

Scandinavian School *of* Brussels
...in the heart of Europe





“ A really good school has a family quality to it – a home away from home ... ”

A move abroad is a challenge for the entire family, both for the adults changing jobs and for the children changing schools. The right kind of school can turn the rather frightening situation of facing the unknown into a truly life-changing and positive experience. The Scandinavian School of Brussels knows this, and that's why our priority is to make our students and parents feel that they have made the right choice.

The School is located in a beautiful wooded area in Waterloo, just on the outskirts of Brussels. At SSB we find it essential to focus on the individual student and provide a caring environment where it is easy to feel at home and to find new friends among students and teachers alike. We recruit the best teachers available, so we can offer our students challenging and fulfilling programmes that also include arts and sports.

A student at SSB can leave with a Scandinavian Upper Secondary education as well as an International Baccalaureate Diploma. These qualifications make it easy

for anyone to go on to international universities and other types of higher education.

There are two sides to a good school: one is the quality of its teachers; the other is the social context in which the students live and work. Our language teachers are either bilingual or native speakers, our classes are small and our commitment to the development of the individual student is unmatched. But, more importantly, our goal is that every child, from 2 years of age until they leave Upper Secondary, feels safe, secure and confident that whatever the situation, there is always someone to assist them.

Please contact us for any additional information you might need, or even better: Come visit us and see for yourself.

Torbjörn Åberg
Headmaster





“ You get the best of Scandinavian tradition and a strong international profile ... ”

“SSB is really an International Scandinavian school.”

This means that we have a Scandinavian curriculum within an international environment. All students get to use their own mother tongue as well as English or French while studying and learning about the different cultures of Europe. With Europe developing the way it is, European languages are of growing importance.

Primarily, we focus on English and French with German and Spanish as options, and students study in small groups, according to their knowledge levels. Our teachers come from more than 10 different countries, and the language teacher is always a native or bilingual speaker.

“SSB is located in the heart of Europe.”

Close to the European Union, the head office of NATO and numerous international corporations, Brussels gives us fantastic opportunities.

We invite guest lecturers to our school, go on study visits and carry out various forms of student projects. There are benefits for students of all ages whether they

are in Preschool or Upper Secondary and we tailor their opportunities to get an understanding of Europe.

Our geographic situation provides us with infinite possibilities to study European languages, Culture, Geography, History and Politics. Students from Upper Secondary take part in the “Model United Nations” in Berlin, where each student plays the part of a UN delegate and everything is discussed in English. And this is just one example of international student projects carried out by SSB.

“Study Trips - a great way to learn.”

Every year school starts with an overnight camp for students from class 5 and up. Depending on what grades they are in, our students visit various parts of Belgium as well as the neighbouring countries. This is a much appreciated beginning of the new school year which gives new and old students a chance to get to know each other and their teachers.





During the school year, we arrange study trips in Belgium and the surrounding countries. Sometimes it is a day trip, sometimes it is a longer trip where we spend a night or two away. In January, the entire class 7 goes to the Alps to ski. Guided by skilled instructors, beginners and experienced skiers can explore the Alpine world together.

“At SSB we provide a solid foundation for further studies abroad.”

The ambition of SSB is to teach our students to be thoughtful, critical and multi-lingual individuals, ready to go on to higher education and to various kinds of employment.

Since our programme is built on the best parts of the Scandinavian curricula coupled with a strong international background, it is just as natural for our students to go back to their home country as it is to continue living abroad. There are many valuable opportunities available in the world, and SSB is solid ground to start from.



Sixty dedicated teachers from thirteen countries

“You really need to be dedicated to teach at SSB.”

The fact that our teachers come from so many countries helps our students acquire an understanding of languages and cultures in general. Whether you are playing with three-year-olds, teaching sports in Compulsory School or conducting a science experiment at Upper Secondary, SSB teachers spend time getting to know their students and assisting them in any way they can. The teaching groups are quite small, so there is ample opportunity for teachers and students to create a really good team, and no student is ever allowed to become invisible. All our teachers are responsible for the students well-being, whether it is making friends, feeling good about themselves or doing their best on a test.

“There is always a teacher there for them.”

In Preschool, there are several teachers in every classroom. Around the outdoor play areas there are always adults on duty to quickly aid any child in need of assistance.

At Compulsory School, up to class 7, every student has a dedicated class teacher, who is responsible for the contact with the student and his or her parents. From class 8 of Compulsory School and through Upper Secondary, every student has a tutor who meets with the student at least once a week to follow up on their studies and to discuss anything concerning school.

“The atmosphere is pleasant and relaxed.”

The students know they may knock on the door of the headmaster or the deputy head at any time to talk about anything they think is important. At the reception desk, they will always find a helping hand when in need of a band-aid, a telephone call, finding lost things, or just looking for a chat.





Badminton, indoor bandy, ballet and lots of good food

"An education is not just what you learn – it is what you do."

Young people often spend too much time sitting still. A day's work at school is certainly demanding enough and you need exercise and nutritious food in order to make it through the day. We actively promote health and fitness among our students.

"Enjoy what you are doing."

Our mission is to make students feel the sheer joy of moving their bodies and to motivate them to play different sports. We want them to try a great number of sports, not just the traditional ball games. We also cater for contemporary sports, like climbing, which means that there are enjoyable and challenging activities for every individual.

Our purpose is to get every student to participate with interest and energy, no matter what age, no matter what sport.

"Sports have a solid place in the timetable."

All of our students do some sort of physical exercise. At Preschool it is mostly about play, but starting from Compulsory School, there are several hours of sports per week for all classes.

At times during the school year, we arrange Sports Days, tournaments and other physical activities. These arrangements are an important part of our curriculum and we try to be really creative and let the students try sports they may have never heard of before.

The weather in Belgium allows us to indulge in outdoor activities into the autumn and early in the spring. For indoors activities we have a newly built, modern Sports Hall for all kinds of sports.

"You need to eat well to do well."

We have our own restaurant with good and nutritious food in a pleasant and friendly environment. A lunch council including staff, students, parents and kitchen personnel is constantly developing and improving the menu. The restaurant is located in the castle, with small tables in nicely furnished rooms. Everyone eats at school, from two years of age and up, students and teachers together. The older students can choose from at least three dishes a day, including a vegetarian dish, because we believe that no one should ever leave the table hungry.





A comprehensive programme supports the students academically and socially

"Sometimes it is hard just to keep up."

There are new things to learn every single day and information coming from everywhere. When you finally realise you need some assistance, it's good to know there is help to be had. At SSB there are three special support functions we call the Language, the Math and the Writing Studio. They are open one afternoon a week for the students to come and get help from dedicated teachers.

Our Special Needs Teachers will give assistance to students in need of extra help. We also have a number of specially trained teachers at SSB who care for students in need of extra assistance. Together with the parents and the other teachers they see to that all students get the help they need.

"There is a special Student Care Team at SSB."

The Student Care Team usually consists of the Headmaster, the Deputy Heads, a Special Needs Teacher, the School Psychologist and the School Nurse. The mission of the team is clear and simple: to keep the students in

good health and in good spirits. The social environment is crucially important for any school, but even more important at a school away from the known circumstances at home. Our work, with the Student Care Team and in general, is very much aimed at creating a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, because we believe that it is necessary for an efficient teaching and learning environment.

"We have adopted a

zero tolerance programme against bullying."

At SSB we have a well-developed prevention programme against bullying. A team which consists of student representatives from each class works actively in the classrooms in cooperation with the School Psychologist, the School Nurse and the teachers to prevent such problems from occurring. A visible adult presence and a stated "zero tolerance" for such behavior is a powerful means for creating a safe and positive culture among the students.



The best things with going to SSB is that you learn very much and the teachers are nice. For those who love music, like me, the castle is a good place. There are many different instruments and the music teacher is really nice.

Joakim Kl.7

"SSB er en bra skole. Jeg trives veldig godt her. Maten er god, timene er lærerike og friminuttene er morsomme. Nesten alle lærerne er hyggelige og snille. Jeg har gått på denne skolen i snart tre år og nå er jeg ti år. Det er gøy å lære andre språk sånn som engelsk og fransk. Jeg har mange gode venner og nesten alle er hyggelige og morsomme."

Lina Holberg klasse 4/5

"Jag tycker att det är jättelätt att få kompisar!! Vi har ett SLOTT på våran skola, det du det finns det inte på många skolor."

Philip Cisneros, klass 5

"En berikande tid. Trevliga elever med ambitioner och arbetslust. Positivt aktiva föräldrar och en stimulerande, internationell skara kollegor. Alert skolledning med minimal byråkrati och snabba beslutsgångar."

Margaret och Leif Blixth Lärare på SSB 2001-2004

"Moving to a new country can be quite strainful for small children. For the parents it is easier to keep in touch via phone, email, etc, making the move more partial and stretched out in time. For our children the change is more of an apocalypse. New languages, different TV-shows, new house, new roles for the parents, new friends and new teachers. Our experience is that attending SSB reduced the strain, because more of the Scandinavian culture is present hence making the change less dramatic. And, even more important, due attention from the staff to these difficulties made it a lot easier for our two children.

Besides the school, the offer of after-school activities is wide, and also holds a very high standard.

All in all I will give the SSB my best recommendations."

Arne Bråten, Father of Olav and Ulla

"SSS on mahtava ja opettava koulu. Siellä oli erinomainen ilmapiiri ja kiva opiskella."

Laura Kotilainen, Primary 1999-2003

"SSB antoi Lauralle mahdollisimman hyvät tiedolliset ja taidolliset valmiudet ja hyvän pohjan jatkaa opintojaan Suomessa. Arvostin erityisesti koulun opettajien pätevyyttä ja sitoutumista työhönsä, mahdollisuutta opiskella sekä omalla äidinkielellä että ranskan kielellä, panostusta vuorovaikutustaitojen kehittämiseen sekä koulun oppimista tukevaa ilmapiiriä ja kulttuuria."

Kirsi Tuominen, mother of Laura

"Scandinavian School of Brussels gav mig möjligheten att kombinera en gedigen svensk studentexamen med en väldigt välstrukturerad International Baccalaureate präglad av en lärarkår av högsta klass. En mycket motiverad skandinavisk lärarkår i en internationell miljö skapade en stimulerande studiemiljö som banade väg för stora möjligheter. Torbjörn och hans kollegor skall vara mycket stolta över vad de har åstadkommit!"

Henrik Johannesson (SSB 94-95)

"I am French teacher working at SSB since 1992. When I left the Belgium school system, all my colleagues said to me: 'Be careful, private school is another system which is very demanding and tiring!'

Well now I can give my own point of view about it! Yes it is true but it gives also to me a lot of satisfaction in my work and I am so willing to give all the best to the pupils every day. It is a very good experience to share knowledge and to have the opportunity to work with colleagues coming from other countries.

Well to work at SSB is very gratifying in many ways for us Belgian teachers."

Dominique Tignée.



SSB offers education at
all levels from Preschool
to National High School
Diploma and the IB.
Guest students are
very welcome to study
and live at the SSB





Learning by playing

“In Preschool we lay the foundation for life-long learning.”

We offer an exciting and stimulating environment with a safe and harmonious atmosphere. Working from a holistic view of the child, we want all children to feel satisfaction in their activities.

Play is a tool for the child to learn to cope with various situations, therefore we consciously use play to develop the children’s social skills. Social development is important, especially during the early years, and by interacting with the other children, our youngest students learn to play together.

“The child’s mother tongue is established first.”

Although the nationalities of our groups can be mixed, there are plenty of opportunities for everybody to speak their mother tongue. The children learn their first language with their mother tongue teachers, and the rest of the time there are both Scandinavian and French-speaking teachers working together in the groups. French, the language of our host country, is gradually introduced through fairy-tales and rhymes.

“Moving around is not just for fun, it makes it easier to master other skills as well.”

Running, jumping and playing all kinds of physical games develop the children’s motor- and coordination skills. Every week the children have sports in the Sports Hall and the 5-year-olds go to the local swimming pool every other week to have fun in the water.

“Eating in a positive social environment is an important aspect of growing up.”

The lunch, including a hot meal and a salad buffet is an integrated part of our programme. It is also a break from the more intense activities of the day. Eating together in this fashion lays down the foundation of good and healthy eating habits which will last a lifetime.

“The world of music is a source of joy.”

Our enthusiastic music teachers introduce the children to music through the singing of songs and playing of instruments. These basic skills will benefit the children in a number of ways through school and through life as well.





Compulsory School (class 1-10) with a focus on languages

"It is fun to learn a lot of new stuff!"

The Compulsory School at SSB aims to create the necessary conditions for the student's learning and personal development. Every student must feel that going to school is both stimulating and important and the student should leave the school with a keen interest for life-long learning. Our way of working includes creative, aesthetic and ethical elements that truly motivate the students to develop their ability to think and to reflect.

"The student's mother tongue is a key subject."

The mother tongue aids the development of every student's thinking, creativity and social relations. Through language, our students conquer new concepts, learn to see connections, think logically, critically analyse arguments and evaluate statements and results.

Our students get excellent opportunities to use and develop their skills in different aspects of their mother tongue. Good reading habits is a vital part of learning, as well as the ability to express oneself through oral and written work.

Strong knowledge of one's mother tongue and culture helps students learn other languages even better.

"Our curriculum is truly Scandinavian."

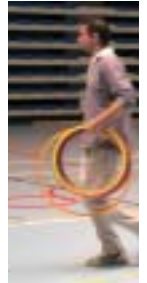
Our curriculum is a synthesis of the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish curricula and from class 1-7, the Danish students follow a programme that corresponds to the Danish curriculum. This makes it easy for the students to adapt to our system and just as easy to move on to any of the Nordic countries or elsewhere to continue their education.

We assume that every student can and will take a personal responsibility for their learning and for their school work. With age and maturity the students take an increasing part of planning, follow-up and evaluation of their own studies.

"There is an increasing demand for French and English."

French naturally has a prominent place at our school, as an official language of our host country. English holds a dominant position in the international community and is thus often used as our common language. Anyone wishing to live and work in Europe in the future should note the increasing demand for deeper and wider knowledge of English and French.





Consequently, a clearly stated purpose of the Scandinavian curriculum is to stimulate the learning and the use of both English and French. This means that the students not only learn the languages, but also take part in ways of thinking, cultures, traditions and standards as reflected in the languages. The study of languages naturally leads to a better understanding of foreign cultures.

"For classes 1-7 there is a choice

between a Scandinavian and a French programme."

In the French programme, students have about half their programme in French. In addition, students are offered a broad programme in English with teachers who are native speakers. In class 2-7, students are divided into four levels of English depending on their knowledge. Four levels of French are offered all the way up to class 10.

Sports and some of the aesthetic subjects are taught in French. From class 6, parts of the Social Science programme are offered in English, and from class 8 it is taught mostly in English.

A student's option is introduced in class 4. The students choose yet another activity, and several of them

are taught in English and French. From class 8, the students can choose to study either German or Spanish as an additional language.

**"Our teachers work
in teams to support the students."**

This kind of teamwork around students facilitates a close working relationship between teachers and students. It also provides a basis for discussion and implementation of themes and projects during the school year.

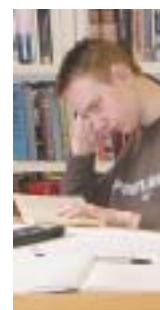
Each student in class 8-10 has a tutor who is also one of his or her teachers. It is the responsibility of the tutor to guide the student through his or her academic and social development in close cooperation with parents.

A close and trusting relationship between the tutor and the student's parents is essential for the student's progress. Development talks each term provide clear and continuous information about the student's progress. We hold parents' meetings at least once a term, and there is also a very active Parents' Association at SSB.

SSB is highly competent in caring for students in need of special support.



An Upper Secondary programme with the International Baccalaureate as an extra option



“Upper Secondary means the Norwegian and the Swedish national programme or the International Baccalaureate.”

Our Upper Secondary programmes are approved in Sweden and Norway. Our Swedish “Gymnasium” offers the Natural and Social Science programmes and the Norwegian “Videregående” offers “studieretning for allmenne fag”.

Bilingual education is a natural part of the teaching in Upper Secondary, where English and French are used as the language of instruction in certain subjects. All our students take French as their second foreign language and the students are divided into four groups depending on their level of knowledge. Spanish and German are available as optional languages.

“You can complement your education with a passport to higher education abroad.”

The International Baccalaureate Diploma programme is a strict plan of education made up of six core subject groups linked together by three common central subjects: Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, and Community, Action & Service (CAS). This diploma is assessed internally and externally with written as well as oral work. The Diploma entitles the holder to study at foreign universities, but also in the home country. It

is also a good qualification for anyone applying for employment within Europe or in the rest of the world.

“Everyone knows everyone else!”

Small teaching groups provide a good learning atmosphere. We focus on the individual student and put high demands on students and teachers alike, which gives everyone a great opportunity to realise their full potential.

Our course about Belgium provides the students with useful local knowledge. We make frequent study visits to the EU Parliament, the CERN atomic centre in Switzerland and to places of cultural and historical importance, and we often invite well-known speakers to our school to lecture on politics, business and culture.

“We put increased emphasis on Music and Art.”

Within the framework of our Swedish and Norwegian diplomas, we offer lessons in Music and/or Art to all of our students. These classes provide an alternative to the more theoretical subjects. We strongly believe that it is highly beneficial for students to develop their creative talents. The fact that many of the students sing in one of our choirs is in itself highly satisfying.

Our prominent Sports programme gives encouragement to all our students to improve their health and fitness through frequent exercise and good eating habits.





Being a boarding student is a unique opportunity for independence

“Living in a castle can change your life forever.”

Every year, a group of young people get the chance to be boarding students at the Scandinavian School for one, two or the full three years of Upper Secondary. A year of schooling in the heart of Europe is, for most of them, going to be a life-changing experience, and their stay either at our 19th century castle on the school premises or with one of our hand-picked boarding families guarantees that. Taking part in the academical and cultural programmes of SSB will provide the students with a broader view of Europe and the international community.

Waterloo is only 15 km south of Brussels. It is easy to take the local train to the city to find anything a young heart desires: shops, culture, cinemas, restaurants, parks, cafés – Brussels has got it all! Most of these things can also be found in Waterloo within walking distance from the Chateau. There are even bikes to borrow!

“Tutors and house parents keep a loving and watchful eye.”

Sharing their daily life with other young people extends the students’ social competence and reinforces their self-confidence. With the support of tutors and house

parents, they get room enough to grow on many different levels. The house parents, who are also teachers, live in the chateau too and supervise the students and help them adjust. In the castle there is also the school restaurant, where guest students eat breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner. The students are involved in the choice of menus.

“Brussels is an excellent starting point for study trips.”

In the programme for boarding students there are several weekend visits during the year to historical and cultural places of interest. It can be a trip to the Belgian coast, to Paris, Amsterdam or perhaps a Christmas market in Germany.

There are a number of advantages to gain from life in a multicultural and multilingual environment. In addition, the student’s responsibility and social skills grow together with an understanding of the world around them.





A multitude of sports for students of all ages

"We have a modern Sports Hall with something for everyone."

After school hours the Sports Club at SSB offers a multitude of sports for all ages every day of the week. On the school premises there is a large, newly built Sports Hall with facilities for every possible indoor sport. Our close cooperation with the local sports clubs makes it possible for us to offer the students supervised coaching of tennis and golf, amongst other things.

Our students, their parents and teachers are welcome to use the Sports Hall for various arrangements, and on weekends they get together for common sports activities, which is highly appreciated by everyone!

"Catering to every taste and preference."

There are numerous sports to choose from: tennis, swimming, badminton, basketball, climbing, soccer, judo, indoor bandy, fitness, kick-boxing, mountain-biking, and lots more. We continuously update our Sports pro-

gramme by listening to the students suggestions. The idea is, of course, that every single student should be able to find a sport that he or she really enjoys. Having fun is the best incentive for getting the exercise we all need.

"Competing with other schools is always good fun."

The school teams often attend tournaments and competitions with other Belgian schools, often quite successfully. The Sports Club has a number of skilled coaches and even a coaching programme for Upper Secondary students. Under the guidance of the sports teachers, they have the opportunity to train a sports team of their own, and coaching a sports team is an experience that is easily transferred to other, similar situations later in students' professional life.





A veritable smorgasbord of music, art and dance

**"We started the
Culture School for a good reason."**

We are convinced that musical and artistic ability will enhance many other talents as well. The purpose of the Culture School is to develop musical and artistic talent along with creativity, teamwork and stage presence. Within the framework of the Culture School, we offer a wide selection of cultural activities and experiences for the students, and for their parents, too.

"The Music Café brings the school to life."

Singing and playing various instruments are the most popular activities at the Culture School. Under the guidance of professional and highly committed music teachers, the students can choose to play any number of musical instruments, or singing, individually or in a group. Once or twice every term they get to show off their talents at the Music Café. These events are always very popular, and many rate them as the real highlights of the school year.

"United Voices is the Culture School's choir."

Singing in a choir means lots of musical training and it is also good fun. United Voices, the Upper Secondary choir, allows students to feel like professional singers as they perform in and around Brussels. At Christmas time, they are a popular feature with companies, as they perform their traditional Santa Lucia procession. United Voices have produced and released a number of CD's and they plan to produce even more in the future.

"Art and Form,

Show and Musical, Ballet, Dance..."

The Culture School offers a lot more than just playing and singing. Art and Form caters to the more aesthetically inclined students, and the performing arts enjoy widespread popularity. Capable students of each subject improve themselves by providing tutored group education for their less advanced school friends. The groups are given the chance to perform on a number of occasions, often during school hours, to an enthusiastic audience of both students and teachers.





A meeting place before and after school

“Our After School Care is a stress-free oasis.”

We provide adult supervision and pedagogical activities for the children before school starts and after it ends. We look to the social, creative and emotional needs of every child in our care, and this holistic view, based on the curriculum is the foundation of everything we do. This means that every side of the personality of a child is allowed to develop and grow.

“Children from two years of age are welcome.”

We offer a secure and peaceful environment, where the children start the afternoon with a snack and talk about what they have experienced during the day. The teachers have plenty of time to take an interest and listen to the children. If the children do their homework, there is always someone there to help and support. The children can meet with their friends in a positive and relaxed environment, and they never feel alone or left out as there is always someone to team up with.

Every child has different needs and interests and we try to provide something worthwhile for each and every one.





Scandinavian School of Brussels

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