LANGUAGE FRIENDLY SCHOOL PORTRAIT

Winford Bilingual Primary School

Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Overview

WINFORD BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Location: Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Type of school: Bilingual Primary School, private, English (UK National Curriculum), Dutch (Dutch curriculum), International Primary Curriculum
- Number of students: 80
- Number of staff: 12
- Languages spoken in school community top 6: Dutch, English, Spanish, Italian, French, Bulgarian
- Language Friendly certified since: 2020
Motivation for becoming a Language Friendly School

THEIR STORY

Winford Bilingual strives to be an inclusive community for families that have chosen to make the Netherlands their long term home. We celebrate and welcome the diversity of all of our students. We assign language buddies to any incoming students and families who do not speak Dutch and/or English at home. We translanguage home language skills to school language skills. We encourage families to continue to read in Mother tongue languages at home and encourage children to share stories, traditions and other cultural events with their classmates.
At Winford Bilingual, when students come into the school, they are paired with a language buddy. At the same time, their parents become parent buddies, because parents moving new to Amsterdam have a need for new connections.

For new students who neither speak Dutch or English, there is a form with the most common phrases that are used in school in Dutch and English. The children and their parents can fill in the phrases and words in their own language, so the teacher can understand what a child wants to communicate and vice versa. Also, when they say it to the teacher, the teacher will be able to let the child try to reflect on it.

On Fridays, the children can bring an item from home, that reflects their home life. In the classroom they can tell about this in a language they prefer.
Benefits

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A LANGUAGE FRIENDLY SCHOOL

For Winford Bilingual Primary School it is important to get new ideas on how to involve parents. All students and teachers should feel “at home” at school. Their languages should be accepted and presented in their learning environment. A network of schools can be helpful to explore opportunities for increased openness and curiosity in the education of children and to learn about the challenges and obstacles to the realisation of these opportunities.
Plans for the Future

WINFORD BILINGUAL

INCLUDE FAMILIES

For the upcoming school year, we want to invite families to share more cultural holidays, events and experiences with us as a means for our community to more inclusive. We hope by that explaining and highlighting our 6 week International Primary calendars will help parents feel more connected to the classrooms and give them an opportunity to participate more. Also to increase awareness among teachers, staff and students, we will organize teacher training, workshops and information events for parents. Language Related FAQ’s for teachers, students and families
Useful Links

Website Winford Bilingual Primary School
MAIN LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY STUDENTS

ENGLISH, DUTCH, ITALIAN, SPANISH, FRENCH, BULGARIAN
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