



Inspectie van het Onderwijs  
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap

## Inspectorate of Education Evaluation

Text taken from the report

Four-yearly evaluation board and schools  
Stichting Openbaar Primair Onderwijs  
Haarlemmermeer (SOPHO)

Released on  
10 October 2019

Kwaliteitszorg en ambitie	O	V	G
KA1 Kwaliteitszorg			2
KA2 Kwaliteitscultuur			2

Quality assurance: **good**  
Quality culture: **good**

*“Thorough, ambitious and cyclical process of  
quality assurance”*

*“The ‘quality culture’ is the school's strong  
point”*

**OPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL**

At the end of the evaluation the inspectors called Optimist International School a true pearl within international education. They wrote in their report how they came to this evaluation:

### *Thorough, ambitious and cyclical process of quality assurance*

During the recent inspection of the Optimist International School, the quality assurance at the school was judged to be 'good'. The quality assurance system is characterised by a highly cyclical process in which the management is very self-critical. The vision and goals of the school are clear and attuned to the pupil population, which is well understood. Everything is properly documented, and the entire school's development is related to learning. The management is ambitious with clear goals in mind. The development of education is directly linked to these goals. Those involved with the school are constantly asking themselves the question: what is the next step and how can we do even better? If the answer is not immediately clear, good use is made of a network of several external experts. This reflective attitude has resulted in a strong concept being developed within a short period of time, and the management deserves a big compliment for this.

It is still unclear how the school fits within the quality assurance of the Board. Although the director is critical enough of herself, the Board should also think about how it intends to monitor the quality of this special school. The school also indicated that it feels this is the right moment for more connection within the Board. We think this is a good thing and we also advise them to give the school a more international look and feel. Given the upcoming move, there is an obvious opportunity to address this in the new design. The decision to allow the international department to become an independent school has created room for further growth and profiling as an international school.

### *The 'quality culture' is the school's strong point*

The quality culture was also appraised as 'good'. The management has established a clear culture of learning with and from each other. Maybe this seems logical for a new school, but in our experience it is not self-evident at this school. The members of staff all have different personalities and come from different cultures and backgrounds. The management has succeeded in turning this diverse group into one team that works dedicated and focused on the goals and vision of the school, that they have drawn up together. In order to achieve this, management makes frequent classroom visits to ensure the 'standards' developed together with the teachers are being achieved. This makes it clear to the teachers what is expected of them. The feedback from the classroom visit is processed into an individual development plan per teacher. The questions asked are: what do you want to develop further? How are you going to do this and what help do you need?

### *Other legal requirements*

Within the scope of the inspection, no deficiencies were discovered with regard to any other legal requirements.