

## **The international bilingual department of Institut Saint Joseph – Inspector’s Report – 2018**

All private, independent, and international schools in Denmark are supervised by an inspector certified by the Danish Ministry of Education. The supervisors assess the student body’s level of achievement in Danish, arithmetic; mathematics, and English, and whether the overall teaching of the school measures up to what is normally demanded in the municipal school system. If the standards are found inadequate, the supervisor must report it to the Ministry of Education. The supervisor also assesses the teaching of students with special needs and whether the school prepares its students to live and participate in a modern pluralistic society with gender equality.

Name of Supervisor/Inspector: Ebbe Forsberg – certified inspector

Dates of inspection visits: Tuesday, February 20; Wednesday, February 21; Thursday, February 22; Friday, February 23; Thursday, March 15; 2018.

Institut Sankt Joseph (Saint Joseph School) is a catholic school founded in 1858. The Danish department houses 604 students aged 5 – 16 yrs. It contains preschool, primary school with after school and secondary school. The international department contains 187 students and runs a bilingual program that consists of two curricula, taught in two languages. Approximately half of the lessons are taught in Danish following the Danish State Curriculum; whereas the other half (mathematics, English and science) are taught in English following the Cambridge International curriculum. The aim is that students are able to excel in both Danish and International school systems while in Denmark, and moreover, give students and families the flexibility to succeed in Denmark and abroad.

Although the students (or their parents) come from 81 countries and speak more than 33 languages at home, the school is based on traditional Danish educational values such as inclusion, democratic involvement and gender equality as core values.

The school describes its mission to make sure that each child has access to an academically challenging liberal arts education, which is composed of an ambitious and caring school environment grounded in professionalism, solidarity and Catholic-humanistic ideals.

In everyday teaching sufficient time for dialogue is valued, as is reflection and thoughtfulness, also in relation to existential and religious issues. The goal is that every student’s intellectual, creative and spiritual development is developed during his/her studies.



During my inspection I paid visits to several classes, joined the lessons, interviewed the teachers and the students and the head of the international department.

A few comments on each class:

In kindergarden class they are taught numbers and letters in both Danish and English by competent native speaking teachers. The school day begins with the determination of day, date, and month etc., followed by an overview of the day's schedule. Danish is a mandatory subject in all international schools in Denmark, and during my visit, I observed the grade 2 and 4 students in Danish reading sessions. Many of the students whose mother tongue is Danish excel, while a few who are new to Denmark strive to master the many complicated aspects of our language. The level of proficiency is generally good. Everyone participates eagerly and they help each other. All students are busy and engaged in solving the tasks.

In science the 10<sup>th</sup> graders prepared for the Danish State Exams in biology. The subjects were antibiotics, bacteria, virus infections and resistance. The rather complicated subjects were explained in a way that made it understandable to the students due to the highly qualified teacher. The students were active and engaged during the lessons.

Mathematics and science is taught in English in all classes. The students were familiarized with scientific terminologies in both English and Danish, and also here the level of participation and engagement was excellent.

When interviewed the students all expressed their great appreciation with the teachers and the school facilities. The teachers cooperate closely in order to improve the support of the students' learning environment.

Inspector's concluding evaluation:

The overall evaluation of the student body's level of achievement in Danish, arithmetic, mathematics, and English, and whether in general the teaching of the school measures up to what is normally demanded in the municipal school system. Evaluation of the student levels in Danish, English, mathematics, and arithmetic.

My inspection covered lessons with a great variety of teaching methods. I found that the students' skills in Danish, English and mathematics are at least on par with what is expected in Danish municipal schools.

The bilingual department of Institut Sankt Joseph is a part of an old catholic school with a fine reputation and I can confirm that it is an excellent school with room for many kinds of learners, particularly the ones interested in academics. The special needs department takes care of the students with all kinds of challenges.

Institut Sankt Joseph prepares the students to be part of a modern Danish society based on freedom of the individual and democracy. The school also develops and strengthens the students' knowledge of, and respect for, fundamental constitutions and human rights, including gender equality. The teaching is strongly influenced by student involvement and students' self-evaluation.

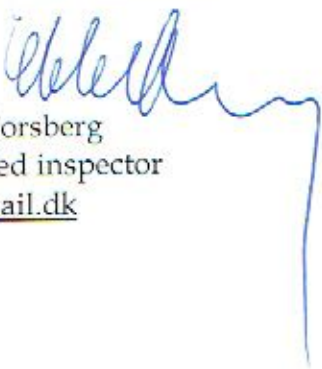
Institut Sankt Joseph is committed to being open and welcoming to students of all backgrounds.

The teaching language: Half of the lessons are taught in English and the rest in Danish.

Economic support:

Institut Sankt Joseph receives a state subsidiary in yearly grants that equal \$7.800 per student. Annual tuition for each student is \$3.300. The school is an independent foundation school. In 2017 the school received \$50.000 in donations.

Virum, April 10, 2018.

  
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