

Q&A after Open Days

1. Parking, Drop-off, and Pick-up

Our facility's location is truly exceptional! Situated right in the center of Katowice, our school occupies one of the most beautiful buildings in the area. Within our campus, we have a beautifully restored historical building, a playground, and an additional building featuring two gymnasiums. All of this is nestled in the vibrant heart of Katowice, making it an extraordinary setting for our school.

Due to the central location, parking issues require consideration, just like in any city centre. We would like to provide you with options for drop-off and pick-up. It's important to highlight that our location presents Parents and children with exclusive opportunities to enjoy the advantages of Katowice's city center, including shopping, various services, and entertainment options. Additionally, older children have convenient access to an extensive public transportation network.

a. Pick-up point at Galeria Katowicka

We will arrange a pick-up point at Galeria Katowicka, where our staff member will safely pick up the children and escort them to the school. Parking at Galeria Katowicka is free and easily accessible until 9:00 am. The pick-up point will be located on the ground floor near the exit from Galeria towards our school.

b. School Pass and School Grounds Access

We can apply for passes that allow interested Parents access to our school grounds via Stawowa Street. However, we would like to inform you that the number of available passes is limited to a maximum of 20 in the 2023/2024 school year. We encourage you to consider option 1.a, which is parking at Galeria Katowicka.

c. Kiss and Ride on Mickiewicza Street

The school will arrange to have four parking spaces on Mickiewicza Street between the hours of 7:30 am to 8:30 am and 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

d. School Bus

We kindly request for Parents to inform us if they would like us to arrange transportation directly from the child's home to the school, as well as for the return trip home. Our staff will provide safe transportation for the children, choosing the shortest route to the school. This option will be additionally priced, taking into account travel time, distance, and the number of children. The daily fee for this type of transportation will not exceed 35 PLN. We will organize transportation in such a way that the travel time for children to and from school does not exceed 30 minutes in one direction.

2. Opening Hours and Months for the School and Preschool

The school and preschool hours are:

Monday to Friday: 7:30 to 17:30

Classes start at: 8:15 and end at 14:45

Both the school and preschool remain open throughout the year. During the summer and holiday periods, additional activities will be organized in different classes of combined age groups.

3. Playground

The playground and sports field for the primary school will be ready for the beginning of the school year in September 2023.

We invite you to view the visualizations in the section at the end of this document.

4. Gymnasium

In the neighbouring building, we have two gymnasiums that will be ready for the start of the school year in September 2023.

The first gymnasium is a spacious sports hall covering an area of 270 square meters, providing ample space for a variety of sports activities. Additionally, we have a second hall dedicated to dance, sports, and more, spanning an area of 70 square meters.

5. Meals

We offer meal services throughout the day, catering to the dietary needs of our students. We have a dedicated cafeteria for elementary school students and ensure that meals for preschool children are appropriately prepared and served. Our meals are supplied by a specialized catering company that focuses on providing healthy nutrition for children.

Our students enjoy three meals a day, including breakfast, a two-course lunch, and an afternoon snack. We offer a variety of dietary options, such as vegetarian, gluten-free, dairy-free, lactose-free, and egg-free choices. We strive to meet the diverse dietary needs of our students.

We kindly request Parents to inform us about any allergies, food intolerances, and any additional guidelines, such as a preference for a sugar-free diet.

6. After-School Activities

As part of the tuition fee, three weekly activities are provided free of charge.

Included in the price for all children are dance classes conducted by Egurrola Dance Studio.

The safety of children is our top priority, which is why we aim to avoid transporting them to other facilities for after-school activities. Our goal is to organize after-school activities on our campus, where we have two gymnasiums and additional classrooms in our main building.

We strive to offer a wide range of after-school activities that enable children to develop their interests in various fields, such as acrobatics, various sports disciplines (basketball, soccer, volleyball, etc.), music, art and intellectual pursuits (e.g., chess, experiments, and experiences). In most cases, these activities will take place on our campus to eliminate the need for transporting the children.

7. Teachers

In every classroom, two teachers will always be present. This strategic approach allows us to deliver a curriculum tailored to group activities and maintain the highest standards of Maple Bear. The presence of two teachers in the classroom enables us to adapt the pace of learning to each student's needs and ensures that our teachers can work effectively with groups and engage in individual interactions with the children.

Each class consists of a teacher who speaks Polish and a teacher who communicates exclusively in English. This setup allows Polish-speaking children to address teachers in Polish, while our teachers speak and respond in English to maximize bilingualism and adhere to the principle of English language immersion.

Our teachers undergo a rigorous recruitment process overseen by Ms. Liz Kazimowicz, our Academic Director from Canada, who brings extensive experience to the table. This ensures that our teaching staff is highly qualified not only in terms of English language proficiency and teaching skills but also in terms of the ethical and emotional qualities necessary for working with children according to Maple Bear standards.

8. Safety

a. Physical safety

All excursions outside the premises, including field trips, will be carried out in accordance with the Maple Bear Katowice Excursion Regulations and recorded in the logbook. Any student leaving the premises for reasons unrelated to scheduled educational activities will require written consent from the Parents.

The playground and sports facilities, including the gymnasium, are equipped with certified equipment approved for use with children. At the entrance of the playground, gymnasium, and other areas where physical activities take place, regulations are posted. Students are introduced to them during their initial classes and reinforced throughout the year.

The school strictly adheres to all legal regulations, particularly the Ministry of National Education Regulation concerning safety and hygiene in both public and non-public schools and institutions.

In the final week of August, all Maple Bear Katowice employees, including both teaching and non-teaching staff, undergo training on how to handle dangerous situations.

The building located at 6 Stawowa Street has undergone rigorous inspections and has received positive evaluations from both the Chief of the State Fire Service in Katowice and the District Epidemiological Station in Katowice.

b. Psychological well-being

In order to ensure the psychological well-being and support of students, the school employs a team consisting of a pedagogue, psychologist, and special education teacher. They are dedicated to providing comprehensive care and offering psychological and pedagogical assistance to all students.

9. Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones may be brought to school for safety purposes and communication with Parents, but their use during classes is strictly prohibited. Students are required to store their mobile phones in their lockers during school hours. Mobile phones may only be used with prior permission from a teacher.

10. Adaptation period

Our global experience in over 510 locations worldwide confirms or demonstrates that parental presence in classrooms is not required.

Our teachers and staff create a welcoming and enjoyable environment for children right from the moment they arrive. We saw this in action during our Open Days, when children who visited our school for the first time had a fantastic time and didn't want to leave. It's truly heartwarming to witness even the initially shy children, who may have had some concerns, quickly making friends and feeling at ease in their new surroundings.

While Parents of preschool and school-age children are unable to be present inside the classrooms, they are welcome to remain on our premises to ensure that their child is comfortable in their classroom.

11. Religion

In our school, we adopt a secular approach to the topic of religion. We separate the religious sphere from the curriculum, focusing on universal values, Polish culture, and traditions. We have our own program that includes learning about the tradition, history, and culture of our country.

Religious classes will be organized in accordance with Polish legal regulations. This means that they will only take place when Parents express their desire for such classes at our school. We deeply respect the diverse beliefs and religions among our students and provide them with the opportunity to develop their own beliefs in accordance with the expressed will of their Parents.

12. Language Barrier for New Students

The organization of our educational program, as described in point 7 is a critical component that addresses the potential language barrier. During each session, we ensure the presence of two teachers: one who exclusively uses English and another who alternates between Polish and English. This approach, coupled with the effective peer-to-peer learning dynamics, especially in younger groups, allows us to swiftly overcome any initial discrepancies in language proficiency within the first few weeks of learning.

At Maple Bear Global and Maple Bear Poland, we have developed materials that address potential language barriers, particularly in the early stages of education.

During the initial days at Maple Bear Poland, we conduct assessments to evaluate students' language competencies and learning styles. This not only helps us gauge their current level of language proficiency but also enables us to personalize and potentially adjust our teaching programs to maximize their learning effectiveness.

With over 51,000 children successfully embracing multilingualism in Maple Bear schools, our teaching method, rooted in immersive experiences, empowers them to confidently navigate various languages.

13. Kinderpedia

Kinderpedia is an innovative app that allows Parents to communicate with the school in real-time. It provides Parents with easy access to essential information about their children, including class schedules, meal details, homework assignments, and projects.

Kinderpedia promotes transparency and encourages parental involvement in the teaching process, ensuring that no important information is missed. The app is intuitive and user-friendly, making it simple to search for specific information and communicate with teachers. With Kinderpedia, Parents can stay informed about school life and actively participate in their children's education.

14. Books

As part of the tuition at Maple Bear Poland, we provide a full set of books and learning materials required for the curriculum, both in English and Polish.

In the early years of education, we mainly utilize English-language books that enable children to develop their language skills in a dynamic and effective way.

15. Homework

Both in Kindergarten and the early years of primary education, Maple Bear Poland does not assign homework.

The schedule designed by Maple Bear Poland ensures that students have ample time to complete all tasks independently during their time at Kindergarten or School.

Optional tasks or extension activities may be available through Kinderpedia for students to work on outside of class time.

16. Recess and School Bells

In our school, bells are not used for grades 1-3.

Following our standards, we also do not use school bells in the later grades. It is the responsibility of the teachers to ensure that lessons start and end on time.

In Kindergarten, the recess periods are flexible and tailored to address the needs of the children. However, in elementary school, designated times are set for meal breaks, outdoor activities, and physical education classes.

17. Surveillance Cameras and Classroom Streaming

In Maple Bear facilities, surveillance cameras are not located in classrooms. Cameras are only present in common areas, such as hallways, cafeteria, and recreational areas, where they primarily serve to ensure security and facilitate effective communication within the facility.

18. Additional Languages

The introduction of a second modern language will occur when it is required by the Polish national curriculum, specifically during the second stage of education, which includes grades IV-VIII.

Furthermore, for Parents who may be interested, there is an option to introduce an additional language through after-school activities.

19. Toilet Facilities

At Maple Bear, we pay special attention to the comfort and safety of our youngest students. While we encourage independence among our students, we understand that some of the youngest children may require additional assistance in using the toilet. Our teachers are present and available to provide help and support to any child in need. We strive to create a friendly and nurturing environment where children feel at ease and are confident in knowing they can rely on our assistance and care.

20. Change of Shoes and Clothing

At Maple Bear, we require students to bring a change of shoes that they can independently put on and take off, in order to ensure good hygiene and maintain cleanliness inside the building.

Additionally, we kindly ask Parents to provide an extra set of clothes for their children to be prepared for situations which may require a change of clothing, such as getting wet.

We encourage children to dress themselves independently, but our teaching staff is always ready to assist when needed. Our goal is to foster independence in children while providing support in their daily routines.

VISUALIZATION

Hayhurst & Co Architects

Maple Bear - Katowice, Poland



3. Campfire

Around the 'campfire' - as a configuration for children to gather and share - like a forest school.

A place for small groups to gather informally. A space for socialisation in medium-sized groups and a space for group teaching in summer.



4. Mountains

Mountains are typical of Canadian and Southern Polish landscapes like the Rockies and Tatra mountains.

Rocks and boulders as a place to climb and develop physical strength and skill. This could be a hard surfaced area that also acts as space for planting, bug hotels and capturing other aspects of a biodiverse landscape.

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3.0 Proposed Site Landscape

Plan of Different Site Areas



Refer to the following pages for additional information

Plan Key

1. Main building (blanked out)
2. Gymnasium building (blanked out)
3. Pupil and Public Entrance
4. Service Area - Locked Bin Storage
5. Service Area - Covered Bin Storage
6. Main building entrance and gate
7. Service/ Kitchen entrance
8. Mountain Range / Boulders
9. Kindergarten playground
10. Ride on animals
11. Playground markings
12. Kindergarten cabin/ shelter
13. Kindergarten external store
14. Motor skills area (climbing and balance equipment)
15. Canopies - all-weather cover
16. Table tennis tables
17. Primary external store
18. The Mound
19. The Camp Fire
20. The Cabin
21. The Forest
22. Basketball Court (hall)
23. The Secret Garden, outdoor learning space

General Arrangement Site Plan

