the principal.

We also have Open Days three times a year, usually in February, May and November. These are one of the best chances to visit us, meet our leadership team and see how students spend their days at school. We have presentations about our school, enjoy a school tour, visit classrooms and have time to ask management and the PTA questions.

Please check our website for more details about the next open day or get in touch for more information.

We look forward to seeing you at our school!





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