
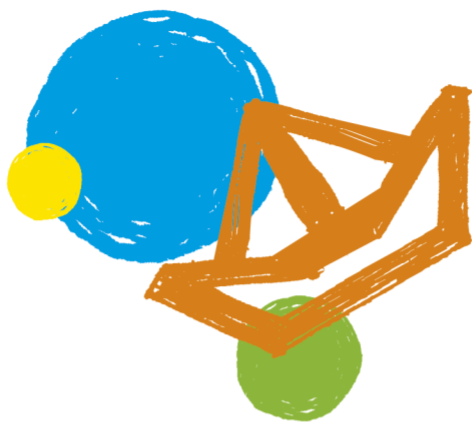




Group Placement

2025-2026



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**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**



PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS

At Optimist International School (OIS), students are typically placed in a class that aligns with their chronological age. Our placement guidelines follow an academic year running from *October 1st to September 30th*.

Programme Overview

OIS offers an international primary curriculum, with an additional Dutch Enrichment Programme (DEP)* available from Group 6 onwards.

Dutch Enrichment Programme (DEP)*

The DEP is designed for students who wish to enhance their academic Dutch proficiency, supporting their integration into Dutch society and facilitating a smoother transition to secondary education in the Netherlands. More details about the DEP can be found on our [website](#).

Class Structure & Age Groups

International Programme

Our primary school follows the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and caters to children aged 4 to approximately 11 years old in:

- Group 1 to Group 7

Dutch Enrichment Programme (DEP)

The DEP also follows the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and is available from Group 6 to Group 8, catering to children aged 9 to approximately 12 years old.

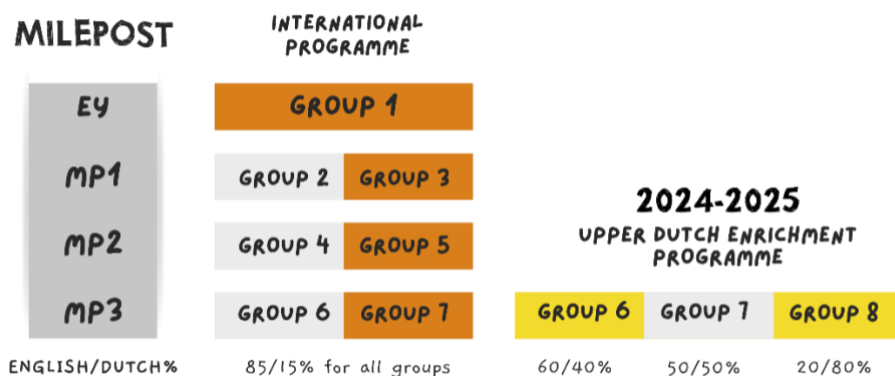
International Primary Curriculum (IPC) & Mileposts

The IPC curriculum is organised into Mileposts (MP), with each spanning one, two, or three academic years. Within these Mileposts, we may have single-year groups or combination groups, depending on the cohort size and educational needs.

Milepost Structure

| Milepost | Groups | Programme |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Early Years (EY) | Navigators, Sailors & Voyagers | International Programme |
| Milepost 1 (MP1) | Groups 2 and 3 | International Programme |
| Milepost 2 (MP2) | Groups 4 and 5 | International Programme |
| Milepost 3 (MP3) | Groups 6 and 7 | International Programme |
| Milepost 3 (MP3) – DEP | Groups 6, 7, and 8 | Dutch Enrichment Programme |

Below is our road map



Student Placement & Progression

Students are placed in a **class/milepost** alongside peers of the same or similar ages. This approach is designed to support their **academic, social, behavioural, and emotional development**, enabling them to thrive and learn effectively within the curriculum.

Age-Based Placement & Exceptions

- In most cases, students are placed according to their **chronological age** to ensure a balanced learning experience.
- **Exceptions** to this guideline are rare and are based on the child's **readiness, developmental needs, and school assessment**.
- Any placement outside the standard age group requires a **thorough evaluation** and a final decision by the **Director of Optimist International School** in consultation with the **school counsellor, class teacher, and parents**.



School Entry & Cut-Off Dates

In the **Netherlands**, students typically begin their educational journey the **month they turn four years old**, entering **Group 1**. This rolling admission system allows children to start school as soon as they are eligible, rather than waiting for the next academic year.

- The **cut-off date** for determining the school year a child enters is **October 1st**.
- **Children who turn 4 before October 1st** start **Group 1 at the beginning of the school year** (August or September).
- **Children who turn 4 on or after October 1st** begin school on their **fourth birthday**, joining during the academic year.

Upon completion of Group 1, children move to **Group 2** at the start of the **next school year**, provided they turn **five before October 1st**.

- Due to staggered start dates in Group 1, some students spend more time in this group than others, ranging from **10 months (for children born on October 1st)** to **1 month (for children born on September 30th the following year)**.
- This structure ensures all children **adjust, learn, and develop at their own pace** before transitioning to more structured learning in **Group 2**.

Personalised Placement Discussions

We engage in **personalised discussions** with parents to ensure the best possible placement for their child.

- Firstly, an online or face to face conversation takes place with the admissions manager.
- The **school counsellor** or **early years admissions lead** assesses each child's needs, and the final placement decision is made by the **Admissions Manager/Director of Optimist International School**.
- Parents are involved in this process, and no placement is finalised without prior consultation.

For students joining groups 2 to 8 **mid-year**, we insist on an **initial classroom visit** before starting, this helps them **acclimate to the teacher, classmates, and school environment**.


'Come and Play' Sessions for Early Years

For our youngest students in **Early Years**), we offer a '**Come and Play**' session before they officially join. This introductory experience supports a **smooth transition into the school environment** and allows the child to feel comfortable before their first day.

Initial Assessment & Adjustment Period

During the first few weeks of school, all students undergo an **initial evaluation** to assess their adaptation and learning progress.

- If adjustments to group placement are needed, recommendations are made in consultation with the **class teacher, school counsellor, and Director**.

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- Any changes in placement are only made after a **discussion with parents** to ensure alignment with the child's needs.

Class Sizes & Combination Groups

At **Optimist International School**, we aim to maintain **small class sizes**, with a **maximum of 22 students per class**.

- If a class temporarily exceeds this number, **additional teaching support** is provided to ensure quality education.
- We offer both **single-year groups** and **combination classes** (where students from two-year levels learn together), particularly within a **milepost**.

Combination classes provide:

- A **collaborative learning environment** where older and younger students can engage with diverse perspectives.
- **Flexible instruction** tailored to individual learning needs.
- A **continuity of learning** within the **International Primary Curriculum (IPC)** and **Dutch Enrichment Programme (DEP)**.

Placing students, important factors:

When placing students in a class or restructuring a group, we carefully consider a range of factors, including **mixed ability levels, social-emotional and learning diversity needs, English language proficiency, and gender balance**. At the end of each academic year, our **teaching staff and Management Team** assess whether a class will remain the same or be reorganized to best support student learning and development.

Due to the **dynamic nature of our international school**, students join and leave throughout the year. In exceptional cases, based on enrolment changes, we may need to **split a group or combine two groups** mid-year to ensure a balanced and supportive learning environment. Our priority is always to create the best possible educational experience for every child.

GROUP PLACEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Year Group Placement Guide

| Date of Birth | Age | OIS formation | British System (UK) | K-12 System (US/India) | Notes |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1 Oct 2021 – 30 Sep 2022 | 4 | Group 1 | Foundation (Reception) | Pre-School (Pre-K) | First year of formal schooling |
| 1 Oct 2020 – 30 Sep 2021 | 4 – 5 | Group 1 | Foundation (Reception) | Pre-School (LKG) | Older students in Group 1 |
| 1 Oct 2019 – 30 Sep 2020 | 5 – 6 | Group 2 | Key Stage 1 – Year 1 | Kindergarten (UKG) | Transition to early primary education |
| 1 Oct 2018 – 30 Sep 2019 | 6 – 7 | Group 3 | Key Stage 1 – Year 2 | Grade 1 | Students begin structured learning |
| 1 Oct 2017 – 30 Sep 2018 | 7 – 8 | Group 4 | Key Stage 2 – Year 3 | Grade 2 | Focus on independent learning skills |
| 1 Oct 2016 – 30 Sep 2017 | 8 – 9 | Group 5 | Key Stage 2 – Year 4 | Grade 3 | Building academic and social skills |
| 1 Oct 2015 – 30 Sep 2016 | 9 – 10 | Group 6 | Key Stage 2 – Year 5 | Grade 4 | Eligible for Dutch Enrichment Programme (DEP) |
| 1 Oct 2014 – 30 Sep 2015 | 10 – 11 | Group 7 | Key Stage 2 – Year 6 | Grade 5 | Final year before transition to secondary education in UK system |
| 1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sep 2014 | 11 – 12 | Group 8 | Key Stage 3 – Year 7 | Grade 6 | Final year of primary education in Dutch/US system |

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