Helsingin Suomalainen Yhteiskoulu (SYK)
Isonnevantie 8
00320 Helsinki
Finland

SYK Mission and Vision

Mission

- SYK is an independent, co-educational school specialized in languages and offering a learning path from 3rd grade to high school.
- At SYK, we invest in the quality of learning and teaching, individual well-being and community spirit.
- At SYK, the individual abilities of each learner are developed to their full potential.

Vision

- An independent comprehensive school with an extensive network, an emphasis on languages, and whose high school also has an IB World School.
- A school that supports the individual development of its students and provides a broad general education, a strong Finnish identity, good language skills and excellent preparation for further studies and activities in different communities.
- Based on the learning results, an excellent school in its comparison groups, where the individual can thrive.
- A brave pioneer school, known for its versatile school development work.
- A school with a good team spirit and an open and encouraging atmosphere.
- A school whose versatile strengths are widely known.
- A school, whose up-to-date facilities and equipment promote learning, encourage experimentation and support teaching methods appropriate to the times.

History

- Founded in 1886
- SYK is the oldest coeducational school in Finland.
- SYK was the first school in Finland to educate boys and girls together in Finnish.
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme - section established in 1990 – SYK was the first school in Finland, along with Mattlidens Gymnasium, to offer the full IB diploma programme.

School location

The school is located on the south coast of Finland, in the city of Helsinki. The school is located in Etelä-Haaga, 6 km outside the city center. It can be easily reached from different city areas using public transportation (bus, tram or train).

Contact information

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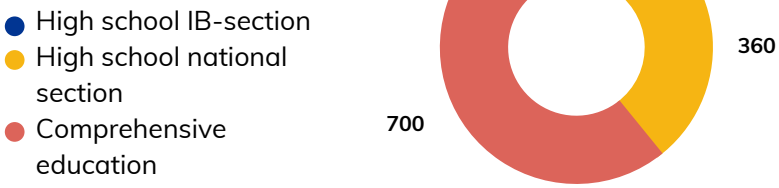
School type

- Charter
- Co-educational (classes from 3 to 12)
- Government supported
- Non-fee paying
- Day school
- No boarding school

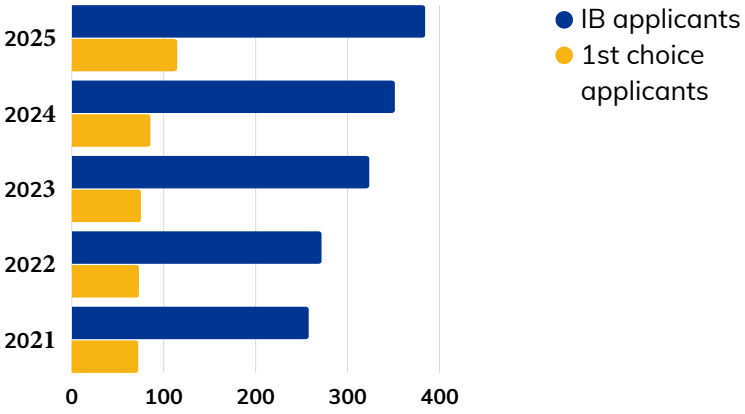
IB World School 00571
www.syk.fi

Student enrollment and distribution by grade level and curriculum



Student selection

Both students attending the national section and those attending the IB-section undergo a selection process. In the IB-section, approximately 8-11 % of applicants are accepted yearly. The graduating class in the national section consists of approximately 120 students and the IB graduating class is 30 students.



Grading system

- In the national curriculum from 4 to 10
- In the IB Diploma Programme from 1 to 7

	National grading system	IB grading system
Excellent	10	7
Very good	9	6
Good	8	5
Satisfactory	7	4
Mediocre	6	3
Poor	5	2
Fail	4	1

IB-courses offered

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English B
- English Language and Literature A
- Finnish B
- Finnish Literature A
- French B
- History
- Mathematics Analysis and Approaches
- Physics

Languages of instruction

- National curriculum: Finnish
- IB-section: English

Curriculum

- Academic school year: from mid-August until the end of week 22
- Number of school days/academic year: 190
- School schedule: 5 terms/academic year
- Evaluation: Continuous evaluation; IB report cards will be delivered at the end of the autumn term and spring term

Curriculum options

- National curriculum (grades 3-12)
- IB Diploma Programme (grades 10-12)

Special projects & unique features to our school

In the national program emphasis on languages

- Very wide language selection
- English, French, German and Russian can be studied at advanced level

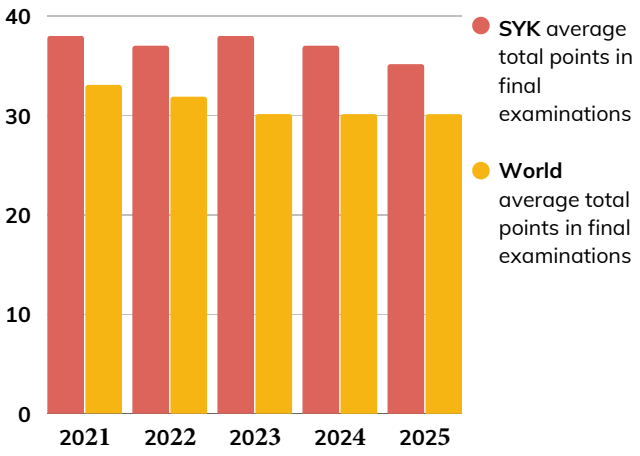
In the IB emphasis on STEM-subjects

- The only IB school in Finland to offer Computer Science
- Mathematics Analysis and Approaches HL and SL

- Broad age range of the students encourages tolerance and understanding
- Proud of its traditions yet always seeking to be at the forefront of educational development
- School offers its students a broad range of activities in which parents play an important part
- In comprehensive school, theatre studies part of compulsory curriculum
- Students actively take part in competitions (for example Math Olympics, debate competitions)
- Robotics team in comprehensive school
- Debate club and success in debate competitions
- Languages taught at school: English, French, German, Russian, Swedish, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Arabic, Ukrainian, and Korean
- Students are encouraged to perform and take part in various theatre and music productions
- Teachers are highly qualified experts with Master's degrees; some of them even hold doctoral degrees
- Especially in the IB, group sizes are relatively small and teachers know each student, which enables individual support and guidance

Extracurricular opportunities & activities offered at school

- Debate club
- Choir
- Arts club
- Students can start a club of their own for CAS (in the IB Diploma Programme, Creativity, Activity and Service is part of student's curriculum)
- SYK has a swimming hall and a separate music school
- In recent years, students have been active in organizing clubs such as the trading club, movie club, football club, math club, Model United Nations club, medicine club and chess club

IB Diploma graduates at SYK

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
28	28	24	28	31