Access and Admissions Policy 2022/23

Philosophy

St Dominic's International School (SDIS) is a fully inclusive school which follows the International Baccalaureate Curriculum and offers an international education from the ages of 3-18. It provides an education for students who may move to/from schools in other countries, or who have Portugal as a base and wish to study in the English language. Admission is open to any student. The school facilitates access to the curriculum we offer in order to create a good chance of success in the IB programmes.

Purpose

- To ensure that all students admitted to the school have access to the IB programmes
- To ensure that the school provides the necessary resources to enable all students to access the IB Programmes

General admission conditions

Admission is primarily based on previous school reports, with the requirement that they reflect a positive attitude towards school life. Any special educational needs must be declared by the parents and/or previous school. The Heads of School, in conjunction with the Learning Support Department, will decide whether the school has the necessary resources to accommodate the child. A decision on entry will be made accordingly.

The curriculum is delivered mainly in English, which is used in all areas of the school. There is an EAL programme across the school to support students with little or no prior knowledge of English. Students entering in Grades 9 or above should have a good level of English in order to be successful in the MYP and DP.

SDIS policy is to place students in the correct grade for their age: age bands run from January 1st to December 31st. A student may be placed a grade below or above if there are strong reasons to do so.

Applications for admission are accepted throughout the year, if there is availability in the grade level.

Applications to join grades 11 (mid-year) and 12 would be subject to the student having transferred from an IB school with a good subject match.

St. Dominic's International School, Portugal®

Veritas Educatio – Educação e Serviços S.A.
NIPC 508318289

R. Maria Brown, Outeiro de Polima,
2785-816 S. Domingos de Rana, Portugal
Tel: +351 21 444 04 34 / 448 05 50
Fax: +351 214 443 072

school@dominics-int.org
www.dominics-int.org

Member of Educational Collaborative of International Schools. Member of the Council of International Schools and Accredited by The New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Access to the IB programmes

PYP

The school implements the PYP for all students across all early years and grades 1 to 5 in the Junior School.
The PYP is open to any student in these grade levels.
The Junior School curriculum is based around the PYP curriculum framework and the PYP Scope and Sequences to establish the learning outcomes for each grade level. This ensures that the PYP curriculum at
SDIS has the flexibility to be accessible to all students.

MYP

The school implements the MYP for all students in grades 6 to 10 in the Senior School. The MYP is open to any student in these grade levels. The MYP is inclusive by design; students of all interests and academic abilities can benefit from their participation. All students complete the Personal Project for the MYP.

Unit planners are reviewed regularly and, if necessary updated, based on departmental reflections, student interest, analysis of e-assessment results and MYP curriculum updates.

DP

The school implements the DP for all students in grades 11 and 12 in the Senior School. The DP is open to any student in these grade levels.

All students are given the opportunity to start the full IB Diploma Programme at the start of Grade 11. Continued participation in the full DP is based on academic performance, maturity, motivation and attitude to work. If the school feels that it is in the best interests of students to move to DP courses, then the school makes this recommendation to students and their families.

Students are given guidance during Grade 10 to help them to choose the correct DP subject options based on their ability and interests.

Where a student has specific needs, which the school does not have the resources to support, but it is felt that the child has the capacity, with dedicated support, to access the curriculum we offer, the school will ask the parents to provide this support. An offer of a place will be contingent upon this support being provided, and continued as long as the school deems necessary.

EAL

At St. Dominic's, we welcome students from around the world and our students come to us with diverse cultural identities and language skills. After assessing each student's individual language needs, we design a programme that best helps each one achieve academic success. This may include in-class support or differentiated lessons in the EAL classroom.

The four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are not separate but inter-related, so our approach to teaching language is holistic.

To ensure effective learning, EAL teachers work alongside class teachers to plan, teach and assess students' understanding of our curriculum.

Learning Support

At St. Dominic's we believe every student is entitled to have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and level of attainment no matter what personal or social barriers they may experience. When a student is identified as having an educational need, he/she is assessed by the Learning Support Department to better help design and allocate support and therefore remove learning barriers. This support can include in-class accommodations and individual or group support.

The Learning Support Department works closely with teaching staff providing them with the specific tools to help and address every student's specific needs (educational, emotional, behavioral) during class, assessments or assignments.

Progression between programmes (PYP/MYP/DP)

Progression from PYP to MYP is automatic, except in situations where the parents have been advised prior to the end of term 1 (December) of grade 5 that progression may be in question. In such cases, the school will work with the family to help them find suitable solutions for their child's future schooling.

Progression from MYP to DP requires completion of the MYP. Those students who do not achieve the MYP certificate are allowed to start the full DP but with certain conditions with regards to academic performance and attitude to work. Students who do not meet these conditions will be required to move to DP courses or, in extreme cases, repeat a grade level.

Progression between grades within a programme

Students are occasionally required to re-sit a grade level. This decision is made by the school based on academic performance and attendance. Students are only required to re-sit a grade level in extreme circumstances and when the school feels that it is in the best interests of the student to do so.

This document will be reviewed and revised by June 2025.

St. Dominic's International School, Portugal®

Veritas Educatio – Educação e Serviços S.A.
NIPC 508318289

R. Maria Brown, Outeiro de Polima,
2785-816 S. Domingos de Rana, Portugal
Tel: +351 21 444 04 34 / 448 05 50
Fax: +351 214 443 072

school@dominics-int.org
www.dominics-int.org

Member of Educational Collaborative of International Schools. Member of the Council of International Schools and Accredited by The New England Association of Schools and Colleges.