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## Frequently asked questions

### ***What are your fees?***

As a state funded school, we have no school fees. We do ask for a voluntary contribution of £365.00 per year to support the bilingual aspect and our beautiful but expensive site, and we ask for a voluntary contribution for trips. Some trips are voluntary and the parents are asked to cover the costs for their children. An estimated cost per year for the trips can be found in the parent handbook.

### ***Where can I buy the school uniform?***

There is no uniform at the Europa School. However pupils are expected to dress sensibly for the weather and activities and to look smart, ready for learning. Children should take off any outdoor clothing, e.g. headwear, scarves, gloves and coats, in class. For safety reasons, please don't wear large hoops or dangly earrings.

### ***Can I apply for a place mid-year?***

Yes, you can fill in the county council's in year transfer form any time.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/starting-school/transferring-or-moving-school>

### ***My child does not speak German or French (or English), can he/she still go to your school?***

Language is not an entry requirement, so the answer is yes. It does require that your child will work very hard to catch up. This will take a number of years, and can only succeed if your child is very motivated.

### ***We live outside of Oxfordshire, can we obtain a place?***

The secondary is at the moment less oversubscribed than our primary, so we would encourage you to apply. We only use our oversubscription criteria if there is only a limited amount of spaces for more applicants. Please bear in mind that you have to make the application to your county council, who will transmit it to Oxfordshire county council.

### ***I do not understand how the nodal points work. Can you give an example please?***

When we receive the list with applicants from the county council, they provide for each applicant their distance from each nodal point:

		Node 1	Node 2	Node 3
John Smith	Europa Lane 32	1.25 miles	5.69 miles	9.58 miles
Lucie Brown	Ginger Brook 15	2.65 miles	22.36 miles	5.36 miles
Reese White	Le Champ Verte 201, Paris, France	100 miles	100 miles	100 miles



If it is an in-year application and we have 1 place, we will have to calculate which point we will need to fill. We will deduct the siblings and then calculate the balance in the class (N1 50%, N2 35% and N3 15%). The point that is out of balance, will need the new pupil. If we have to fill nodal point 2, we will look who lives closest to nodal point 2, in this case John Smith. If we have to fill nodal point 3, the place will go to Lucie Brown. Reese White with an address abroad will never be the closest unless there are no people on the waiting list or if the people before him refuse the place. This can happen when the school offers a place in the German class to a French child for example.

***My child is bilingual French already. Does he/she have priority?***

No, language or culture is not one of our admissions criteria. As a state-funded school, we look at all applications on an equal footing.

***I work for the European Commission, does my child have priority?***

Our school is subject to national admissions rules in the UK and has no bilateral agreement with the European Commission or Agencies.

***How and when do I apply?***

For a September entry in secondary, the applications need to be submitted the first week of June: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/transferring-or-moving-school>

If you move to the area during the course of the school year, you can fill in this same form at any time.

***My child is German, surely you will only offer a place for the German class in secondary?***

Even though this is the way the European School has always worked, as a state school we cannot make any differentiation based on background or culture, or even language knowledge until 6th form. If a place comes up in the French class, and your child has priority, we will offer the place to your child. If you accept it, we expect the parents and student to be fully behind the decision and challenge in order to tackle this language, and we will provide in-school support to help your child succeed.

If you do not wish to take the place up, you can turn it down, while remaining on the waiting list.

If we have a place in both classes, we will ask the applicant with the highest priority (based on the admissions ranking) for their preference. We will offer the other place to the lower ranking successful applicant. This means it can happen, that a child that speaks English only, but has a higher admissions ranking will take up the place in the German class, while we offer a child that only speaks German, with the lower ranking, a place in the French class. It is always up to the parents to accept or decline the place of course.

***Can I accept the place, but remain on the waiting list for the other class?***

The simple answer is – no-. We do not have a waiting list for the other class. When a child enters a class, but does not speak the language, the school invests a lot in helping the student get to the right level. It will only really work, if the student and family are behind the language and fully supportive. Your child will be less motivated, if they see it as a temporary waiting stage until a place comes up in the other class. It will also be disruptive for the other pupils in both classes.

***My child was in a school abroad, which year do I apply for?***

The County council will allocate your child a year group based on their date of birth. Schools can opt to change the year group. Please check with our admissions department if the year group corresponds. We can discuss together what would be best for your child if it does not.