



ebihs

Ecole Bilingue Internationale
de Haute-Savoie

ENROLLING AT EBIHS Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the admissions criteria?

- In Petite Section, admission is based on the order in which applications are received, as well as an interview with families and their children. Children entering Petite Section must turn 3 by the end of the calendar year, i.e. December 31.
- In Moyenne Section and Grande Section, admission follows a meeting between the Head of Admissions, the child and their family.
- In CP and CE1, admission follows a meeting between the Head of Admissions, the child and their family.
- From CE2 onwards, every student applying to EBiHS must take an entrance assessment. Admission is conditional on the result. If admission is granted, and depending on the student's needs, ESL (English as a Second Language) or FLE (Français Langue Étrangère) may be recommended.

Q. What level of English (or French) does my child need to be admitted to your school?

- Preschool (Maternelle) - Teaching is in English immersion. As many of our families are French-speaking, no level of English is expected. The school's English-speaking teachers become the children's English-language reference, and the school day is enough for children to develop their spoken English. We ask families to keep nurturing and developing French at home, without worrying about English.
- Elementary - Depending on the needs identified during the entrance assessment, FLE or ESL classes may be set up, but they require motivation from the student and involvement from the family. From CM1 onwards, it is important to have a solid foundation in both languages.
- Middle school (Collège) - At admission into 6e, English level is assessed. Ideally, non-native English speakers have a level equivalent to A2. An **ESL program** (or FLE) is offered to students joining middle school at a beginner-to-intermediate level (small-group support classes to speed up language learning and bring students up to the level of the class).

Q. How many students are there per class?

In primary school, we have a maximum of 20 students per class, and occasionally, but rarely, 21 when we welcome siblings who need several places. In lower secondary (middle) school, the maximum is 22 students.

Q. What is the proportion of French, English-speaking and international students?

This varies by grade level and school year. In preschool, as teaching is in English immersion, you will find more French-speaking families. In elementary and middle school, you will find

more international families, or French families returning from expatriation, than in preschool. In middle school, in a class of 20, there are on average 25% of students from other countries.

Q. Which curriculum do you follow?

- For the French program, we follow the French national curriculum (Éducation Nationale).
- For the English program, we follow the non-native Cambridge curriculum in elementary school. The lower secondary (middle) school is a Cambridge school and follows the Cambridge curriculum at native level, adapted for non-English-speaking students.
- For the elementary math program, the methods chosen are based on “Outils pour les Maths”, an explicit and structured approach that gives students a solid understanding of numbers and stimulates the development of mathematical thinking.

Q. Do you offer after-school activities and school trips?

- We make the school premises available so that specialist providers can offer after-school activities on site (e.g. karate, motor skills, floral art...). The transition between the school day and the activities run by outside providers takes place on the premises. These activities may change from year to year.
- Children in all grades take part in educational outings every year, starting in Petite Section. Outings can last a full day or a few hours in the school’s surroundings (the Glaisins forest, for example).
- Major class projects
 - GS: swimming / sailing project
 - CP: “Je roule à l’école” (cycling project)
 - CE2: 2-day stay in the mountains
 - CM1: journalism workshop
- Class trips:
 - CM2: class trip to London
 - 6e: class trip to Barcelona
 - 5e: class trip to Seville
 - 4e: class trip to Paris and Cambridge
 - 3e: class trip to London
 - 4e and 3e: optional extracurricular trip to the USA (during the spring break).

Q. Which exams do your middle school students take, and where do they go after 3e?

- In 5e, students take the Cambridge B1.
- In 4e, students take the Checkpoint 9, an assessment in English and mathematics at the native level of the Cambridge program.

- In 3e, students take the Cambridge B2, the Brevet des Collèges and the IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education).
- In the Annecy area, our students go on to their local French lycée or to a private lycée; some pursue an IB program in Switzerland or abroad. They are generally all accepted at their first choice.

Q. What do we need to pay at enrollment, and when?

- The first deposit is due no later than 15 days after notification of admission.
- The second deposit is due on July 10.
- These deposits are non-refundable if you withdraw.
- The annual invoice is shared in early September and can be paid in one payment or in 8 monthly installments.