

International School Eerde

Ommen, Netherlands



A moated 1715 castle that once sheltered Jewish refugee children now anchors an IB boarding community of 25-plus nationalities.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	57/100
Academic outcomes	62/100
University placement	60/100
Prestige & heritage	65/100
Alumni network	20/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	51/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

International School Eerde has a setting few schools can match: a moated 1715 castle on a secluded estate outside Ommen, with boarding woven into daily life rather than bolted on as an add-on. The history matters. This campus housed the Quaker School Eerde from 1934 and served as a refuge for German and Jewish children persecuted by the Nazi regime; the school still marks that loss each year. That gives Eerde a moral seriousness that brochure schools cannot fake. It is also small by any measure: ****110**** students, classes of ****10–15****, and more than ****25**** nationalities among students and staff. Parents who want scale, bustle and a long menu of subject choices will find limits here. Parents who want adults to know their child properly will see the point at once. **The castle setting is unforgettable**, but the stronger

selling point is *a compact international community with nowhere to hide*.

In market terms, Eerde sits in a narrow segment: a small English-medium IB school in the Netherlands with both day and boarding provision, accredited by the IB, CIS and Round Square. That combination gives it a clear identity. The school sells intimacy, pastoral structure and an outdoorsy rural environment, not metropolitan polish or institutional heft. Its estate, woodland setting and sport-and-culture programme suit students who gain from routine, space and close supervision. Its partnerships, including the Rijksmuseum and Natuurmonumenten, add substance, though Eerde does not publish the kind of aggregate outcome data that hard-nosed parents now expect from academically ambitious boarding schools. That opacity matters. If exam statistics are central to your search, you will want sharper disclosure. If your priority is *personal attention*, *a second-home atmosphere* and *room to reset*, Eerde earns a place on the shortlist.

The right student for Eerde is clear. This school fits internationally mobile children aged 10–19 who want the IB in English without the anonymity of a large campus. It suits boarders who need structure, younger students making their first move away from home, and families who value character formation as much as grades. It also suits students drawn to horses, outdoor activity and a campus life built around shared routines. It does not suit the child who wants a huge peer group, a city campus, or the status theatre of a famous British boarding school. Eerde's appeal is more specific than that: *close adult oversight*, *an unusually humane history*, and a school size that turns every success and every wobble into something staff will notice quickly.

STRENGTHS

- Only fully-fledged IB boarding school in the Netherlands
- 10–15 students per class allows close teacher attention
- 1715 moated castle estate offers a distinctive school setting
- CIS and Round Square add external standards and networks

TRADE-OFFS

- Only 110 students; limited peer group and subject breadth
- Secluded Ommen estate may feel remote from city life
- English-only instruction may not suit non-English-speaking families

ADMISSIONS

International School Eerde is a small English-medium IB school in Ommen for pupils aged 10 to 19, offering both day places and boarding, including flexible and full boarding. In practice, that suggests admissions are likely to centre on upper primary, secondary and sixth-form entry rather than early years. The school does not publish public detail here on fixed application deadlines, main annual entry points or whether admissions are tied to the start of the academic year only. Given its size — around 110 students, with classes of 10 to 15 — availability is likely to depend partly on space in the relevant year group and boarding house.

The published material also stops short of setting out a formal assessment sequence. There is no public description here of entrance tests, interviews, English-language screening or document requirements, so families should expect to ask directly. What is clear is that Eerde positions itself as a close-knit boarding school with individual attention and a safe, structured living and learning environment. No bursary or financial-aid information appears in the material provided, so one should not assume support is available without confirmation from the school.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_3ca2304967.