



PRIMARY STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

LAST UPDATED JULY 2026

We are a respectful, learning-focused community where each student is inspired to achieve his or her potential and to become an ethical, confident, and internationally-minded citizen of tomorrow.

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year at the International School of Riga. Whether you are joining ISR for the first time or returning for another year, we are excited to have you as part of our vibrant and caring community.

On behalf of our School Council, faculty, staff, and Leadership Team, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all families. Our leadership team includes Emily Buckland (Diploma Programme Coordinator), Adam Dedmon (Secondary Principal), Ieva Balode (Primary Principal), Michael Curpek (University Counselor), Kristine Daktere (Operations Director), Ginta Kārklīņa (Primary Years Programme Coordinator), Tony Rialland (Child Protection Officer), Todd Reichlmayr (Secondary Assistant Principal), and me.

At ISR, we believe learning should inspire curiosity, encourage meaningful inquiry, and help students develop both confidence and compassion. From Preschool through Grade 12, we strive to create engaging learning experiences that challenge students to think deeply, ask questions, collaborate with others, and make authentic connections to the world around them. Equally important is our commitment to ensuring students feel safe, supported, and valued within our caring international community.

We recognize the importance of the partnership between school and home and deeply appreciate the trust you place in us each day. Together, we can support students not only academically, but also socially and emotionally as they continue to grow into thoughtful, capable, and caring young people.



This Parent & Student Handbook has been designed to provide important information about school routines, expectations, and policies. We encourage you to review it carefully and keep it as a helpful resource throughout the school year. If you have any questions, our team is always here to support you.

Thank you for being part of the ISR family. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead filled with learning, connection, and memorable experiences.

**Warm Regards,
Dr. Amanda Romey
Director**

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please call the Office: +371 6762 4622 and your call will be directed to the appropriate person. Please note that teachers are generally not available to take phone calls during the school day. All staff can be contacted by email using the format firstname.lastname@isriga.lv. Staff names and roles are listed on the school website.

Position	Name	E-mail
Director	Dr. Amanda Romey	amanda.romey@isriga.lv
Operations Director	Kristine Daktere	kristine.daktere@isriga.lv
Primary Principal	Ieva Balode	ieva.balode@isriga.lv
IB PYP Coordinator	Ginta Karklina	ginta.karklina@isriga.lv
Child Protection Officer	Tony Rialland	tony.rialland@isriga.lv
Primary School Nurse	Sarmite Sekstina	sarmite.sekstina@isriga.lv +371 2844 4829
Primary SEN Coordinator	Natalie Brimacombe	natalie.brimacombe@isriga.lv
Technology & IT Specialist	Toms Dzērve	toms.dzerve@isriga.lv
Athletic Director	Jason Romey	jason.romey@isriga.lv
Finance Specialist	Julija Avsejenko	julija.avsejenko@isriga.lv
Admissions Manager	Ilze Dzirniece	ilze.dzirniece@isriga.lv +371 2511 9337
Social-Emotional Counselor	Anastasija Metlova	anastasija.metlova@isriga.lv

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GUIDING STATEMENTS

ISR Mission

We are a respectful, learning-focused community where each student is inspired to achieve his or her potential and to become an ethical, confident, and internationally-minded citizen of tomorrow.

ISR Vision

The International School of Riga will be the ideal choice for internationally-minded families in Latvia who desire an education focused on developing the whole person through inquiry and experiential learning.

ISR Definitions of learning

High-Quality Learning

High-quality learning at ISR occurs when students are motivated to inquire, engage and reflect on the subject matter in ways that develop creative and critical thinking skills. The students are guided, supported, and motivated to achieve their individual potential.

Intercultural Learning

Intercultural learning at ISR encourages students to develop global awareness and understanding, and to contribute positively to their local and global communities.

ISR Philosophy

The ISR philosophy, guided by our Mission, Vision, and Definitions of Learning, encompasses all aspects of school life, emphasizing that the development of moral character, wellness, leadership, teamwork, and a passion for lifelong learning are as essential as academics. By embracing both the “Latvian Heart” and the diversity of ISR, we build a united community that thrives in a collaborative and engaging environment, fostering student ownership of their learning and inspiring them to reach their full potential. We respect, support, and celebrate the unique needs and abilities of each student, encouraging them to contribute positively to both local and global communities.

Committed to environmentally sustainable practices, ISR fosters a learning experience that is inclusive, enjoyable, and experiential. Teachers, students, and parents work in partnership to fulfill the ISR Mission, strengthening our shared purpose and goals.

SCHOOL PROFILE

Overview

Founded in 1997, ISR provides internationally accredited English-language education to students aged 1.5-18 (preschool through Grade 12). In order to fulfill our mission, time spent at ISR is not solely focused on academic education but also on social and cultural events, which are equally important to developing the whole student.

Throughout the year, the ISR students participate in a variety of events, some whole-school and some divisional. The expectation is that all students are actively involved in these special events, as each experience has been carefully designed to develop an aspect of our school's mission. These events could include, but are not limited to: Back-to-School BBQ, Independence Day, Winter Festival, themed weeks, International Day, and Jāņi.

Latvian Heart

The Latvian Heart at ISR refers to the unique relationship that the school plays within the city, the region, and the country itself. It is about not only knowing and understanding that we are an international entity within the community, but that we are a friend and willing partner. It is about the school's connections to nature, to community, and to the people we interact with on a daily basis in Riga. It is visible in our community connections and it is tangible when we seek partnerships and collaborate with those within our community. More than 45 nationalities live in harmony at ISR, and even though we all come from different parts of the world, there is a place we all have in common: Latvia. At ISR, students have a great opportunity to discover the country in which they live, no matter whether it is their country of origin or their host country. They take part in the Independence Day event, and celebrate Jāņi (Latvian midsummer) at the end of the school year. It is more than learning facts about Latvia, it is about understanding its traditions and values. ISR is an International school with a Latvian Heart!

History

What is now ISR began in 1995 as an informal playgroup for expatriate parents' children. In 1997, ISR was officially registered as a Preschool. In 2001, the school relocated to Ķīpsala and was reorganized as a formal Preschool and Primary School. Since that time, the school has steadily grown and now operates on 2 campuses.

Location

ISR's Early Years and Primary are located at Kalnciema iela 118, 15-25 minutes from the Riga city center, in the historic Pārdaugava neighborhood. The ISR Secondary Campus is located at Skanstes iela 27 just minutes from historic Old Town Riga. These locations mean the school is a short drive, bus ride or walk for students living in Riga or nearby suburbs.

Facilities

ISR Primary Campus is housed in the 1912 heritage schoolhouse designed by renowned Latvian architect Reinholds Georgs Šmēlings. The facilities include general classrooms, a cafeteria, a library, a music room, an art room, a gym as well as rooms for Latvian and French languages. The school has a wonderful green yard for outdoor activities and a football field right outside the school doors.

Parking

There is limited parking on the Primary campus. If at all possible, please come by foot, bicycle, or public transit. We kindly ask to give priority for using the parking lot to families with Early Years students. Please remember to use the small gate when entering the campus, not the car gate, and to be mindful of the parking lot dangers at all times.

School calendar

The ISR school year starts around the third week of August, ends in mid-June, and has 180 student contact days per year. Term, holiday, and event dates can be found on the school website calendar [here](#).

Faculty and student body

ISR recruits the best teachers from within Latvia and around the world who are fully certified in their home countries. As of the start of the 2026 - 2027 academic year, school-wide enrolment is approximately 340 students and around 60 faculty members, representing more than 47 nationalities.

A group of children and an adult are performing on a stage. The children are wearing white shirts and patterned skirts or trousers. The adult is wearing a black dress. They are standing in front of a red curtain. The text "Latvian HEART" is overlaid on the image.

Latvian HEART

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Membership and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The International School of Riga is a cooperative association formed to provide an international education in Riga. Under ISR statutes, the representatives (parents or guardians of enrolled students) of the Members (enrolled students) of the school elect its governing body, the School Council, with each member having one vote. The School Council consists of up to seven voting members elected for a four-year term.

The Annual General Meeting of the Members is held in the spring of each school year. All parents or guardians of enrolled students are strongly encouraged to participate in this meeting as it reviews the budget approved by the School Council and sets the school's strategic direction, which is implemented by the School Council.

The School Council appoints a Board of two members who oversee the overall daily operations of the school. The Chairperson of the Board is the School's Director, and the board member is the Operations Director.

Parent involvement and the Parent Teacher Organisation (PTO)

At ISR, we believe that strong partnerships with parents are key to supporting each child's success. Our active Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) plays an important role in building community, strengthening relationships, and organizing events and initiatives throughout the year. Working closely with staff, the PTO helps foster a welcoming, inclusive environment through volunteer efforts, community activities, and fundraising events that enhance the educational experience at ISR.

Organisation of students by classes

Mixed Age Groups

ISR offers mixed-age learning opportunities for Toddlers (1.5 years old by September 1) and Preschool students (3 or 4 years old by September 1). Research shows that mixed-age groupings support children's academic, social, and emotional development by creating a learning environment that more closely reflects real-life family and community settings.

ch learning environment for all students.

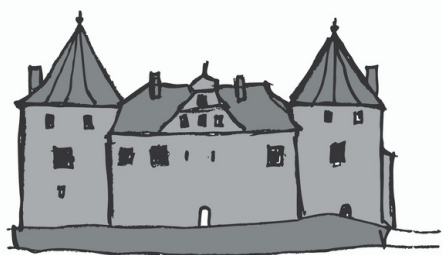
In mixed-age classrooms, younger children learn by observing and interacting with older peers, while older students build confidence, leadership, empathy, and responsibility by supporting younger classmates. This structure encourages cooperation, communication, and social development while reducing unhealthy competition.

Mixed-age learning also allows teachers to better meet the individual developmental needs of each child, recognizing that children grow and learn at different rates. Many students benefit from the continuity and sense of belonging created by remaining in a familiar classroom community over multiple years.

Students are placed in the appropriate class based on age, previous schooling, and developmental readiness as demonstrated through school reports and assessments. Classes are intentionally diverse and inclusive, supporting a rich learning environment for all students.

The Castle System

At ISR, all students and staff belong to one of four castle teams which are all represented by a colour and Latvian castles: Cēsis, Bauska, Rundāle, and Turaida. Family members are always placed in the same castle. The castle system encourages children to develop a sense of good sportsmanship and team spirit through positive competition. Students can achieve points for their castles for participation in competitive events such as school assemblies, sports days, or break-time tournaments organized by students and staff.



Bauska



Cēsis



Rundāle



Turaida

TEACHING & LEARNING

Curriculum overview

The International School of Riga (ISR) is a fully authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, offering the complete IB continuum of programmes.

- Early Years and Primary School students learn through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP).
- Middle School students in Grades 6–10 follow the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP).
- Grades 11 and 12 study in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP).

As an IB World School, ISR is committed to providing a challenging, inquiry-based education that develops knowledgeable, caring, and internationally minded young people who are prepared to make a positive difference in the world.

The school is accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Latvian State Education Quality Service, and is fully authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP).

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP)

ISR currently implements the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB PYP) in Primary. Learning in the PYP is underpinned by six transdisciplinary themes, each selected for their relevance to the real world. Students explore the commonalities of human experience and investigate these themes in what teachers call a Programme of Inquiry.

IB Learner Profile

ISR strives to support each student's intellectual, personal, emotional and social development. This goes hand in hand with the philosophy of the IB programmes. The IB Learner Profile supports students in developing international-mindedness and in taking action for positive change. IB learners strive to be:

IB LEARNER PROFILE

At ISR, we strive to develop internationally minded people who, along with others, create a better and more peaceful world.



INQUIRERS

We are curious and love to explore. We ask questions, investigate ideas, and enjoy learning on our own and with others.



KNOWLEDGEABLE

We build and use our knowledge in many ways. We explore ideas across different subjects and connect what we learn.



THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking to solve problems and make thoughtful, responsible decisions.



COMMUNICATORS

We share our ideas clearly and confidently in many ways. We listen carefully to understand others.



PRINCIPLED

We act with honesty and integrity. We treat everyone fairly and with respect.



OPEN-MINDED

We respect and value different cultures, traditions, and ideas. We are willing to learn from others.



CARING

We show kindness, empathy, and respect. We care about others and take action to make a positive difference.



COURAGEOUS

We face challenges with confidence. We try new things, stand up for what is right, and are not afraid to make a difference.



BALANCED

We take care of our minds and bodies. We find balance in our lives and well-being.



REFLECTIVE

We think about our experiences and learning. We learn from our strengths and challenges to keep growing.

We all have these qualities. ★ We use them every day to learn, grow, and make a difference.

We Learn

10% of what we READ

20% of what we HEAR

30% of what we SEE

50% of what we SEE and HEAR

70% of what is DISCUSSED with OTHERS

80% of what is EXPERIENCED PERSONALLY

95% of what we TEACH TO SOMEONE ELSE

Therefore, there is always a significant amount of partner and group work happening in every primary classroom.

Additionally, the IB's inquiry-approach to learning is woven through all learning engagements. Inquiry, as the leading pedagogical approach of the Primary Years Program (PYP), recognizes students as being actively involved in their own learning and as taking responsibility for that learning. Inquiry nurtures curiosity and promotes enthusiasm for life-long learning. Effective inquiry encourages students to think, challenge and extend their ideas; it prompts students to reflect and take action. Through the inquiry process, students develop and demonstrate/practice the approaches to learning and attributes of the learning profile. Inquiry is purposeful and authentic. It incorporates problem-solving and supports students in achieving personal and shared goals. Inquiry extends students' learning when the exploration of initial curiosity generates new questions and wonderings. By situating inquiry in meaningful contexts, connections are made between personal experiences to local and global opportunities and challenges.

Overall expectations

Overall Expectations have been set as part of the Primary's scope and sequence of learning objectives and the International Aero Standards in Math, English, Social Studies along with 'The Next Generation Science Standards' for Science. This is a continuum of children's development and outline expected grade level benchmarks in each subject area. We recognize that each child's learning is an individual developmental process, not always linear and age related.

Forest program

The Forest Program is an integral part of the ISR Early Years and Grade 1 curriculum. The Forest lessons provide a learning environment that complements a school environment; they help facilitate ideas and inquiries that address the essential elements of the curriculum.

Depending on the weather, students spend a shorter or longer part of the school day in the forest several times per month. The planned forest trip dates are communicated to parents before the Program begins, and parents/guardians are asked to give permission for their children to attend these trips.

Sometimes parents send requests to the teachers to keep their child at school instead of joining the forest trip. Generally, if a child is well enough to come to school, s/he is considered well enough to participate in this trip. Similar to any other learning experience, if your child is not well enough to participate in the forest trip, please keep him/ her at home.

Being outdoors helps to foster children's social skills, motor skills, self-esteem, and acquisition of knowledge. Academically, math, language, and science are also embraced. For some children, the Forest lessons offer a setting where they feel freer than in the school building. Children who are more reserved in the class have been seen to open up more and express their thoughts more readily. This program provides a natural foundation whereby students explore the true nature of inquiry as the outdoor environment lends itself to ongoing problem solving, sorting, and exploring. "Increasing evidence shows that positive experiences in nature lead to numerous cognitive, emotional, and physical benefits. Children have better concentration, show improved academic performance, have less aggression, and are at a reduced risk for obesity when they have opportunities to spend time in nature (American Institutes for Research, 2005; Faber Taylor & Kuo, 2011). All of these factors underscore the importance of providing children opportunities to connect with nature on a regular basis." (Michelle Rupiper, an Associate Professor of Practice, Assistant Department Chair for Child, Youth & Family Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.)

The Forest lessons also help students learn about their host country in greater depth. Children are able to have the first-hand experience of the neighborhood woodlands. They are able to see various species here in Latvia and how these species interact with one another. The proposed program would, therefore, help develop a sense of belonging and ownership associated with where the children are living.

With the depletion of natural resources, global warming, and overall environmental degradation, it is our responsibility as educators to encourage a healthy relationship with nature before we can expect children to want to care for it. We want to provide our students with opportunities to explore the world beyond their windows. We want to help them become passionate about the world around them.

Forest PROGRAM



Assessment

At ISR, we believe that knowing our students as individuals is essential for helping each child work to his or her potential. This is achieved through the learning journey each child undertakes from their initial enrollment at ISR until they leave our school for other experiences. Throughout each year, ISR assesses students regularly on different levels according to the assessment policy and uses this information to support and encourage each student to reach their individual potential.

At ISR, we assess the whole child in all areas of their education, academic skills, social skills, and transdisciplinary skills, which transfer across subjects. All students excel in different ways of sharing their knowledge, skills, and understanding during their learning journey. Thus, we offer students different ways to demonstrate what they know and the depth of their understanding.. This offers each student the opportunity to excel in their own way. Regardless of how assessments are structured, they are always designed with careful consideration of our students' needs and are focused on supporting their individual learning journeys. "Assessment is to be seen as a moment of learning, and children have to be active in their own assessment and to picture their own learning in the light of an understanding of what it means to get better." (Black & Wiliam, 1998, p. 30). It is recognized that learning is an individual journey and that the understanding of the process is equally important as the end result.

Written reports

Each student's achievements and development are recorded in written reports at the end of each semester. Academic performance is assessed against the grade-level expectations in each subject. Each report features a comprehensive narrative that provides a holistic view of the student's academic performance, their development of Approaches to Learning (AtL) skills, and their personal growth within the school community. Explanations of achievement marks are included in the reports. The student reports are released to parents on the Toddler Portal.

Portfolios

At ISR student portfolios are a purposeful selection of each student's work to show an overview of his/her development in the learning journey undertaken. Student portfolios are used by all Primary grade levels at ISR. We use Toddler Portal for electronic student portfolios to share students' learning. Each year classroom teachers invite students' parents to join their child's class to view their children's work, comment on it, and communicate with teachers.

In addition to the Toddler portfolios, Linden and Maple students use physical portfolios with student work compiled in binders that are kept in students' classrooms.

MAP Testing

Three times per school year (in the autumn, winter, and spring), Grade 2-5 students take standardized MAP Tests in Reading, Language Usage, Science (Grade 3 - 5), and Mathematics as a tool for monitoring each individual student's growth. Although standardized tests can't show all aspects of a child's development, they are one measure of an individual's development and a diagnostic tool to identify gaps in a child's learning. Because it is a diagnostic tool that measures one part of the child and not the whole child, we value reports and input from teachers alongside the information given by the tests. The autumn test results are shared and discussed during the settling-in conferences. The winter and spring test results are uploaded to the Toddle Portal. Parent/Teacher meetings to discuss the test results are held as needed and can be initiated by either the teacher or the student's parents/guardians.

Learning Conferences

The Primary schedules Settling-in Parent/Teacher Conferences within the first months of the school year, and two Student-led Conferences, one per semester. Learning conferences are arranged to identify, discuss, celebrate and/or address the student's progress, achievements and areas of difficulty across all curriculum areas.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

- This is a meeting between the student's parents/guardians and one or more of the student's teacher(s).
- Settling-in conferences are held during the first part of the school year (usually in October). Homeroom teachers meet with each student's parents/guardians in order to discuss how the child is performing and has started the year, any concerns and any action that needs to be taken, both at home and at school.
- Additional Parent/Teacher meetings are held as needed and can be initiated by either the teacher or the student's parents/guardians.

Student-led Conferences:

Two Student-led Conferences are scheduled each school year, one per semester. The goal of Student-led Conferences is to empower students to be responsible for their own learning through reflection and sharing their learning process as well as setting goals for future learning.

The Teacher's role:

- to prepare students ahead of time in the skills necessary for the conference
- to help students select work which reflects their learning
- to help steer the conference through questions if the student is experiencing difficulties in hosting the conference

The Student's role:

- to prepare themselves fully for the conference
- to select work that accurately reflects the learning that has taken place
- to be clear on all learning objectives and stages of learning to be shared
- to set goals for future learning

The Parents/Guardians' role:

- to listen attentively to your child (we request phones be turned off)
- to actively engage in the conference with questions and discussion so your child feels this as a real celebration of their learning
- to identify ways in which you will help support future learning for your child, including setting goals

The conference takes place in the homeroom. Students and their families are also encouraged to tour the school visiting the specialist classes where students will also have prepared work to showcase their learning. The PYP Coordinator is available during the conference day to answer any questions pertaining to the school's curriculum.

Homework

In Primary school, it is very important for children to balance long school days with rest and 'downtime' in the evenings, so homework is kept to a minimum and should always be meaningful. Homework for early years' students includes spending time together with their families, having discussions about the day at school, looking at the Toodle posts together with parents/guardians, listening to nightly bedtime stories and similar activities. Beginning in Kindergarten, reading homework becomes more formalized. Please consult your child's teacher for details. In primary classes, homework includes nightly reading and may also include math, spelling practice, or unit of inquiry assignments. We suggest 20 minutes of daily reading; please note that both a child reading independently and an adult reading aloud to the child count toward this goal.

Students who take native Latvian language lessons will have weekly reading homework in Latvian. Please consult your child's teacher for details.

Language Philosophy

At ISR, English is the language of instruction. Our goal is to help each student develop age-appropriate English proficiency as quickly as possible so they can fully access the curriculum, while also valuing and encouraging the continued development of their mother tongue.

In the Primary School, English language development is primarily supported through differentiated instruction within the regular classroom setting and is often connected to the Units of Inquiry. Students in Grades 1–5 who require additional support receive targeted and integrated EAL instruction from our EAL teacher during regular lessons. This inclusive model allows students to remain in the classroom learning alongside their peers while receiving the language support they need to be successful.

All students study Latvian, either as a native or foreign language, in accordance with national requirements.

Student progress in English language development is monitored regularly throughout the year. Decisions regarding entry into or exit from EAL support are made by the Student Support Team using a triangulation of data, including MAP scores, WIDA assessment results, DIBELS, IXL Diagnostic data, classroom performance, and teacher observations, as outlined in ISR's Language Policy. If needed, students may re-enter EAL support to ensure continued language growth and success.

Overview of the weekly schedule

The weekly schedule is organized to give students lengthier blocks of time in their classroom with homeroom teachers, allowing them to deepen their learning through inquiry-based learning engagements. Each day there are some specialist lessons and throughout the week grades 1-5 students have the following lessons with specialist teachers: 3 PE lessons, 2 Music lessons, 2 Art lessons, 4 Language lessons (Latvian, French, or EAL). Early Years and Kindergarten students have the following lessons with specialist teachers: 2 PE lessons, 2 Music lessons, 2 Art lessons. Children need fresh air and exercise every day to help them stay healthy and to be alert and receptive to classroom learning activities. Early Years and Kindergarten students need longer time to change before and after outdoor recess. To accommodate this they have one longer outdoor recess time and grades 1-5 have two 30 minute breaks- once mid morning for a snack break and then again at lunch time.

The days at school are busy for all students. Preschool children get their much-needed downtime for growth and rejuvenation during daily quiet time. Some students fall asleep during quiet time while some students quietly relax in their beds while reading books.

Those students who are not falling asleep, get up after about 30 - 40 minutes of quiet relaxation and engage in quiet learning activities. You can read more about the necessity of such downtime [here](#).

Language Learning: French and Latvian

During specialist language lessons, students are grouped according to their language learning pathway. Latvian-speaking students attend Latvian lessons, while all other students attend French. To ensure that students develop an appreciation for both the host country language and an additional language, students studying French also receive one Latvian lesson each week, while students studying Latvian participate in one French lesson each week.

Families who wish to request a different language learning pathway, for example, a Latvian-speaking student studying French or a non-Latvian-speaking student studying Latvian, may submit a written request to the Primary Principal. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis, with decisions made in the student's best interests and in line with their long-term learning needs.

ISR also recognizes the importance of maintaining and developing students' mother tongues. Where possible, families who wish to arrange mother tongue instruction during the scheduled foreign language block may submit a written request to the Primary Principal. If approved, students may work with an individual tutor, arranged and financed by the family, during this time.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts allow students to explore and construct a sense of self and develop an understanding of the world around them. Through arts, the students are stimulated to think and to articulate their thoughts in new ways, through a variety of media and technologies.

Music

Music enables students to communicate in ways that go beyond their oral language abilities. Music delights and stimulates, soothes and comforts us; music allows students to communicate in a unique way. Musical experiences support students' learning in a wide range of areas, including language and mathematics.

Latvian Culture

All ISR students learn about our host country, Latvia, through the field trips, getting ready for and participating in school events, as well as through their daily learning. Latvian Culture is mostly incorporated in the PYP units of inquiry. As per International School Law, the National Center for the Education Republic of Latvia has set learning outcomes that students need to reach when learning about Latvian culture, history, and geography.

Library

The ISR Library welcomes students, teachers, and parents. The Library supports the ISR curriculum, encourages reading, and helps to prepare students for lifelong learning. Primary students may borrow up to 3 books for a period of two weeks. Books may be renewed or returned by bringing them to the library circulation desk by the due date or before that. If a book is lost, parents will be asked to replace the book with a new one. Official school records cannot be released if accounts are unsettled. ISR parents may apply for a library account at the library circulation desk and may check out up to 6 books at a time.

Early Years students do not have their own library accounts. Therefore, we encourage you to check out books together with your child.

Physical Education (PE)

The Physical Education program is designed to offer students a variety of learning experiences and is a regular and important part of the curriculum. It stresses the development of physical, social and mental well-being.

Beginning in Kindergarten students are required to wear clothing suitable for physical education. This includes gym shoes, shorts or sweatpants, and a T-shirt and/or sweatshirt. Weather permitting, PE lessons may be held outdoors. If a student is to be excused from physical education classes for an extended period of time, s/he must have a written statement signed by the family physician. Students who are excused for a single lesson must present a valid written excuse signed by his/her parents.

Assembly

On Friday mornings, our Primary School gathers as a community. We celebrate learning through classroom presentations, build a common understanding of a certain aspect of our school life or curriculum, or enjoy a movement morning or singing together. The assemblies allow students to practice their presentation, public speaking, and performance skills. Once a month, all students will gather for friendly competition during Castle events. Students are asked to wear their Castle colors on these days. School events are often started and/or concluded with assemblies to emphasize the learning that occurs during these events. Parents are always welcome to join all assemblies and celebrate learning together with us.

Field Trips

Field trips are an integral part of the educational program at ISR and participation is expected. They support the PYP units of inquiry and offer a variety of authentic opportunities for students to learn. Through field trips, students develop their self-management skills and acquire such life skills as safety, appropriate behaviour in unfamiliar places, learning, and working in new settings. Each primary class may take an overnight field trip to particularly foster our students in developing their independence. Please note that overnight trips incur an additional fee. For each field trip, information will be sent home by the classroom teacher, and parents/ guardians will be asked to give permission for their child to attend the trip.

Learning Support

Each child needs different levels of support and challenge to grow in their own personal learning. Strong communication and collaboration with parents and among all of the child's teachers allows us to know each student more completely. At different times in their learning journeys, students may need additional support, either in the short term or through longer-term, more extensive support. Our SEN Coordinator oversees and coordinates this support which may be provided by classroom teachers and assistants. As appropriate, additional assistance may also be provided through an individual learning support assistant (at an additional cost) or more personalized resources and individualized learning plans. Our school counselor also plays a key role in supporting students' emotional well-being and development, helping to ensure a holistic approach to each child's growth and success.

COMMUNICATION

ISR uses a variety of communication tools for various purposes. Our aim in communication is to provide timely, relevant and streamlined information to ensure parents are best able to support their child's learning and actively participate in the ISR community.

Face-to-face communication

Here at ISR, we encourage face-to-face communication, especially in Primary, where many parents still drop off and pick up children each day. The most convenient times for a quick discussion with your child's teacher are before registers are taken at 8:15 or just after the end of the school day at 15:15 (although some days, teachers may need to go directly to after-school activities or meetings). If you'd like a more in-depth discussion, please schedule a separate time for an individual meeting with your child's teaching team.

We also remind our parents that the classroom is a professional environment. Please be mindful that in the classroom, everyone is being watched by the children, and some discussions may be more appropriate to have outside the classroom.

Toddle our Parent portal

On enrollment to ISR, parents will be given access to their portal account. All children in one family can be accessed through one account. The following information is accessed through the account:

- School Calendar (found on isriga.lv)
- School messages (such as Monday Memo from the Director, teacher messages)
- Relevant whole school documents
- Students' subject and teachers
- Timetable
- Assessment reports
- Student details
- Attendance

ISR's Social Media

The official school hashtag is #loveisriga. Use it when tagging the school on your personal social media pages.

ISR's Website

<https://isriga.lv/> The website has key information about the school. All ISR staff members, their roles can be found on the website. The school calendar on the school website gets updated on a regular basis.

ISR's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/isriga> The Facebook page is used to promote upcoming events and the learning that happens at school. Only the students whose parents/ guardians have given permission to appear on social media can be seen on Facebook posts.

ISR's Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/loveisriga/> The instagram account is used for photos and videos, and is handled from time to time by students.

Emails from teachers

All classroom teachers send bi-weekly email updates about whole-class learning in the classroom through Toddle. Individual emails regarding the particular needs of each student are sent as needed either through Toddle or using the isriga.lv email accounts. Parents are encouraged to communicate with classroom teachers through email.

Monday Memo from the Director

Each Monday the Director sends parents/guardians an email with a brief overview of the whole school activities and upcoming events. Sign-up forms and surveys that require responses from parents are added to Monday Memos. Parent preferences for the amount and nature of communication they wish to receive are quite diverse and at ISR the best common ground seems to be sending as much key information as possible via the weekly update in the Monday Memo. Therefore, as it comes just once a week, we encourage all parents to take a few minutes to read carefully and decide what information is relevant for their family.

Toddle

ISR uses Toddle as its primary learning management system. Toddle is used to post assignments, communicate with parents, provide feedback, distribute report cards and MAP results, and share weekly classroom updates. Students and parents are expected to use Toddle responsibly and in accordance with ISR's Educational Technology Responsible Use Guidelines. The school reserves the right to restrict access for users who do not follow these guidelines.

Urgent messages

Our teachers' priority is to work with students, and they might not be able to check emails until the end of the school day. If an urgent message has to be sent during the school day, please send it to the homeroom teacher and the School Nurse, stating the matter of urgency.

If you do not receive confirmation that the message has been received, please call the School Nurse, Mrs. Sarmite, at +371 2844 4829.

There is no mobile/cell phone use for the Primary students during the school day! If a student needs to contact a parent/guardian for any reason during the school day, s/he may do so with the School Nurse.

Important messages from the school to parents will be sent by phone, email, and/or Toddle.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Arrival - 8:00-8:20

The school opens at 8:00 a.m. Preschool parents are welcome to walk their child to the classroom. Kindergarten–Grade 5 students remain on the playground until 8:20 a.m. for supervised outdoor play.

At 8:20 a.m., the bell rings, and Kindergarten–Grade 5 students enter the building to be in class by 8:25 a.m. for registration. Preschool registration is at 8:30 a.m.

During the coldest months (typically December–March), Kindergarten–Grade 5 students may choose to stay indoors in the lunchroom instead of going outside.

ISR values punctuality, and families will be contacted if a student is consistently late.

Pick-up

- 15:15 - 15:20 – All students who do not have after-school activities should be picked up at this time.
- 16:20 - 16:30 – After-school activity participants should be picked up at this time from the football pitch.

If parents give written permission, students from Grade 2 and above are allowed to walk independently to and from school, both in the morning and after school.

If written permission has not been given, Grade 2-5 students must also be picked up by an adult.

Authorized pick-up

If a student is to leave school with someone other than their parent, guardian, nanny, usual driver or on the bus, please let the classroom teachers know the name and phone number of the person who will be picking the child up.

Parents/Guardians are required to indicate the name(s), relationship and contact information of anyone other than themselves who is permitted to pick-up their child after school. The School will not allow your child to leave with any person who does not have prior authorization. This is in the best interest and safety of your child. The alternate pick up person may be asked to show photo identification if they are not known to the teacher. By Latvian law, only children age 13+ may pick-up siblings who are under the age of 7.

Please do not give pick-up permission to anyone who is unfamiliar to your child. If a child indicates to a teacher that they do not know the person who has arrived to pick them up, the School will not permit the child to leave until we have reached you by phone. If necessary, police will be called for assistance.

Early sign-out

If a student is picked up from school before the end of the school day, including being picked up before the end of scheduled after school activities, please send an email to the homeroom teacher and the student must be signed out by an adult in the School Nurse's office.

Late sign-out

If a student has not been picked up by 15:25 or 16:30, s/he will be brought down to wait for an adult to pick him/her up by the School Nurse's office. There is a late sign-out book that will need to be signed. We understand that extenuating circumstances may occasionally prevent a timely pick-up; however, we strongly ask our parents to respect the pick-up times so that our staff members can complete their daily responsibilities at the end of the school day.

Attendance

Regular attendance is a fundamental factor of a student's success in school. All daily learning experiences build upon and reinforce previous learning, thus the learner must be in attendance to receive the most he/she can from the instructional program. Learning is a social process as the students gain knowledge, develop skills and new understandings in collaboration with their teachers and peers. Particularly with ISR's emphasis on collaborative learning and inquiry-based experiences, learning engagements are often designed in such a way that it is not conducive to make up the work at home. A significant number of absences can have an impact on student learning and may prevent a student from demonstrating readiness for promotion to the next grade. In reviewing individual cases, the reasons for each absence will be considered. We encourage each family to schedule routine appointments outside of the school day to the extent possible. Family holidays should be planned in line with school holidays. Student involvement in training for or participation in organised sports competitions may be taken into account, provided that parents give sufficient written notice of student absence and students complete any work the teacher may assign. Prior to or following an absence, it is expected that a family will consult with the teacher about any work that can be completed. Attendance is reflected in the school's written reports.

A significant number of absences can have an impact on student learning and may prevent a student from demonstrating readiness for promotion to the next grade

Reporting absences

If your child is absent, please send an email to the classroom teaching team. If your child is not at school, and the classroom teaching team has not received an email informing them of your child's absence by 9:30, an ISR staff member may call parents/guardians to clarify the absence. A doctor's note is required if the child has been absent for 3 consecutive days due to illness. If you plan to miss several days, please notify your child's teacher in advance. For emergency reasons, please notify the school also on the occasions when all primary caregivers are out of the country, leaving the information about the contact person until the parents/guardians return.

Snacks and lunches

All students should bring a packed snack to school for morning break time at 10:00. A healthy snack is important for giving students the energy boost to continue their learning until lunchtime.

Students may order a hot lunch, which is catered to the school (details will be provided by the School's Executive Assistant), or bring a packed lunch from home to be warmed in a microwave oven. To keep food fresh, the lunch should be packed in a thermal bag with a cold pack.

At ISR, we recognize that we play an important role in helping our students develop mindful, healthy eating habits. The teachers will communicate concerns about a child's eating habits and choices to the parents as appropriate, particularly students who take the catered lunch at school.

- We can empower children to become thoughtful and reflective about their food choices, so they eat in a balanced, healthy way. We can help children to learn and reflect on taking appropriate portion sizes by listening to their own hunger cues.
- We encourage our students to eat enough so that they will be alert and focused, ready for academic learning, and to put their best selves forward socially. We encourage our students to be courageous and try new foods (in small portions) with the idea that our food preferences change and evolve as we grow.
- We prompt our students to consider global issues related to food waste and to reflect on their own eating behaviors. We model and expect respectful behavior surrounding food and eating - both through words and actions.

Daily outdoor recess

Children need fresh air and exercise every day to help them stay healthy and to be alert and receptive to classroom learning activities. Hats, mittens, warm coats, boots, and snow pants are required in cold weather. For the spring and fall seasons, pupils should have appropriate rain gear. Parents are responsible for dressing their children appropriately.

Unless it is raining heavily or unusually cold, students are required to go outside during morning and lunch breaks. The teachers on duty monitor the weather on the playground and, if needed, bring the children indoors earlier.

If the temperature is below negative 10 C, children younger than 3 years will not be taken outside. Sometimes parents send requests to the teachers to keep their children inside during the recess period. Generally, if a child is well enough to come to school, s/he is considered well enough to participate in outdoor play. If, however, there are extenuating circumstances that prevent your child from taking part in outdoor play, please let us know so we can keep him/her inside with the School Nurse. If this is to be for more than one day, a doctor's note should be provided. The note may be provided retrospectively.

Personal belongings

Students are responsible for all personal items that they bring to school. We strongly advise that parents not send large amounts of money or valuable personal items to school with their children.

The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen property, including mobile phones or other electronic devices.

NOTE: Students are NOT allowed to bring real or toy weapons, electronic games, portable stereos, matches, or lighters to school. Mobile phones and smart watches may not be used during the school day or at any overnight school events unless a staff member has granted specific permission. Any phone calls home during the school day must be made through the School Nurse's phone.

Each student must keep one pair of indoor shoes at school. Be sure clothing, outerwear, boots, gym shoes, and personal belongings are clearly labeled with the child's name for easy identification. There is a space between the Library and the Nurse's office for Lost and Found items, which students and parents should check if an item is missing. These items will be displayed periodically throughout the school year. Any items in good condition that remain unclaimed at the end of each semester will be donated to charity.

Early Years students need a toothbrush and toothpaste to be kept at school for brushing their teeth after lunch. Toothbrushes have to be changed every three months.

Currently, the cubby space at school is really tight, and therefore, it is important for each student to keep his/her space well organized and tidy.

We suggest you keep at school only the items that are absolutely necessary.

Backpacks

We recommend that students use a book bag to keep books, papers, and supplies neat, clean, and dry. Using a backpack can help a student organize her/his school materials and may even help her/him remember to bring her/his books and assignments to and from school.

Health, illness & injury

As per Latvian law, all students must have completed Latvian medical forms by a local doctor. It is the parents' responsibility to update these forms as applicable (new vaccinations completed, new conditions diagnosed, etc.).

School nurse

ISR has a registered nurse on duty throughout each school day. In the event of an accident or illness, the nurse will make every effort to contact the parents immediately.

Medication

Medication can only be administered by the School Nurse, and only with the written consent from the parent (Authorization to Administer Medications Form). If special medication is required for any student, the following procedure should be carefully noted:

- The medication should be in a container labelled with the student's name and the contents.
- The nurse should have written permission from a parent authorising her to dispense the medicine, including the name of the medication, reason for its use, and time it is to be given.
- The medication and the permission note must be brought to the nurse upon arrival at school.
- The above applies to all medication, including painkillers and other over-the-counter items.
- Parents are responsible for medical insurance coverage for their children.

If the School Nurse is absent, an administrative staff member will be designated to administer medications. All medications will be kept in the medicine cabinet in the Nurse's Office. Exceptions are made for medicines for allergic reactions and asthma inhalers, which can be kept in the classroom or in the child's backpack.

Allergies

Parents/Guardians must notify both the School Nurse and classroom teacher regarding any severe allergies that their child may have. An Allergy Action Plan form is kept on file with the School Nurse. The School Nurse will alert all staff members of students with severe allergies and will train applicable staff members in the use of EpiPens. (Epinephrine, form of adrenaline for allergies).

Injuries

Students injured during the school day are to go to the School Nurse. The School Nurse will initiate first aid treatment whenever necessary. Following first aid, the student will be placed under the care of her/his parent/guardian, upon whom rests the legal responsibility for subsequent treatment. Any injury that occurs at home should be seen by the student's own physician.

Emergency response

In the event a student becomes seriously ill or injured, the School Nurse will initiate first aid treatment and will activate our emergency response system – (calling for an ambulance, notifying the parents, beginning CPR or life-saving techniques). In the event of the School Nurse's absence, a trained staff member will initiate first aid treatment and will activate the emergency response system as above.

Illnesses and contagious conditions

Students who arrive at school ill or who become ill at school will go to the School Nurse. When applicable, the School Nurse will notify parents/guardians to take the child home. Until parents/guardians arrive, the School Nurse will take appropriate measures to care for the child.

Children with any of the following ailments will be sent home immediately:

- Communicable Diseases – e.g., scabies, chicken pox, measles, mumps, rubella, scarlet fever, pertussis, parvovirus. Children must provide a doctor's note and must be fever and symptom-free prior to returning to class.
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) – red, itchy eye(s) with yellow discharge. The student may return to school after using antibiotic eye medication for 24 hours.
- Fever - temperature over 37 Celsius. The child must be free of fever (37 degrees) for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Head Lice (Pediculosis) – Children found to have lice or nits (eggs) will be sent home from school and must remain at home one full school day after successful treatment. After treatment and removal of all lice and nits, the child - accompanied by a parent/guardian – must be examined by the School Nurse prior to re-entering the classroom. School-wide head checks are performed during the first week of school and following each extended school break.
- Respiratory (common cold or flu) - fever, chills, runny nose, nasal congestion, frequent coughing, fatigue, sore throat, and/or headache. No symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Rashes of known origin – impetigo (honey-crusted lesions), tinea corpora (ringworm). Must provide a doctor's note and may return to school 24 hours after beginning proper medication.
- Rash of unknown origin – requires a doctor's note identifying the rash. If deemed not contagious, may return in 24 hours.
- Sore Throat – if the School Nurse clinically suspects a strep throat infection, then a proper diagnosis by the child's doctor, using a rapid strep test and throat culture, is required. If determined to be strep throat, a child may return to school after taking antibiotics for 72 hours, and must be fever and symptom-free.
- Unusual irritability, restlessness, and listlessness are usual signs of an oncoming illness in children.

Children who are out sick from school for 3 or more days require a doctor's note to be handed in to the School Nurse upon their return.

Physical or sexual abuse

If a teacher suspects a child (children are classified as under 18 years of age) is being physically or sexually abused, he/she is required (by Latvian law) to inform the Rīgas Pilsetas bērnu tiesību aizsardzības centrs (City of Riga Children's Rights Protection Centre) at 6733 4441. The school has developed a comprehensive Child Protection Policy, which is available on the ISR website.

A person of 18 years of age or older is not considered a child anymore, although some students are 18 while finishing secondary school. Should the school suspect that a student age 18 or older is suffering from physical or sexual abuse, the school has the option of encouraging the person to report the case of abuse to the police him/herself or reporting the case of abuse to the police. In case the person in question has minor siblings, the school will have to report the case to the Latvian Orphan Court, since the abuse can probably affect other children too.

Sexual harassment

As ISR provides a safe environment for everyone, all students have the right to be free from sexual harassment of any sort, verbal, or physical, from either adults or other students in the school or during school events off-site. Staff and students do not have the right to sexually harass either adults or students verbally or physically, either on-site or off-site.

Read the full ISR Child Protection Policy on our website.

Visitors

We warmly welcome visitors to ISR. Visiting students who are not enrolled at ISR must obtain special permission from the Primary Principal for a one-day visit at least one (1) week in advance. All school rules and regulations for students also apply to visitors. For security reasons, all visitors must first check in with the Dean of Students or the Child Protection Officer.

Pets

In general, pets are not allowed on the school premises, including during special school events. If a parent or student would like to bring a pet to school for educational purposes, they must first receive permission from both the classroom teacher and the Primary Principal. The school is not liable for any problems that may arise while a pet is visiting.

Evacuation procedures and drills

The purpose of evacuation drills at ISR is to train students and staff members to exit the building in the quickest, easiest, and safest way possible if a fire, smoke, carbon monoxide or other emergency occurs. This helps students and staff become familiar with the sound of the evacuation alarm and the evacuation routes. Lockdown procedures are practiced to learn how to keep oneself and others safe in the event of internal or external threats.

Fire drills are held at least three times a year, in accordance with Latvian legislation. The first one is done within the first week of school. From October to April, staff members will give blankets to students. Parents will always be notified when a planned or unplanned evacuation has taken place.

GENERAL GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

At ISR, we prioritize creating a safe and respectful atmosphere conducive to every child's learning and well-being. Every child has the right to feel safe and to learn. Students are expected to develop individual responsibility for their behavior, which we facilitate through positive reinforcement and supportive systems.

Two key questions guide all decisions and actions regarding behavioral development:

How does my behavior impact my own learning and well-being?

How does my behavior impact the learning and well-being of others?

Staff, students, parents, and visitors to ISR are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with the ISR mission statement. The following outline lists inappropriate behavior considered out of line with our expectations, while our behavior policy provides detailed intervention guidelines for resolving specific incidents.



Behavioural framework

The purpose of this document is to outline the expectations for acceptable behavior, the systems used to promote positive conduct, and the intervention guidelines for resolving incidents. This includes adherence to school handbooks, rules, community standards, and applicable local laws. Students are expected to respect the rights and privileges of others and cooperate with all members of the school community. Staff are committed to treating pupils with dignity and respect, showing consideration for their individual circumstances. We believe that the combined efforts of students, parents, teachers, and administrators are essential to achieving these goals.

Bullying

At ISR, we do not accept bullying of any kind. As a KiVa school, we are committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all students. The KiVa program is an evidence-based anti-bullying initiative that promotes positive school climate and community well-being.

Bullying is defined as the repeated and intentional harming of another person or group, involving an imbalance of power. It can be physical, verbal, psychological, or digital.

Bullying is not:

- Occasional social conflict or exclusion
- One-time acts of aggression or unkindness
- Mutual arguments or disagreements

ISR prohibits all forms of harassment and bullying. All members of our community, students, staff, and volunteers, are expected to demonstrate respect and kindness in their interactions.

Because bullying can often go unnoticed by adults, we encourage students to speak up and seek help. If your child shares concerns at home, please communicate them to either a classroom teacher, counselor, or the school nurse as soon as possible.

Any reports of bullying will be addressed promptly in accordance with ISR's behavior policy. If a student is demonstrating bullying behavior, it will be addressed directly and clearly. True bullying often includes a lack of remorse, even when the harmful impact is communicated.

Teachers and administrators will closely follow up and take the necessary action to ensure the behavior stops. Students will also be taught about the importance of standing up for one another and the role of the bystander in creating a caring community.

Playground expectations

All students have been instructed on how to use our playground equipment safely and properly. They are also expected to follow these expectations when using the equipment after school under parent supervision. Parents need to make sure that their child follows these expectations when playing on the equipment after school hours. The expectations are in place for your child's safety. The playground climbing equipment is designed for students who are 4 or older.

- Students are not permitted to use the ground-floor classroom windows.
- Students must not enter the shed unless directly supervised by a staff member.
- Climbing on the Early Years playground roof is prohibited.
- The big playground climbing frame is for children aged 4 and older. One child on the monkey bars at a time. Blue tubes are meant for going through, not sitting on top.
- We eat snack at/by the tables in front of the school. No eating on the playground or in the green grass area.

The playground is a space where the children develop their gross motor skills, learn to evaluate their abilities, and take risks. They learn to overcome difficulties and develop perseverance. When you see a child taking risks, instead of saying "Be Careful!" see it as an opportunity to help your child foster greater awareness of their environment and their bodies by saying things like:

- Notice how... these rocks are slippery/the log is rotten/that branch is strong.
- Do you see... the stinging nettle/your friends nearby?
- Try moving... your feet slowly/carefully/quickly/strongly.
- Try using your... hands/feet/arms/legs.
- Can you hear... the rushing water/the singing birds/the wind?
- Do you feel... stable on that rock/the heat from the fire?
- Are you feeling... scared/excited/tired/safe?

If a student is injured, a supervising teacher will escort the injured student to the School Nurse. Serious injuries will be communicated to the parent by the School Nurse.

Families are welcome to stay with children and use the school playground at the end of the school day. After school, parents must supervise their own children, as they are then responsible for their child's safety. We ask everyone to respect our common environment and clean up the toys, tables, chairs, etc., before leaving the playground.

ISR Child Protection Policy

The primary responsibility for the care and protection of children rests with parents. However, the school recognizes that this responsibility transfers to the school when the parents entrust the school with the child's care during school days, trips, and events.

ISR aims to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all of our students. Our Child Protection Policy supports Article 3.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that, "in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration". We are committed to preventing child abuse and protecting children within our community.

Safety procedures

- Each year, ISR Staff Members receive proper information and advice about how to prevent abduction situations.
- Each year, students at ISR receive information and advice about how to avoid and escape potentially dangerous situations.
- ISR ensures adequate security measures are in place to protect children on school grounds:
 - Security guards are located on-site and supervise the campus at key times of the school day.
 - A security guard is on the Primary Campus to control building entrances throughout the school day.
 - The campus is surrounded by fences. All gates and building entrances are equipped with security codes known only to the ISR community.
 - The ISR Primary campus is equipped with a doorbell to see who is requesting access to the campus without knowing the door code.
 - The Primary campus is monitored 24 hours/day by security cameras.
 - Students' attendance is recorded every morning, and every student leaving the campus during school hours must sign out in the appropriate registers.
 - Precise communication procedures between parents and teachers are in place for student absences. The parents must inform the school in case of absence and the school will contact the parents right after registration time in case of any unannounced student's absence.
 - Parents have to sign a form to allow their children to go home on their own. This is allowed only from Grade 3.
 - Parents have to notify the school if their children are collected from school by a third person.
 - All ISR staff members complete a criminal background check performed by a specialized company.
 - The school's internet is protected by different systems.
 - ISR students have been taught to address any concern to any trusted staff member.

Grievance policy

If a parent/guardian has concerns about his/her child's academic progress, physical or social well-being, s/he should first contact the classroom teacher. Should the concern remain unresolved, a special conference with the Director, teacher(s), and parent/guardian will be scheduled. Students attend such conferences on a case-by-case basis. A closed meeting between the Director and the parent/guardian shall take place if the concern remains unresolved after the special conference evaluation. A Member of the School Council may attend at the request of the parent/guardian or Director.

Dress code

It is important that children are dressed at school in clothes that allow them to be comfortable when moving around the school and on the playground, working on the carpet and sitting at tables. All students need a pair of indoor footwear for wearing the classrooms all through the year regardless of weather being dry and warm outside. Clothing choices and messages on clothing must be appropriate and respectful.

Extended Day Program (EDP)

EDP is an extended day program offered to our Early Years and Grade 1 students, which runs each school day in the afternoons from 15:15 till 18:00. Parents can sign their child(ren) up for this program each trimester, along with the Afterschool Activities. If a student is signed up for Afterschool Activities as well, s/he joins EDP after the activity ends.

Parents are required to sign out their child(ren) when picking them up and ensure a face-to-face pick-up with EDP staff.

After School Activities (ASAs)

The After School Activities program is designed to offer learning experiences outside of the curriculum. It is intended to be an integral part of our children's education and learning. The aim is to produce an ASA program that allows the child to explore potential new hobbies and to introduce them to new areas of interest that they might not necessarily be exposed to in the curriculum.

After School Activities comprise a variety of art, sport, language, and other creative activities. In the past, these activities have included storytime, dance, music, folklore, sports, and many more. The activities are optional and are organized in response to demand. The number of participants for each activity is limited, and places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Some activities involve additional costs. These costs will be invoiced and should be paid by direct bank transfer.

A minimum of four participants is required to run an activity. If demand is low, the activity will not run, and families will be asked to sign their children up for other activities that have not reached the maximum number of participants.

Keeping in mind that the days can be very long and tiring for some students, regardless of age, the teachers will carefully observe how each student participates in each of the activities. In case your child is too tired to participate, not interested in the activity or cannot access the activity for any other reason, the teachers will speak to you and request that you take your child out of this particular activity. After School Activities are offered as an addition to the daily program, and they should be enjoyable for all participants. There is no need for a child to struggle through nearly an hour-long activity if s/he is not ready for it. After school activities begin at 15:20. Therefore, students have time to eat a light snack. Most activities end by 16:15. Some activities may take place off-site, meaning that the pick-up time and place will be different.

For further information about the After School Activities program, please contact Jason Romey: jason.romey@isriga.lv

School closures and force majeure

Unless instructed to do so by government authorities, ISR has no intention of closing the school due to outside temperatures.

In the event of force majeure, which causes a student or students to withdraw from the school or otherwise miss regularly scheduled school days, tuition fees already paid for the school year will not be refunded. Force majeure is defined as an event such as an act of God, accident, fire, flood, war, riot, civil unrest, act of terrorism, chemical or biological contamination, strikes, industrial disputes, outbreak of epidemic or pandemic of disease, extreme weather, construction/facility defects, cyber-attack, compliance with any law or governmental order, rule, regulation or direction (including that of a local authority), failure of utility service or transportation, that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled by the school.

Social invitations

If parents wish to contact other families in order to organize social events (for example, birthday parties), we encourage personalized invitations. The invitations can be shared with other families at/ through school, either by email or by handing out personalized invitations, only on the occasions when the whole class is invited. We understand that birthday parties are celebrations that students want to enjoy with their closest friends. If this is the case for your child's birthday, please hand out the invitations personally without involving the school. In general, any child is welcome to celebrate his/her birthday in class by bringing a treat. The teachers will find an appropriate time for this.

Re-enrollment

Online re-enrollment invitations and the updated Tuition & Fees Schedule for the subsequent school year will be sent to currently enrolled families in late January/early February. Families who wish to re-enroll should complete the online re-enrollment form and submit the designated re-enrollment prepayment by the indicated deadline in order to hold the student's place for the subsequent school year. Families who do not meet the deadline requirements for re-enrollment are not guaranteed a place for the following school year, but will retain priority for any place that does become available.

Optional Services

Hot Lunch

For those parents who would like the service, the school provides hot lunches provided by an outside caterer, for a fee. Lunches are ordered per quarter. Please contact the Executive Assistant at info@isriga.lv for a sample menu, application, and other information related to hot lunches.

Bus service

Bus service is provided for a fee. Please contact our Executive Assistant at info@isriga.lv for bus routes, times, applications, and other bus-related information.

Please note that unused bus service will not be refunded.

MAIN EVENTS & FESTIVALS

At ISR, we have many special events throughout the year, which are all carefully designed to support various aspects of our students' development. Attendance on these days is expected, as they are an important part of the full ISR learning experience. Parents are warmly invited to join the events as active members of our community.

Some of the school events require different dress codes. Among those are dressing as a book character, wearing traditional national clothing, dressing in national colors, or wearing house shirts/colors. It is advisable to have a set of more formal/festive clothes, such as a white shirt, black pants, and dark dress shoes. As ISR provides an inclusive and caring environment for everyone, it is expected that students who dress up in costume for any school event are respectful towards people of all cultures, physical abilities, physical traits, including skin color and size, religions, languages, ages, genders, sexual identities, and social statuses.

Following is a brief description of each of the main events. Other events will be advertised as they are organized.

First/Last Day of School

On the First and last days of school, all K118 campus students gather for an assembly to celebrate the year and wish good luck to students who are continuing their learning journey in other schools and countries. The last day of school is a half day with dismissal at noon.

In Latvia and several other countries, it is customary to greet the teachers with flowers on the first and last day of school. This is certainly not an obligation at ISR, but you may see students following this tradition.

Curriculum Mornings

Back to School events are informational sessions which give parents the opportunity to meet the homeroom teachers, discuss routines, schedules, expectations and other logistics of the particular grade. It is important that parents attend this event and the teachers look forward to meeting you!

Back to School BBQ

Back-to-School BBQ is a community event at the beginning of the school year. Parents are invited to join to meet other parents, teachers, and ISR staff members in a social atmosphere.

International Day

A celebratory, learning-focused event with a real emphasis on international-mindedness and the ethics of thinking as a global citizen. We celebrate our own identities while learning about and appreciating other cultures as well. Parent and/or Teacher-led workshops focus on international-mindedness and ethical decision-making. Everyone is invited to wear their national dress or colors for the celebration. Students also have the chance to learn about different countries and cultures by visiting display tables set up by parents.

Latvian Independence Day Celebration

This is a whole-school event celebrating a day that is significant to our host country and our Latvian heart. In our understanding, an important part of international-mindedness is respect for and connection to our host country, and this is a day for students to really feel a sense of belonging in Latvia through song and dance performances. The dress code for this event may depend on the theme of the event and will be communicated by the organizing committee.

Themed Events

‘To ensure a diverse and engaging curriculum, ISR alternates major primary school events on a yearly rotation. This allows our community to focus deeply on specific themes each year. Parents are warmly invited to join the excitement by leading their own activities or supporting teachers in classroom learning engagements.

Winter Solstice

Winter Solstice is the time when many cultures around the world celebrate the return of the light. In Latvia, just like in other places, this celebration is filled with various symbols and traditions. Our students celebrate it during the last week before the Winter holidays by dressing up as animals or birds (bear, sheep, horse, crane, and others), household and farm items (broom, hay-stack), people (tall wife or short man), and pulling a log around the school, thus collecting all the problems of the previous year. This celebration, including traditional songs, dances, and games, takes place outdoors.

Jāņi - Latvian Midsummer Festival

This is a celebration of an important traditional event in our host country at the end of the school year, very much enjoyed by everyone as we participate with songs, dances, and prepare traditional dishes. Everyone is invited to dress in traditional Latvian style for the festival. Your child might like to wear his/her traditional national clothing on this day. Weather permitting, the celebration takes place outdoors.

PTO Organised family events

Community-building social events for families to meet new community members and get to know each other better are organized throughout the year. These events are often organized during the weekends and outside school hours.

Parent & Student Acknowledgement of the ISR Handbook Content

We have read and understood the contents of the ISR Student / Parent Handbook. We understand that ISR makes every effort to provide a safe and secure learning environment, but that the student is responsible for her or his behaviour at all times. We understand and agree with ISR that students should follow the school rules and guidelines at all times and that the school assumes that parents will support the school in the application of all reasonable rules and guidelines.

We acknowledge that we have read, understood, and agree to the policies and procedures detailed in the ISR Child Protection Policy

Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Please print this page and, after it is signed by students and parents, return this page to the homeroom teacher. Please refer to the previous pages at home for reference.



International School of Riga

Primary Campus

Kalnciema iela 118

Riga, LV-1046, LATVIA

Phone: +371 67624622

info@isriga.lv

Web: www.isriga.lv