

THE
ENGLISH
SCHOOL



The English School High School Handbook 2026-2027



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
VISION - VALUES - MISSION	3
Theme of the School Year 2026-2027	4
PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION AT THE ENGLISH SCHOOL	4
KOULUN ARVOPERUSTA	6
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
FACULTY 2026-2027	9
OFFICE & SERVICES	10
CALENDAR 2026-2027	12
Matriculation Examinations, Fall 2026	15
Matriculation Examination, Spring 2027	16
Important Deadlines for Abis	17
SCHOOL WELLBEING GROUP AND STUDENT SUPPORT	18
VALIMOTIE GUIDELINES AND RULES	20
Disciplinary Measures According to the Upper Secondary School Act	24
GOOD TO KNOW	24
Books	24
Dress-up Days	24
Entrance	25
Group Meetings	25
Insurance	25
Laptop Computers & Your Studies	25
Library	25
Lockers	26
Lost and Found Articles	26
Reading Room	26
Scholarships and Awards	26
School Attire	26
Student Council	26
School Fees	27
School Lunch	27
Tutorials	28
Visitors	28
VALIMOTIE DAILY SCHEDULE	29

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to inform you about our school's values, rules, and daily practices, and to whom you should turn to in various situations. Of course no booklet can cover all the possible events or options. Please ask your group advisor, the guidance counselor, your teachers or the office about any unclear matters.

For more detailed instructions on high school studies, please refer to the separate **"High School Study Guide."**

VISION - VALUES - MISSION

Vision

The English School provides an excellent learning environment rich with opportunity and innovation. We inspire a passion for learning and compassion for the world.

Values

At The English School we embrace the following values in our everyday work.

Integrity

We want to do the right thing. We respect others, ourselves and the environment. Our honesty and moral principles are manifested in our behavior. We use our knowledge and understanding wisely.

Compassion

We understand others and care for them. We are kind and willing to help. We accept and respect diversity.

Excellence

We strive to achieve the best we can in all we do. We aim for excellence through intellectual curiosity and creativity. We want to fulfill our potential across academic, social and personal areas.

The School's Mission

The English School is a pioneer in bilingual education providing education from preschool to high school. We are a close-knit community of students, teachers and families. At the heart of our work is mutual re-

spect and joy of learning. We strive for excellence and foster a passion for learning and compassion for the world. Our students become open, respectful and responsible global citizens, ready for the world. Our work is based on respecting our school's tradition of Christian values.

Theme of the School Year 2026-2027

This year our school-wide themes are

- Pedagogical guidelines
- Daily routines and rules
- School wellbeing - Student community wellbeing and Staff community wellbeing

PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION AT THE ENGLISH SCHOOL

The basic values of our school are grounded in Christian values that guide us to examine humanity and the human being. Human beings have been given the ability to think and to aim for good. We find great value in Christian life respectful of other outlooks. We find that it is important to grow, develop, and follow one's conscience regardless of philosophical views. Love for one's neighbor, compassion, and an accepting and loving attitude to oneself and to others enable the growth as a human being. This includes the growth into a responsible member of society, the development of society, and action in accordance with the rights and responsibilities commonly agreed upon. An individual grows as a human being and member of society through the membership of their family. The family with its values provides the foundations for growth. Having knowledge of one's own history, culture, and the guiding values builds the individual's value awareness and foundation of identity and gives rise to self-knowledge and self-esteem.

The school environment broadens and increases the opportunities for growth. The amount of diversity increases in a larger community, and there is a greater need for more tolerance, respect, and acceptance and appreciation of difference. The promotion of fairness and good treatment of oneself and others is a natural way to combat bullying. Other people and their belongings are respected. We build respect through knowledge and understanding of other cultures and by embracing various cultures as natural parts of our daily lives and celebrations at the school. As the world opens up and societies become more globalized, the definitions of citizenship and nationality are changing. A world

citizen thinks broadly and is involved in the challenges concerning the whole world. Global humanity consists of an understanding of how society and societies operate, what the common resources are and where they come from, and the respect and appreciation of nature and the environment. Students learn to value what society offers and have a willingness to work for a better society. Economic efficiency and moderation are intricate parts of our practices. Ecological sustainability and other sustainable values are emphasized.

The international faculty and multicultural student body of The English School provide a concrete framework for intercultural cooperation and growth. Multiculturalism and the acculturation strategies of various individuals and families are acknowledged as parts of the formation of our community. Tolerance and the ability to work with others require broadmindedness and openness.

Studying in the school's two language cultures and building an understanding of the world on their basis provides starting points for the interpretation of and view on how different societies are formed and developed and how an individual can participate in the handling of common matters in society. Our daily behaviour reflects our respect for others. We place high value on the social skills of self-control, emotional intelligence, and good manners that lay the foundation for zero-tolerance on bullying. We take care of public property, and this also reflects in the tidiness of our environment. Our community skills include the ability to take turns and share. At its finest, our sense of community is manifested in the encouragement we give to one another with the aim to support their flourishing. In our school community, we work with a positive attitude, take responsibility for our own actions, and share responsibility.

In our school, education means respect for diversity, different outlooks, opinions, and philosophies. It consists of open heartedness, humanness, and finding meaning in life through matters important to us. It also includes eco-social education and global systems thinking with respect to the principles of sustainable development. Our education also consists of the fostering of our common environment. We work as equals and promote equality through our working habits. The starting point for equality in our work is the perception that all cultures, outlooks, ages, genders, and areas are equal.

KOULUN ARVOPERUSTA

Koulumme arvoperusta pohjautuu kristillisiin arvoihin, jotka ohjaavat meitä tarkastelemaan ihmisyyttä ja ihmistä. Ihmiselle on annettu taito ajatella ja taito pyrkiä hyvään. Kunnioitamme suhdetta Jumalaan. Kristittynä oleminen ja eläminen muita näkemyksiä arvostaen on arvokasta. Katsomuksesta riippumatta omantunnon kehittäminen ja kasvattaminen sekä sen mukaan eläminen on tärkeää. Lähimmäisen rakkaus, myötätunto ja hyväksyvä, rakastava asenne itseä ja kanssaihmiä kohtaan toimivat kasvun aineksina kohti hyvää ihmisyyttä. Hyvä ihmisyyys sisältää vastuulliseksi yhteiskunnan jäseneksi kasvamisen, yhteiskunnan kehittämisen ja yhteisesti sovittujen oikeuksien ja velvollisuuksien mukaan toimimisen. Ihmisyyteen ja yhteiskunnan jäsenyyteen kasvetaan perheen jäsenyyden kautta. Perhe ja perheen arvot antavat pohjan kasvuille. Oman historian, kulttuurin ja niiden toimintaa ohjaavien arvojen tunteminen luovat yksilön arvotietoisuuden ja identiteetin pohjan ja antavat ainekset itsetuntemukselle ja itsetunnolle.

Kouluympäristö laajentaa ja lisää kasvun mahdollisuuksia. Suuremmassa yhteisössä erilaisuuden määrä lisääntyy ja tarvitaan suurempaa määrää suvaitsevaisuutta ja erilaisuuden hyväksyntää, kunnioittamista, arvostamista. Oikeudenmukaisuuden puolustaminen ja itsensä ja toisten hyvä kohtelu toimivat luonnollisena kiusaamisen vastaisena työnä. Kunnioitetaan toista ja hänelle kuuluvaa. Kunnioitusta rakennamme tiedolla ja ymmärryksellä muista kulttuureista ja sillä, että eri kulttuurit ovat luonnollinen osa arkeamme ja juhlakulttuuriamme. Kun maailma avautuu ja yhteiskunnat kansainvälistyvät muuttuvat kansalaisuuden ja kansallisuuden merkitykset. Maailman kansalainen ajattelee laajasti ja tulee osalliseksi koko maailmaa koskettavista haasteista. Ymmärrys siitä, miten yhteiskunta ja yhteiskunnat toimivat, mitä yhteiset varat ovat ja mistä ne tulevat, ympäristön ja luonnon kunnioitus ja arvostus ovat osa globaalia ihmisyyttä. Opitaan arvostamaan sitä, mitä yhteiskunta tarjoaa, ja halutaan tehdä työtä paremman yhteiskunnan hyväksi. Taloudellisuus ja kohtuullisuus ovat osa toimintaamme, jossa ekologisuus ja kestävät arvot korostuvat.

Englantilaisessa koulussa kansainvälinen henkilökunta ja monikulttuurinen oppilaskunta antavat konkreettiset puitteet kulttuurien väliselle yhteistyölle ja kasvuille. Monikulttuurisuus ja eri yksilöiden ja perheiden kultturaatiostrategiat tiedostetaan osaksi yhteisömme rakentumista. Suvaitsevaisuus ja kyky toimia toisten kanssa edellyttää avarakatseisuutta ja avoimuutta. Koulumme kahdessa kielikulttuurissa opiskelu ja niiden mukaisten maailman ymmärryksen rakentaminen antavat lähtökohdat tulkinnalle ja näkemykselle siitä, miten erilaiset yhteiskunnat muodostuvat ja kehittyvät ja miten niiden kautta yksilö voi osallistua

yhteisten asioiden hoitamiseen. Toisten kunnioittaminen välittyy arjen käyttäytymisestä. Meille on tärkeää sosiaaliset taidot, joihin sisältyy itsesääntely, tunteälykyys, hyvät ja kohteliaat käytöstavat, jotka kaikki luovat pohjan kiusaamisen nollatoleranssille. Pidämme huolta yhteisestä omaisuudesta. Tämä näkyy myös ympäristön siisteytenä. Yhteisöllisyystaitojamme ovat kyky vuorotella ja jakaa. Parhaimmillaan yhteisöllisyys ilmenee toisen kannustamisena, joka tähtää toisen kukoistuksen tukemiseen. Kouluyhteisössämme tehdään työtä positiivisella asenteella, kannetaan vastuu omasta toiminnasta ja jaetaan vastuuta.

Sivistys koulussamme on erilaisuuden, erilaisten näkemysten, mielipiteiden ja elämänkatsomusten kunnioittamista. Sivistyneisyyttä on sydämen sivistys, inhimillisyys ja elämän merkitysten löytäminen itselle tärkeistä asioista. Sivistykseen kuuluvat ekososiaalinen sivistys ja globaali systeemijättelu kestävän kehityksen periaattein. Sivistys on myös yhteisen ympäristön vaalimista. Työskentelemme tasa-arvoisesti ja edistämme työskentelyllämme tasa-arvoa. Lähtökohtana tasa-arvoiselle työskentelylle on kulttuurien, näkemysten, ikä- ja sukupuolten välinen sekä alueellinen tasa-arvoisuus.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Postal Address	Valimotie 17–19 00380 Helsinki
Telephone	050 303 0103
Email	english.school@engs.fi
Contact Email	firstname.lastname@engs.fi
Webpage	www.engs.fi

Board of Trustees

Jorma Turunen, Chair
Jesse Numminen, Vice Chair
Anne Fraser-Vatto
Tarja Mäki
Kirsi Nystén
Javier Salazar
Pertti Salonen

Participating in the meetings:

Petri Vuorinen, Director-Representative of the Board of Trustees
Suvi Erlund, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Seija Nyholm, Principal

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Leea Tolvas, Parents' representative
Maija Viinikkala, Parents' representative
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Conrad Jackson, Teachers' representative
Kaisu Möller, Teachers' representative

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Seija Nyholm, Principal
Kaarina Winter, Principal

Director

Petri Vuorinen
050 303 0368

Principal, Preschool & Grades 1-6

Kaarina Winter
040 036 0715

Principal, Grades 7-9 & High School

Seija Nyholm
040 630 5727

Assistant Principal, Grades 7-9 & High School

Seija Kiiskinen
050 300 1177

Group Advisors

HS26a	Eva Mäkelä
HS26b	Riitta Pajuniemi
HS26c	Matthew Rusting-Morey
HS25a	Inari Rauhalahti
HS25b	Päivi Huhtinen
HS25c	Juha Kyllönen

HS25d	Lotta Leppikangas
HS24a&c	Simo Eronen
HS24b&d	Lissy Clement
HS23&22	Seija Kiiskinen

FACULTY 2026-2027

Bleyer Rodrigo	Mathematics
Calonius Lauri	Ethics, Philosophy, Psychology
Cantell Merituuli	Music, Choir
Clement Lissy	English, Debate
Eronen Simo	Geography, Chemistry, Biology
Felt Hanna	German
Gul Samreen	Religion, Islamic
Huhtinen Päivi	Art and Design
Hunneman Carolien	Physical Education
Jackson Conrad	English, SAT coordinator
Kiiskinen Seija	Guidance (HS26c, HS25, HS23), Assistant Principal
Kuivanto Nanne	Psychology, Religion, Lutheran
Kurki Katriona	French, Spanish
Kyllönen Juha	Physics, Mathematics, ICT
Lepistö Sanni	Guidance (HS26a&b, HS24)
Leppikangas Lotta	Swedish, German
Liimatainen Leena	Erasmus+ coordinator, Support teacher
Majuri Riikka	Special Education
Mikkilä-Huttunen Leena	Religion, Orthodox
Mäkelä Eva	Chemistry, Mathematics
Nyholm Jutta	Physical Education
O'Brien Jonathan	Psychology, Religion, Lutheran (on leave)
Okkonen Noora	Finnish as a second language
Pajuniemi Riitta	Biology, Geography, Health education
Rauhalahhti Inari	Finnish, Finnish as a second language
Robinson Laura	English, International guidance
Rusting-Morey Matthew	History
Sadesuo Elli-Noora	Guidance (on leave)
Tikka Johanna	Social Studies, History
Villacampa Natividad	Religion, Catholic

OFFICE & SERVICES

The School Office at Valimotie is open on weekdays from 9.00–14.00

Chief Financial Officer	Marjo Pekkinen	marjo.pekkinen@engs.fi 040 558 9847
Secretaries	Ira Furneaux (Valimotie)	ira.furneaux@engs.fi 050 303 0103
	Wilma Kinnula (Mäntytie)	wilma.kinnula@engs.fi 010 321 7920
ICT – Specialist	Matias Naakka	helpdesk@engs.fi 040 193 2233
Pedagogical ICT – Specialist	Juha Kyllönen	juha.kyllonen@engs.fi
ICT – Assistant	Erik Bell	helpdesk@engs.fi 040 626 5954
Librarian	Kehlo	m.kehlo@engs.fi
School Psychologist	Lizeth Ortiz	lizeth.ortiz@hel.fi 040 664 0745
School Social Worker	Johanna Ek	johanna.ek@hel.fi 040 660 8696
Guidance Counselors	Sanni Lepistö Seija Kiiskinen (Elli-Noora Sadesuo)	sanni.lepisto@engs.fi seija.kiiskinen@engs.fi elli-noora.sadesuo@engs.fi)
Special Education	Riikka Majuri	riikka.majuri@engs.fi 040 670 9594
School Nurse	Tuire Suvanén	tuire.suvanén@engs.fi 050 310 5562
Food Service	Compass Group	lasihelmi@compass-group.fi

Friends of The English School

Anton Chernenko

friends@engs.fi

School Wellbeing Group

Johanna Ek
Seija Kiiskinen
Sanni Lepistö
Riikka Majuri
Lizeth Ortiz
Tuire Suvanén

Crisis Group

Petri Vuorinen
Seija Nyholm
Seija Kiiskinen
Lauri Calenius
Johanna Ek
Antti Mäkinen
Lizeth Ortiz
Tuire Suvanén

Fire and Emergency

Petri Vuorinen
Seija Nyholm
Ira Furneaux

SAT and PSAT Coordinator

Conrad Jackson

International Affairs Coordinator

Laura Robinson

School Coach

Antti Mäkinen

CALENDAR 2026-2027

The English School Calendar can be found on our www.engs.fi -page.

Fall Semester (90 days)	12.8.–19.12.2026
Spring Semester (99days)	7.1.2027–5.6.2027

Holidays

Fall Holiday	12.10.–16.10.2026 (Week 42)
Christmas Holiday	20.12.2026–6.1.2027
Ski Holiday	22.2.–26.2.2027 (Week 8)
Independence Day Holiday (Sunday)	6.12.2026
Easter	26.3.–29.3.2027
May Day (Saturday)	1.5.2027
Ascension Day (Thursday)	6.5.2027
Extra Holiday (Friday)	7.5.2027

Saturday School Days

- Saturday, September 26 (Assessment week)
- Saturday, December 19 (Divine Service & Alternative program)

Terms & Assessment Weeks

- Term I:** Wednesday, August 12 – Wednesday, September 30
(Assessment week: Sept 23–30)
- Term II:** Thursday, October 1 – Thursday, November 26
(Assessment week: Nov 18–26)
- Term III:** Friday, November 27 – Wednesday, February 3
(Assessment week: Jan 26–Feb 3)
- Term IV:** Thursday, February 4 – Wednesday, April 7
(Assessment week: March 30–April 7)
- Term V:** Thursday, April 8 – Saturday, June 5
(Assessment week: May 26–June 4)

Note that assessment weeks are seven days, including Saturday assessment day on September 26. One extra assessment day in Term V!

Study Unit Re-exams:

Thursdays Examinations are held at 15.30–18.00 in Room 13.

Exam Date	Registration Deadline	Study Units/Courses
Thursday 27.8.2026	Friday 21.8.	Term V, 2025-2026
Thursday 29.10.2026	Friday 23.10.	Term I
Thursday 17.12.2026	Friday 11.12.	Term II

Thursday 4.3.2027
Thursday 29.4.2027

Friday 26.2.
Friday 23.4.

Term III
Term IV

General Re-exams:

Tuesdays Examinations are held at 15.30–18.00 in Room 13.

Exam Date

Tuesday 6.10.2026
Tuesday 17.11.2026
Tuesday 9.2.2027
Tuesday 13.4.2027
Tuesday 18.5.2027

Registration Deadline

Wednesday 30.9.
Wednesday 11.11.
Wednesday 3.2.
Wednesday 7.4.
Wednesday 12.5.

HS Group Advisor Lessons at 13.00–13.40 on the following dates:

Tuesday, August 18
Tuesday, September 8
Tuesday, October 6
Tuesday, November 3
Tuesday, December 1
Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, February 9
Tuesday, March 9
Tuesday, April 20
Tuesday, May 11

HS Assemblies (Auditorium)

Wednesday, August 12, at 10.00 (Term I)
Thursday, October 1, at 13.45 (Term II)
Monday, January 11, at 13.45 (Spring semester/Term III)
Friday, February 5, at 13.45 (Term IV)
Wednesday, April 14, at 13.45 (Term V)

HS26 Solvalla Orientation Day

Monday, August 17, buses leave Valimotie at 9 and return around 16.
Normal lessons at 8.10–8.50.
New students in HS25 are also joining along with tutors and group advisors.

Class Photos at Valimotie

Monday–Tuesday, September 7–8, from 8.15 onwards

Early Dismissals

Friday, October 9, at 13.00

Saturday, December 19, TBA
Friday, February 19, at 13.00
Friday, April 30, at 13.00

HS Parents' Evenings

HS26 *Welcome to Our High School* info for guardians and students
Wednesday, August 19, at 13.00 (via Teams)
HS26 (all HS teachers) Wednesday, November 4 at 18.00
HS24/23 (graduation and continuing studies) Tuesday, November 10
morning at 8–9.30
HS25 (information about matriculation exams) Thursday, April 8 at
17.00 (in Teams)

Divine Services and Alternative Programs

Tuesday, September 1 at 9.30 at Meilahti Church (rehearsals 8.00)
Saturday, December 19 at 9.30 at Meilahti Church (rehearsals 8.00)
Friday, May 28 at 9.30 at Meilahti Church (rehearsals 8.00)

Valimotie Morning Coffees for Guardians

Thursday, September 17, at 8.10–9.00
Thursday, November 12, at 8.10–9.00
Friday, January 29, at 8.10–9.00 (online)
Thursday, March 11, at 8.10–9.00
Thursday, May 13, at 8.10–9.00 (online)

Digital PSAT

Wednesday, October 7

Digital SAT

Saturday, November 7

Graduation & Independence Day Celebrations

Friday, December 4, at 13.30–14.30

HS Open Houses

Wednesday, January 20 at 17.00–19.30
Tuesday, February 2 at 17.00–18.00 (Online!)

Penkkarit & Abi Show

Thursday, February 11 (HS24)

Olds' Dances

Thursday, February 18, (HS25) in Jäähalli and Tapahtumatalo Bank in

the evening

Friday, February 19, Olds' Dance in the morning at Mäntytie with ES
HS26 students help organize and MC

National HS Entrance Exam (English stream)

Tuesday, April 20, at 10.00-12.00 (TBC)

HS Entrance Exam (bilingual stream, Finnish)

Tuesday, May 4, at 9.30-11.30

Extra Cleaning and Packing Day (No HS exams!)

Friday, May 28, after the Divine Service and Alternative Program

Dress Rehearsals at Mäntytie

Friday, June 4, TBA

Graduation & Spring Celebrations

Saturday, June 5, High School Graduation at 11.30-13.30

Matriculation Examinations, Fall 2026

Preliminary Exams for the Matriculation Examinations TBA

Monday 14.9.	Finnish as a mother tongue, reading comprehension
Wednesday 16.9.	Religion, worldview education, social studies, chemistry, geography, health education
Friday 18.9.	Foreign languages, long
	English
	French
	Spanish
	German
	Russian
Monday 21.9.	Swedish, long and medium
Tuesday 22.9.	Psychology, philosophy, history, physics, biology
Thursday 24.9.	Mathematics, long and short
Friday 25.9.	Finnish as a mother tongue, essay
	Finnish as a second language
Monday 28.9.	Foreign languages, short
	English
	French
	German
	Russian

Italian
Portuguese
Latin
Sami

Results will be available in Oma Opintopolku on 13.11.2026.

Matriculation Examination, Spring 2027

Preliminary Exams for the Matriculation Examinations TBA

Tuesday 16.3.	Finnish as a mother tongue, reading comprehension Finnish as a second language, reading and listening comprehension
Thursday 18.3.	Foreign languages, short English French German Russian Italian Portuguese Latin Sami
Friday 19.3.	Finnish as a mother tongue, essay Finnish as a second language, essay
Monday 22.3.	Foreign languages, long English French Spanish German Russian
Wednesday 24.3.	Mathematics, long and short
Tuesday 30.3.	Psychology, philosophy, history, physics, biology
Wednesday 31.3.	Swedish, long and medium
Friday 2.4.	Religion, worldview education, social studies, chemistry, geography, health education

Results will be available in Oma Opintopolku on 19.5.2027.

Important Deadlines for Abis

If you wish to graduate in December 2026, you must have a minimum of 150 credits completed by Monday, 2.11.2026! If you have not completed 150 credits by the end of Term I, you must make a detailed study plan with the Guidance Counselor and the subject teachers. Please note, however, that teachers are not obliged to correct and grade late assignments if not previously agreed upon.

Friday, 30.10.2026

Written confirmation to the Principal if you do NOT wish a failed matriculation exam to be compensated (Fall graduates).

Monday, 23.11.2026

Deadline for registration for the Spring 2027 matriculation examinations

If you wish to graduate in May 2027, you must have a minimum of 150 credits completed by Friday, 30.4.2027! If you have not completed 150 credits by the end of Term III, you must make a detailed study plan with the Guidance Counselor and the subject teachers. Please note, however, that teachers are not obliged to correct and grade late assignments without previous agreement.

Friday, 30.4.2027

Written confirmation to the Principal if you do NOT wish a failed matriculation exam to be compensated (Spring graduates)

Friday, 28.5.2027

Deadline for registration for the Fall 2027 matriculation examinations.

For more information on the Matriculation examinations, please refer to the *Ylioppilastutkintolautakunta* website: www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi

Preliminaries and Oral Exams

Before the matriculation exams in the fall and especially the spring, there will be preliminary exams in various subjects. Please inform the subject teachers if you wish to take a preliminary exam.

In the spring, teachers arrange oral exams for those interested in trying to raise their final grade in any subject(s). The oral exams (*suullinen korotustentti*) usually take about three hours and may also partly consist of written assignments. Please register for these exams directly with the subject teacher no later than Friday, 15.1.2027. The teacher will then set a suitable day for the oral exam.

SCHOOL WELLBEING GROUP AND STUDENT SUPPORT

School Wellbeing Group

The school wellbeing group consists of the student welfare group, teachers, students and parents. The goal is to ensure favorable circumstances for good learning and to advance both the psychological and physical health of the whole school.

School wellbeing is an important part of the school's educational and teaching task where the whole school is on the focus. School wellbeing is primarily preventive in nature, and its goal is to support and advance the entire school community's welfare.

The student welfare group's composition varies according to the needs of the student and the objective of student welfare is the early recognition and prevention, amelioration and finally elimination of obstacles to learning, learning difficulties and other problems connected with schoolwork. Students have the right to the services of student welfare in order to participate in education to their full potential.

Individual student welfare comprises the services of the school nurse, doctor, psychologist, social worker and a multidisciplinary expert group. The composition of this group varies, but may include principals, teachers, parents, school nurse, psychologist, social worker and even other experts—all depending on the needs of the student.

School Psychologist

The school psychologist Lizeth Ortiz is at Valimotie twice a week (times are announced at the beginning of the school year). The psychologist's goal is to promote the wellbeing of the student. Students can turn to the psychologist when experiencing difficult times in life or matters relating to schoolwork, relationships and any other difficulties that crop up in daily life. When appropriate, the psychologist works with parents, other members of the school staff and with organizations outside the school. Her office is a safe and confidential place.

School Social Worker

Our school social worker Johanna Ek is at Valimotie two days a week (times are announced at the beginning of the school year). Her job is all about making sure students feel good, do well, and get the support they need. Students can talk to the social worker about anything—school stress,

friendship troubles, or just things that feel a little too big to handle alone. No problem is too small.

When needed, the social worker works together with parents, teachers, and organizations outside the school to make sure every student gets the help they need to thrive.

Johanna is here to listen, support, and help make school a little easier—one conversation at a time.

School Special Education Teacher

Our special education teacher Riikka Majuri is at Valimotie every week-day. She works with students in both middle school and high school, providing support that help each student succeed in their own way. Support may include individual or small group instruction, co-teaching in regular classrooms, or helping to adapt learning materials and teaching methods. New students are also screened for reading disabilities (lukiseula).

The focus is on strengthening learning skills, building confidence, and ensuring that every student, regardless of their challenges, has the tools and encouragement they need to reach their goals. Collaboration with subject teachers, guardians, and student welfare staff is also a key part of the role.

We want every student to have the chance to learn, grow, and succeed in a way that works for them.

Guidance Counseling

The High School guidance counselors are Sanni Lepistö (HS25a&b, HS24), Elli-Noora Sadesuo and Seija Kiiskinen (HS26c, HS25, HS23), who is also the assistant principal. Guidance counselors are here to support you with your high school studies, future goals, and career planning. If our doors are open, feel free to stop by anytime. For longer conversations, it's best to book an appointment in advance. While we don't have a crystal ball to predict your future, we are here to guide and support you as best as we can!

Health Care

The school nurse Tuire Suvanen is available from Monday to Thursday. Her reception is on the 2nd floor of the school, room 2028.

The school nurse focuses on promoting the health of students and providing health education. Student health care services also include on-call check-ups.

The school nurse is someone students can trust and talk to when they're not feeling well—physically or emotionally. They help make the school a safe and healthy place for everyone. You can contact the school nurse for various well-being issues such as sleep, starting contraception, coping, relationships or even mood. The service is confidential and free of charge.

VALIMOTIE GUIDELINES AND RULES

The English School student understands right from wrong, knows the school guidelines, rules and policies and is committed to following them. The student learns and understands ways to promote and maintain the kind of Engs-atmosphere that the school is known for.

The guidelines have been set to promote the values of The English School and the National Core Curriculum and are to be followed at both school campuses and at all school levels.

In addition to the guidelines, the Mäntytie campus and Valimotie campus have their own school specific rules that help maintain a safe and peaceful learning environment for all. Breaking the rules have consequences specified in the Basic Education Act and the General Upper Secondary Schools Act.

In cases not specified in the rules, Finnish law is followed, including the laws governing Basic Education and Upper Secondary School Education.

Guidelines

1 • Be safe

Positive learning outcomes are only possible in a safe environment. Following these guidelines and the school rules will help you and others feel and stay safe.

2 • Be respectful

Everyone is valuable. Treating others with respect and empathy creates a positive learning environment where kindness is expected, and bullying is not accepted.

3 • Be cooperative

Listen to others and be an active group member and be attentive during school time. Follow staff members' instructions.

4 • Be present and on time

Attendance is required on all school days. Being in the right place at

the right time promotes an atmosphere conducive to study.

5 • Be prepared

Being ready for class, with a mindset for studying and having all equipment needed for the day ahead, maximizes the learning potential.

6 • Be industrious

Putting in your best effort maximizes the learning outcome.

7 • Be responsible

Treat personal and school property with care and keep the school tidy. Make sustainable and fair choices about resources, and value nature and the environment.

8 • Be considerate

Be thoughtful and maintain a peaceful atmosphere during the school day.

9 • Be honest

Speak the truth and act truthfully.

10 • Be an ambassador

Remember the values of The English School - integrity, compassion and excellence - and choose to act accordingly.

Rules of Conduct at Valimotie

In accordance with Section 29 of the Basic Education Act and Section 40 of the Upper Secondary School Act, the purpose of the rules of conduct is to promote internal order within the school, ensure the smooth progress of studies, and support the safety and comfort of the school community.

1. School hours include the school day as per the timetable, school meals, recesses, and school-organized trips, camps, sports days, celebrations, and other events. The school area includes Valimotie 17–19 and Mäntytie 14.
2. Every student in middle or high school has the right to participate in education safely and to be treated equally and fairly.
3. Every student is obligated to attend lessons according to the timetable and complete assignments given by the teacher diligently during school hours and homework during free time.
4. Every student must be considerate of others, use appropriate language, follow good manners, and respect others' right to study and work in peace.
5. Cheating, plagiarism, and using quotations without sources are prohibited. The use of AI is allowed according to the teacher's instructions.
6. Students must dress in a way that allows them to participate safely

in education without offending anyone. Teachers will provide specific guidance on appropriate attire for different learning situations.

7. Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed during lessons; these are reserved for recess.
8. In middle school, students may not leave the school premises during the school day without permission from a teacher or other school staff. Transitions between campuses listed in the timetable are allowed. In high school, students may leave the school premises between lessons.
9. Mobile phones or other devices may not be used during lessons unless permitted by the teacher for learning purposes or by the principal/teacher for personal health reasons or as an aid.
10. In middle school, phones and other mobile devices must be stored in the student's locker or bag during the school day and may not be used during recess or lunch.
11. In high school, phones and other mobile devices must be stored in the student's locker or bag and may not be used during recess or lunch.
12. During transitions (Valimotie – Mäntytiie – Pitäjänmäki Comprehensive School – sports facilities), students may use phones and other digital devices.
13. With teacher permission, students may use phones during lessons to contact guardians in urgent situations, such as illness. Students always have the right to call emergency services in an emergency without staff permission.
14. Phones or other devices may not be used to photograph or video others without the permission of both the teacher and the person being recorded.
15. Possession and use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs are prohibited.
16. Weapons, fire-starting tools, or other dangerous items or items intended to harm others or property are not allowed at school.
17. A student who disrupts teaching, otherwise violates school order, or acts dishonestly may be assigned to a disciplinary discussion or detention for up to two hours in middle school. A student who disrupts teaching, violates school order, or acts dishonestly may also receive a written warning. If the violation is serious or if the student continues inappropriate behavior, the student may be suspended for up to three months.
18. If a student disrupts a lesson or school event, they may be asked to

leave the premises. If the disruption is excessive or the student threatens the safety of others, they may be denied instruction for the rest of the day and the following school day.

19. Prohibited items or substances, or items that disrupt teaching or learning, may be confiscated. A student's belongings, locker, and outer clothing may be inspected to confiscate such items if possession is evident and the student refuses to hand them over or cannot reliably prove they do not have them.

School Policy on Drugs

The policy is of zero tolerance. The following actions are taken when drugs are discovered at school:

Since the possession of drugs and using drugs is illegal in Finland, the police are informed immediately and called to the school. The police then decide how best to proceed in the matter. The school also contacts immediately, without hesitation and without prior warning, the child protection authorities (*Lastensuojeluviranomaiset*) and informs the student's parents or guardian. The police and child protection authorities decide their actions and, in all cases, the school cooperates and provides them with information they need.

The school's Board of Directors is the first instance (after immediate acts by the principal) in taking decisions. That is, the Board can give a strict written warning or from one to three months' suspension. The Board is the first and last instance for decision making in matters of this kind. The process that ensues after the crime is discovered depends on whether the student is less than 15 years of age. When a student is 15 years or older, criminal law is followed and the court decides on the punishment. However, when a student is under 15 years of age, and the police cannot take further action, the school's Board will.

Informing parents about illegal acts is the principal's responsibility, but the principal follows police orders. This may affect how soon and what information can be shared. The families directly involved are kept informed during the process.

Cheating & plagiarizing

If you are caught cheating on an examination, this examination is failed and you will not receive a grade. You also lose the right to take the re-examination. If you are caught cheating on a re-examination, you will not receive a grade and will have to retake the whole study unit.

Plagiarism (for instance pulling an essay or a book report or research from the Internet without mentioning the sources of information) is considered equivalent to cheating in an examination. If you are caught plagiarizing, the assignment in question will be failed and if the assignment in question is a major study unit work, you will fail the study unit or receive no grade. The use of Artificial Intelligence programs must also be disclosed and appropriately cited.

Disciplinary Measures According to the Upper Secondary Schools Act

Disciplinary actions include the following:

1. The Principal can issue a written letter of warning
2. The Board of Directors can suspend a student from school for a period of time, at most for three months if under 18 and at most a year if 18 or older

Before a written warning is issued, the student has the right to be heard, and before any specified suspension, the student and the guardians of a student under 18 have the right to be heard. The reason for the suspension or warning is to be explained clearly to the student and guardian.

GOOD TO KNOW

Books

High School students will receive books from school when you start your studies. Some books will be print books that must be returned at the end of the study unit, some will be digital licenses.

Dress-up Days

On special occasions, such as Independence Day, Divine Services, and Graduation, students should dress appropriately, keeping in mind that this is an academic institution where we want to honor our performers, speakers and graduates on these special occasions.

Blue jeans, sweatpants, shorts, T-shirts, torn or ripped clothing, hoodies and sweatshirts are not appropriate on these days.

Entrance

At Valimotie, the entrance to the high school premises on the second floor is via the stairs from the first floor. Elevators are not for student use, except with a doctor's certificate. The doors are open for students from 7.45 to 16.00. Students may spend time in the 2nd floor lobby, but the first floor is off limits and only for passing through or buying a snack.

At Mäntytie, students may use the front door when the back door (Paciuksenkatu) is locked.

Group Meetings

Group Meetings are part of the normal schedule and are compulsory for every High School student. The meetings will be led by the group advisor. 40-minute meetings will be held every month, in addition to short meetings when the group advisor will meet with students individually.

Insurance

All students with a Finnish social security number (*henkilötunnus*) are covered by the school's insurance policy. Foreign nationals without a Finnish social security number must buy their own insurance. Students' personal items are not covered by the insurance.

Laptop Computers & Your Studies

Computers and other digital media are becoming increasingly important in education and the workplace. All of the matriculation examinations (*ylioppilaskirjoitukset*) are now digital. In order to be prepared, it is important that you become familiar with using a laptop. Students will be given a laptop from school. The laptop will be the student's responsibility for the duration of their studies and an agreement document needs to be signed where the rules and student responsibilities are explained in detail. Laptops will be used during lessons, assessment weeks and in due course in the matriculation examinations.

Library

You are welcome to the library to borrow books, to sojourn, to study, to use the computer and to read magazines and books during opening hours. The library offers you—free of charge—versatile collections, modern computers and information retrieval methods, library facilities and the expertise of the staff members.

The library at Valimotie is open on Thursdays and Fridays. It is a place for silent reading and study. Please consider the needs of others working.

Lockers

Each student in high school may have an individual locker. The lockers are school property; if any damage is done to them, students have to cover the costs. As the lockers are school property, School staff can inspect the content of the lockers.

Lost and Found Articles

The school can take no responsibility for articles lost anywhere on the school's premises.

Reading Room

Valimotie also has a reading room where students may study quietly during recesses and skip hours.

Scholarships and Awards

The Friends of The English School, the School itself, and external institutions provide money for stipends and awards to be granted to students on Graduation Day. The teachers select the students to receive these scholarships. Talents and special skills in academic and non-academic subjects and in social areas are taken into consideration.

School Attire

Attire is not only a reflection of the individual student, but also of the general learning environment. Students and staff are asked to wear appropriate, comfortable and safe clothing that is neat, clean and in good taste. For physical education lessons, the teacher will guide students as to what is safe and appropriate clothing for each sport.

In class and in the cafeteria, students should remove sunglasses, hoods, hats, beanies and caps. Students have the right to wear religious attire in school, including turbans, yarmulkes, and head scarves.

Indecent, sexually or violently explicit as well as drug-related statements and graphics on clothing are not permitted.

Student Council

Each high school student is a member of the Student Council. Students elect representatives from each year. The representatives have their own meeting room at Valimotie and meet regularly. Representatives also attend teachers' meetings when relevant.

School Fees

Please note that according to law (Act of Secondary Education §34) The

English School is granted the right to charge student fees. On the basis of this, the School collects an annual fee of 673 euros per student. The fee for the academic year is payable in two installments: the first as soon as school starts, the second in the beginning of January. The tuition fee is 673 euros for the whole school year (fall 336,50 and spring 336,50). Should a student leave the school within two weeks of the start of fall or spring semester, they will not be charged school fees for that semester. If a student leaves the school before November 1st (fall semester) or April 1st (spring semester), they must pay half the school fees for that term. Half the school fees are payable if a student is accepted at the school on November 1st or after for the fall semester, or on April 1st and after for the spring semester.

School Lunch

The school's food service is provided by Compass Group. The lunch hour lasts 30 minutes and it is served daily from 11.35 to 12.50. Due to the school having 75-minute lessons, students eat lunch in three groups during staggered times.

If you have dietary restrictions, please submit to the Office a doctor's certificate stating these. The form can be found on the school's homepage. The lunch program has substitute foods for pupils with dietary restrictions so that they will always be served food they can eat. No special lunch program is provided for reasons other than medical. The alternative vegetarian menu is only for those students who have notified the school in advance. It is appreciated if students with special diets inform the kitchen at least two weeks before of absences they know in advance, so that food is not wasted.

Good manners and the instructions of teachers and Compass Group staff are to be followed in the cafeteria.

Lunch menus in English and Finnish can be seen on the school's website. An asterisk on the menu indicates that the meat served is pork.

The school cafeteria is located inside the school premises on the second floor. Compass Group also has a cafeteria open to the public, called Lasihelmi, which high school students may visit during the day to buy snacks. They may alternatively buy from the café in the downstairs lobby. Students may not eat in Lasihelmi or in the downstairs café. The first floor seats are reserved for guests to the office building.

Tutorials

Any high school student over 17 years of age can receive tutorials subsidized by the state. More information may be obtained from Kela offices and the school's guidance counselors.

Visitors

For safety reasons NO OUTSIDERS are allowed on school premises, whether it be at Mäntytie or Valimotie.

At Valimotie, all guests must first report to the school's Office on the 2nd floor. At Mäntytie, guests report to the Office on the 2nd floor.

VALIMOTIE DAILY SCHEDULE 2026-2027

STUDENTS ALLOWED IN THE COURTYARD

Middle School 10.55–11.55; 14.15–14.30

High School 12.00–14.30
(unsupervised until 14:15)

8.10

LESSON 1

9.25

RECESS 10 min.

9.35 MORNING OPENING

9.40

LESSON 2

10.55

RECESS 10 min.

11.05

LESSON 3

12.50

RECESS 10 min.

13.00

LESSON 4

14.15

SNACK & TRANSFER RECESS 15 min.

14.30

LESSON 5

15.45

LUNCH SCHEDULE

Grades 7 & 8

Lunch 11.00–11.35 (incl. recess)

Lesson 3 11.35–12.50

Grade 9

Lunch 11.25–11.55

Lesson 3 11.05–11.25; 11.55–12.50

HS Group 1

Lunch 11.35–12.05

Lesson 3 11.05–11.35; 12.05–12.50

HS Group 2

Lunch 11.50–12.20

Lesson 3 11.05–11.50; 12.20–12.50

HS Group 3

Lunch 12.20–12.50

Lesson 3 11.05–12.20



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