

The British School in The Netherlands

Voorschoten, Netherlands



Since 1931, a Voorschoten campus near The Hague where sixth formers choose freely among A-Levels, BTEC, IB Diploma or IB Career Programme.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	76/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	72/100
Facilities	82/100
Transparency	86/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

What sets The British School in The Netherlands apart is structural, not cosmetic: few schools in the Hague area give sixth formers a genuine choice between A-Levels, BTEC, the IB Diploma and the IB Career Programme on one campus. That matters. It widens the school’s catchment beyond the standard British-expat brief and makes it a serious option for families who want an English-medium education without locking a 16-year-old into one narrow academic route. The school is day-only, non-religious, teaches in English, and runs from ages 3 to 18 across four campuses, with the senior years based in

Voorschoten. It also carries two credentials parents actually recognise — COBIS membership and IB World School status — which places it firmly in the established international-school market rather than the local niche end of the sector.

This is also a school with scale and international range. BSN says it serves nearly 90 nationalities, and that breadth changes the character of the place: less enclave, more genuinely international community. For mobile families in and around The Hague, that mix has real value. Children are not entering a monoculture dressed up as internationalism. The average annual day fee across the full age range is €22,205, which is expensive, but not outlandish for a mature English-language international school in the Netherlands with multiple campuses and a full 3–18 offer. The destination data give useful proof of academic traction: recent leavers went to Cambridge (2), Oxford (2) and UCL (5). That is not a complete outcomes picture, and the school does not publish a broader destinations breakdown here, but it is enough to show that high-end university progression is part of the school’s working reality.

The pupil who will thrive here is not just “British”; that is too narrow. BSN suits internationally mobile families, academically ambitious students who want real post-16 flexibility, and children who benefit from a large, organised school with clear progression from early years to sixth form. It will also appeal to students who want breadth alongside academics: the school pushes co-curricular life hard, with sport, music, drama, Model United Nations, student leadership and TEDxYouth all visible parts of the offer. The trade-off is clear too. Families looking for a tiny school, a strongly local Dutch identity, or a stripped-back, low-cost education will find BSN too big, too international and too expensive. Parents who want a serious all-through school with multiple exit routes at 18, a long-established presence near The Hague, and an intake that reflects international professional life in the Netherlands should have it on the shortlist.

STRENGTHS

- Offers a rare Sixth Form choice of four pathways - A Levels, BTEC, IB Diploma and IB Career-related Programme - within one school group, unusual for Europe.
- Large, long-established institution founded in 1931 with about 2,100 pupils from nearly 90 nationalities across four campuses.
- 2025 exam results showed 35% of A Level grades at A*-A and an IB Diploma average of 34.1 points, respectable if not top-tier outcomes.
- Runs an extensive co-curricular programme including a long-standing Model United Nations society and the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.
- Provides a dedicated school bus network covering The Hague, Leidschendam, Rijswijk, Voorschoten and Wassenaar, easing commutes for a geographically spread expat catchment.

TRADE-OFFS

- Spread across four separate campuses (two junior, two senior) in different towns, so families may not get their first-choice site and siblings could end up on different campuses.
- Senior fees rise to roughly EUR 28,014 a year at the top of the range, a significant and rising cost typical of large British-curriculum day schools in this tier.
- IB and A Level results, while solid, sit below the very top international schools' averages, reflecting a broad-intake rather than highly selective profile.
- The school has recently closed one junior campus (Diamanthorst, in 2023), indicating some ongoing restructuring of its multi-site estate.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from age 3 through Sixth Form across four campuses; places are offered on a rolling basis subject to availability rather than through a single high-stakes exam. A non-refundable EUR 250 application fee applies, and families typically hear back within about a week. Because the school spans roughly 2,100 pupils and multiple sites, competitiveness varies by year group and campus, with some year groups and the popular Senior School Voorschoten filling faster than others. Proof of prior schooling and, at times, an interview or assessment for older applicants should be expected.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (9)

SPORT: Izzy Westbury

LETTERS: Joseph O'Neill, Konrad Bartelski, Victoria Hollins

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_4a449cf90c.