

DUCKS

DULWICH COLLEGE KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL
AGES 2-7



DULWICH COLLEGE | SINGAPORE |





INTRODUCTION

Dulwich College Kindergarten School (DUCKS) caters to students from ages 2 to 7, providing a happy and purposeful introduction to learning.

DUCKS is a community where children are at the heart of everything we do. Children are inspired and have the freedom to inquire and steer their own learning. There is an atmosphere of mutual respect where learning is fun and children's well-being is prioritised. We believe that learning is a process and not a destination, where every child can access the learning taking place. Here our children are happy and have the opportunity to communicate, collaborate and succeed.

In DUCKS our approach to learning is student-centred and cross-curricular. Our inquiry-based learning model nurtures learning dispositions and engages students in topics in which they express interest. Children learn how to communicate their ideas and listen to others, to solve problems and to persevere with relevant tasks.

Just as each child has different interests, each child has an individual learning style. We understand that students make progress in different areas at different rates and we work closely with parents to support their child's unique learning journey.

Joanne Woodward
Head of DUCKS



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



- Library
- Food Technology Room
- Sports Hall
- Forest School
- Butterfly Garden
- Creative Area
- Specialist Music Room
- Bike Track
- Black Box Theatre
- Performing Arts Centre
- Swimming Pool



The purpose-built state-of-the-art DUCKS campus offers outstanding facilities designed to nurture the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of our youngest students at Dulwich. Our world class facilities include three swimming pools, playing fields and indoor gymnasium, a rooftop bike track, DUCKS library, two dining rooms, butterfly garden, water play area, Forest School, and a professional kitchen. DUCKS children also have regular access to the Performing Arts Centre with three theatres.

A photograph of four children in a studio-like setting. A boy in a red polo shirt is in the center, arms raised, mouth open as if shouting or singing. To his left, another boy in a red shirt is seen from the back. To his right, a girl in a light blue dress is looking down. On the far right, another boy in a grey shirt is partially visible. Studio lights and equipment are in the background.

OUR CURRICULUM

In DUCKS, the focus is on educating the whole child and progresses from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in Toddler, Nursery and Reception to an enhanced version of the English National Curriculum (ENC) in Years 1 and 2. The aim is to strike a balance between student self-guided exploration and explicit teaching of core competencies, particularly in reading, writing, phonics, maths and Mandarin, ensuring that children are able to meet developmental milestones and achieve their academic potential. Above all, the focus is on developing confident and happy children with a zest for life and a love of learning.

TODDLER / NURSERY / RECEPTION

The curriculum in Foundation Stage is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS) which provides a framework for the education of children from birth to five years old.

The Prime Areas covered are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

The Specific Areas covered are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Under these seven areas of learning, staff guide and facilitate a range of exciting and stimulating curricular activities that enable each child to achieve the goals and objectives appropriate to his or her individual stage of development.

YEAR 1 / YEAR 2

The curriculum in Years 1 and 2 is based on the National Curriculum for England and aims to ensure that young people become successful learners, confident individuals, and responsible citizens. The structure of the curriculum has been designed to provide breadth and balance whilst maintaining focus on English and maths. There is a strong emphasis on children's personal development, including the development of learning and thinking skills and personal, social and emotional skills.

All areas of learning are delivered to the children through the teaching of concepts, with the exception of maths and elements of English, which may be taught as discrete subjects.



YEAR GROUP	NO. OF CLASSES	CLASS SIZE	NO. OF ADULTS PER CLASS	ADULT/CHILD RATIO
Toddler (Pre Nursery)	2	16	4	1:4
Nursery 3 to 4 Years	6	16	3	3:16
Reception 4 to 5 years	8	20	2.5	1:8
Year 1 5 to 6 years	10	22	2	1:11
Year 2 6 to 7 years	10	22	2	1:11



MANDARIN DUAL LANGUAGE APPROACH

Children in DUCKS benefit from being exposed to Mandarin throughout the day, courtesy of the Chinese co-teacher who works in partnership with the class teacher to deliver a dual language programme. This programme focuses on all aspects of the curriculum as well as interactions, storytelling and role play in the development of the children's listening and speaking skills in Mandarin with literacy for children who show a readiness for this learning.

Dual Language learning is a fundamental part of our student development and to enhance this approach children from Reception to Year 2 have additional daily differentiated Mandarin lessons for up to an hour. Our approach is based upon a range of recognised theory about how children learn language and has been developed through in-depth academic and action research by our own leaders and teachers. The programme exposes young learners to English and Mandarin in their natural learning context throughout the day as well as formal language opportunities.

By providing an environment rich in learning opportunities, with one teacher focusing on English and a second on Mandarin, young children gain the confidence to use language with meaning rather than just through imitation.



HIGH POTENTIAL LEARNERS

In DUCKS a balance is struck between student self-guided explorations and explicit teaching of core competencies, particularly in reading, writing, phonics, maths and Mandarin, ensuring that children are able to meet developmental milestones and achieve their academic potential. Teachers extend and challenge students in areas of strength and interest. This might involve additional maths for children who demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of numbers or enabling children to lead a lesson on a subject they have particular knowledge in.



LEADERSHIP

There is also a variety of leadership positions open to DUCKS children including Student Council, House Captains, Global Guardians, Creative Stars, Reading Rockets and Techsperts. This allows each child to follow their own personalised pathway within a range of curriculum areas. Dulwich believes that all children should have the opportunity to meet their potential and perform highly in areas in which they have particular talents and skills.





SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Specialist teachers are a particular highlight of the Early Years Programme at Dulwich. All DUCKS children have weekly swimming lessons using the school's three pools, and from the age of 5 years old, the children have specialist PE, music and choir lessons. The children also have weekly specialist library lessons in a beautiful dedicated Early Years library and plenty of opportunities for drama, with all children performing in the 740-seat professional theatre regularly. The DUCKS specialist teacher programme allows children who have particular talents to excel and meet their own potential in specific areas of the curriculum like music, sport, drama and art.



FOREST SCHOOL

Dulwich was the first international school in Singapore to introduce Forest School, accredited by the UK's Forest School Learning Initiative (FSLI), into the DUCKS Early Years programme. We are pioneering the movement here to provide real world learning and problem-solving opportunities to young children in a natural environment. Forest School builds on the Nordic concept of 'Friluftsliv' (open-air living) – going back to the forest – where the landscape itself provides both the stimulus and the arena of learning and has myriad positive effects on children's physical and mental wellbeing.

The opportunity to learn through nature sees children flourish in a range of skills, not least language and literacy. The natural environment gives children an opportunity to take measured risks, collaborate with peers, design their own challenges and problem-solve. In DUCKS, children go to Forest School with the Forest School leader and undertake activities such as making a fire, roasting marshmallows, sawing wood or digging trenches. This allows children to develop and apply academic skills, build emotional resilience, and learn to manage risk through self-initiated interactions with nature.





CELEBRATIONS

We love celebrating in DUCKS! We celebrate many different cultural festivals throughout the year such as Deepavali, Christmas, Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival and Hari Raya and the children take part in dress up days, theatre performances and activities with parents and guest speakers which facilitates deeper learning.



ENRICHMENT

Through a variety of enrichment activities, children develop an awareness of the world beyond the school and a deeper understanding of their community. They begin to develop an understanding of the ways they can help improve their immediate environment and the lives of those around them. Developing a sense of others and an ethos of helping those less fortunate begins early and is encouraged through activities that are meaningful to the children.

Our Enrichment programme provides a wealth of opportunity for students to develop a passion for, and develop their skills in, a full range of sports, performing arts and academic enrichment activities. In DUCKS it is the student council members, House representatives and class 'techsperts' who lead, support and organise activities and events throughout the year.

From Reception, all children become involved with the House system. The sense of community this builds fosters a team spirit and sense of pride, which is further developed as children continue through the College.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parent communication and collaboration is absolutely key at this stage of the children's educational journey. The following are ways in which DUCKS communicates with parents:

- Weekly newsletter from your child's class teacher with information about what they have been learning that week.
- An online learning portfolio called Tapestry where teachers can upload videos, photographs and pieces of work to capture your child's learning journey.
- Stay and Play sessions where parents are invited into the classroom to do activities with the children.
- Home link books/emails for written messages between parents and teachers.



FRIENDS OF DULWICH

Friends of Dulwich is an integral and supportive part of our community. All parents are members of the Friends of Dulwich and many parents choose to become active in the organisation. Parents can choose to serve on the Friends of Dulwich Committee, act as Class Parent Representatives, take part in social activities, or volunteer to help with the many charitable events sponsored by Friends of Dulwich.



**"Once in the Dulwich fold, you
will surely find it hard to leave"**

The Good Schools Guide





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71 Bukit Batok West Avenue 8, Singapore 658966



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