

SKAGERAK

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Overview of the Primary and Kindergarten sections



The Kindergarten and Primary sections of Skagerak International School are situated on the waterfront of Framnes in the small picturesque seaside town of Sandefjord, Norway. We share the campus with the Middle School and High School.

We are a small school, one class per grade level, which prides itself on the friendliness of its atmosphere and the quality of the education offered.

The Kindergarten and Primary school started in 2000 and was authorized to run the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme in 2006 at its Virik site. Our first successful programme evaluation occurred in May 2009 and then we moved to our current location in December 2011. Having all four school sections on the same campus has allowed for more collaboration among staff, students, and parents. Our next IB PYP programme evaluation will be in May 2014. Together with the Middle School (MYP) and High School (DP), we ensure that a continuous IB education is offered from kindergarten through high school graduation, the first of its kind in Norway.

There are approximately 120 students in the Kindergarten and Primary sections which conclude with PY6. The school day runs from 8:45 am until 3:05 pm with before and after-school care provided by paid assistants. Each class at the Primary School receives specialist Norwegian, physical education, music, and information technology lessons.

The staff members are currently from USA, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Netherlands, Denmark and Norway. Many have impressive experience at international schools throughout the world.

We have a maximum class size of 18 in Kindergarten, PY1, and PY2, and a maximum class size of 20 in PY4-PY6. We attract students from the local community and multinational companies.

We have a well organized Programme of Inquiry (POI), which is periodically reviewed. Scheduling guarantees collaborative staff planning time within the school day each week: We place a high priority on training staff in the PYP, organizing in-service days and sending staff to regional workshops and other schools to visit.

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Welcome to Norway and Sandefjord

Sandefjord is a small coastal city in southern Norway (population 45,000). A compact town centre, parks, pedestrian areas and a variety of shops combine to create a friendly atmosphere. There are excellent sporting facilities and clubs available in the surrounding area. Vestfold county offers excellent skiing, sailing, and hiking. Being the cradle of Viking civilization means that here are numerous historic sites in the area. Living in Sandefjord provides a great opportunity to learn about Norwegian history and culture, to experience aspects of the Scandinavian lifestyle and to see this picturesque and dramatic country in all four seasons.

Sandefjord is ideal for families but also for those who want a base for European travel. An international airport is right on our doorstep, 15 minutes from the school by car. There are several flights a day to Copenhagen and Amsterdam, which are hubs for all major airlines. Direct flights go frequently to many European destinations via Ryanair and Norwegian Air. There are budget daily flights to Eastern Europe on Wizz Air. Charter flight deals to various locations are also available during the holidays.

We have a direct link to Strömstad, Sweden, via a daily ferry service and many take advantage of this route in order to stock up on duty free goods. There is also a ferry to Denmark departing from Larvik (15 minutes away) and the Copenhagen and Kiel ferries depart daily from Oslo.

Oslo is two hours away by train or car and, despite being Norway's capital city, it has a relatively small population and a low-key atmosphere, with a mixture of old medieval buildings and churches, modern architecture, wide streets, excellent museums and galleries, top quality cultural events, great shopping and acres of parks and gardens.

For the past few years a United Nation's survey has found that Norway provides the best quality of life available in the world. Being a small oil-rich country on the borders of the E.U., Norway deserves its reputation for being a clean, safe, high-tech state that enjoys excellent health care, generous social services and a modern community infrastructure.

