



**Stockholm
International
School**



Annual Review

2021/22

Director's report



If the 20-21 school year started still under the cloud of Covid, it ended with the warmth of our community and the prospect of a bright new future shining through.

The year ahead was to be celebrated as the 70th year of Stockholm International School, but we didn't know just how much we could come together, or share and enjoy the community spirit that is so much a part of what SIS stands for. Our Welcome Day for new parents had to be rigorously organized to minimize contact, and it felt that as much hand sanitizer as fika was consumed. When Stockholm's weather gods decided to look unkindly on us, it seemed our community ethos was to be put to the test.

But the resilience SIS students, staff, and families had shown at the peak of the pandemic continued to show through. Our parent community – the SPC – also had a 70th Anniversary to celebrate after all, and everyone set about their tasks to support, to educate, and to celebrate, with energy and optimism.

During the year international travel returned for programmes such as Erasmus+ and Model UN. Large groups could get together again making everything from our Spirit Week to our Spring Hat Day joyous occasions. The SPC was able to organize dances to celebrate the students' hard work, and graduates could once again throw themselves into the wonderful spirit of Utspring.

Two end of year events really signalled the 'return to normal' that we had all been wishing for. In May, our 70th Anniversary Gala saw over 200 members of our community gather at Berns Hotel – an event that raised over 330,000 SEK for the SIS Spirit Fund. And in early June, the biggest single gathering of the year, saw around 500 audience members and 100 performers celebrate seven decades of SIS through music, song, and drama.

Those seven decades of growth, ambition, and excellence were also reflected in some crucial work going on behind the scenes at SIS. For some years the School had been aware of the need to secure new premises to cope with the demand for our services in the Stockholm region, and to provide a secure basis on which to plan for the future. After many months of confidential negotiations we were able to announce in early May that we had secured a 25-year lease on the Norra Latin building. This landmark building at the heart of the city speaks as a metaphor for SIS: enduring, with immense presence, and a beacon of excellence. I'm immensely proud to lead the School into this bright new phase, and immensely grateful to the Board, and all my colleagues, who have helped make it possible.

María Isabel León
Director

The resilience SIS students, staff, and families had shown at the peak of the pandemic continued to show through.

The view from the Board



The Board of Trustees at SIS is there to ensure prudent management within the School. In particular, we oversee diligent management of funds so that we have financial stability and can plan for the long term.

Over recent years it has become apparent that securing new premises for the School would be instrumental to its ability to serve the growing demand for our services from Stockholm's international community, in a manner that is financially sustainable.

Nothing this year has given the Board greater pleasure than to declare that mission accomplished!

The lease we have agreed on Norra Latin – 25 years in duration – is remarkably long in the world of commercial real estate. It allows us to plan ahead with certainty and optimism, offer more and better facilities, increase student and staff numbers, and continue building our unique profile and enhanced reputation within Stockholm's international community.

The Board would like to place on record its thanks to Emma Jones, our Advancement Director, and Marisa León, our Director, for the many hours they spent diligently negotiating the contract, to the Senior Leadership Team, and all their colleagues who supported them throughout, and got the commercially sensitive – and necessarily confidential – process, to the finish line. The entire Board would also like to recognise the particular contributions of Jahn Henry Lövaas and Annika Henningson, who were the lead representatives of the Board in this process, and willingly shared their expertise, experience, and capacity, working closely with Emma and Marisa.

While attending to this major project, the School continued to grow, continued to achieve high standards and examination results, and celebrated seven decades of doing just that.

As we looked back on 70 years of the School last year, it gave us an immense feeling of satisfaction to see how the School had prospered, remained true to its history and mission, yet embraced modern values, modern methods, and modern teaching.

The Board feels confident that the new opportunities Norra Latin brings, coupled with the mission and vision we have articulated in our Strategic Plan for the next phase of development, will see SIS on a path to continued success, and make it a major contributor to the prosperity of its local community, and the well-being of the international community it is here to serve.



Signing day: Emma Jones, Advancement Director, and Maria Isabel León, Director, 'receive the key' to Norra Latin.

Governance

THE LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Two teams manage the operational aspects of the School's curriculum management, development, and administration.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT), headed by the Director, forms a close working unit that formulates strategy and guides the school through day-to-day processes.

The Educational Leadership Team (ELT), also led by the Director, collaborates and focuses on bringing teaching and learning to the highest levels throughout the school.

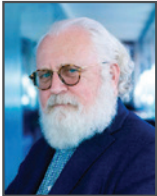










A number of key roles sit on both teams and, when necessary because of leave or other commitments, substitutes are appointed to those roles.

Membership of the teams during 2021/22 is shown alongside.

<p>SERVED IN ROLE(S) ALL YEAR</p> <p>SERVED IN ROLE(S) PART OF THE YEAR</p>	 Annica Wård Business Manager	 María Isabel León Director	 David Osler Primary School Principal and Deputy Director	 Jarno Ampuja DP Coordinator
	 Emma Jones Advancement Director	 Michael Moore Middle School Principal	 Christine Öman Upper School Principal	 Sandra Loureiro Head of Technology
		 Gunjit Sethi Dean of Students (until Dec '21)	 Jonathan Harper Dean of Students (from Dec '21)	 Bradley Lister MYP Co-ordinator (until Feb '22)
		 Harriet Martins Head of Learning and IPC Coordinator (until Feb '22)	 Bradley Lister Head of Learning (from Feb '22)	 Rebecca Gonzalez MYP Coordinator (from Feb '22)
			 Cheryl Holmgran IPC Coordinator (from Feb '22)	
	<p>SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM</p>		<p>EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM</p>	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021/22

As a not-for-profit Foundation, the School is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board oversees the management of the School and provides strategic direction. The Board is self-perpetuating and serves without remuneration.

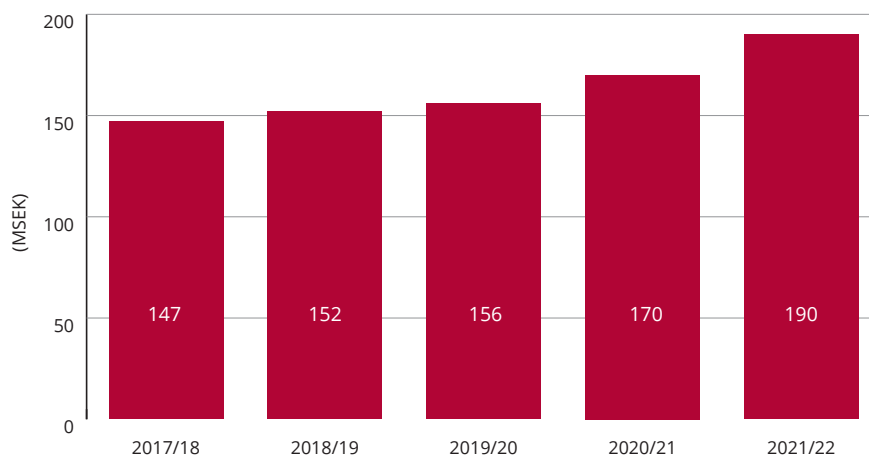
 Lage Jonason, Chair	 Annika Henningsson	 Jahn Henry Lövaas	 Philip McCrea	 Jan Ögren	 Fredrik Sand
 Arthur French	 Judith Gough	 Hans Skeppner (from Dec '21)	 Anna-Maria Malm (from Feb '22)	 Bradley Lister (until Feb '22)	

Financials

Rigorous financial discipline is central to the sustainability and future development of the School. As a not-for-profit foundation SIS is not setting out to generate dividends for shareholders, rather, any surplus is reinvested back into the School. SIS owns the building on Johannesgatan, which is a solid asset, and has no long-term debt, which leaves it well positioned to meet future challenges.

REVENUE

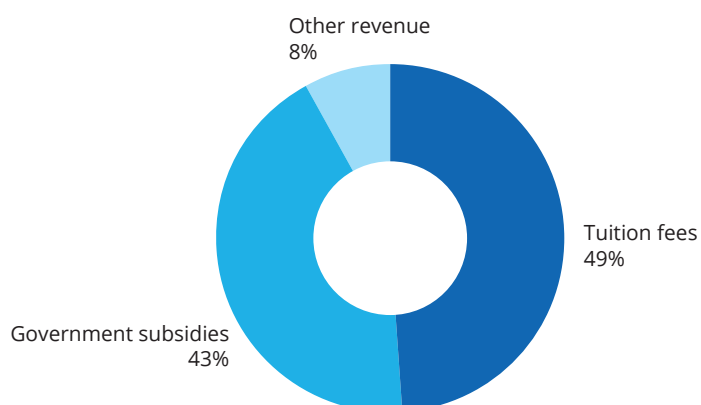
Year-on-year revenue continued to grow during 2021/22. Coupled with careful management of expenses, the year showed a modest surplus which in keeping with our Foundation status will be reinvested in the School's educational mission.



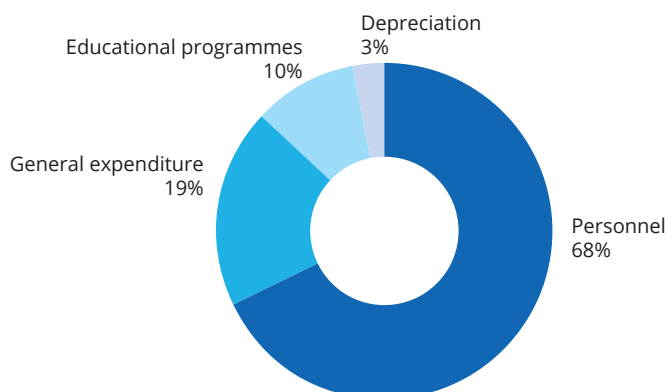
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The 2021/22 year produced a surplus of 2.6m SEK. All surplus is reinvested in the School.

Summary of Revenue



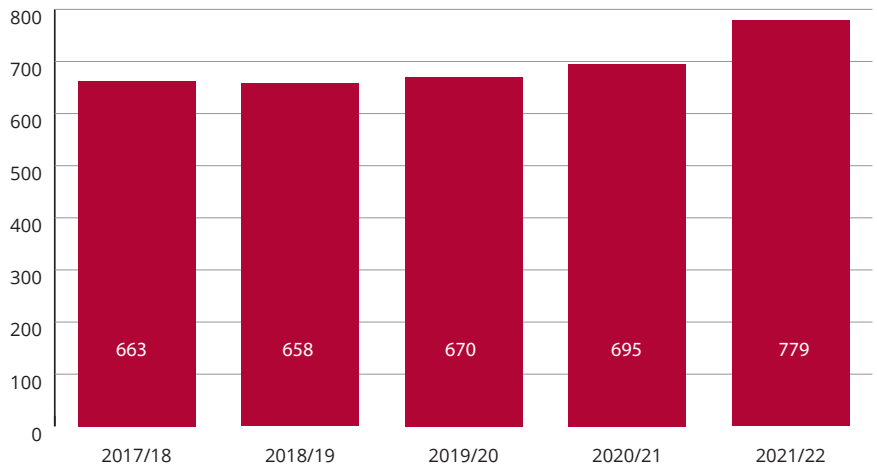
Summary of Expenditure



Our students

ENROLMENT

The number of enrolled students in the school increased markedly compared to the previous year. The acquisition of additional teaching space allowed us to accommodate the increase in numbers, which is a reflection of the level of demand for international schooling in the Stockholm region, and a driver of the School's search for additional campus facilities.



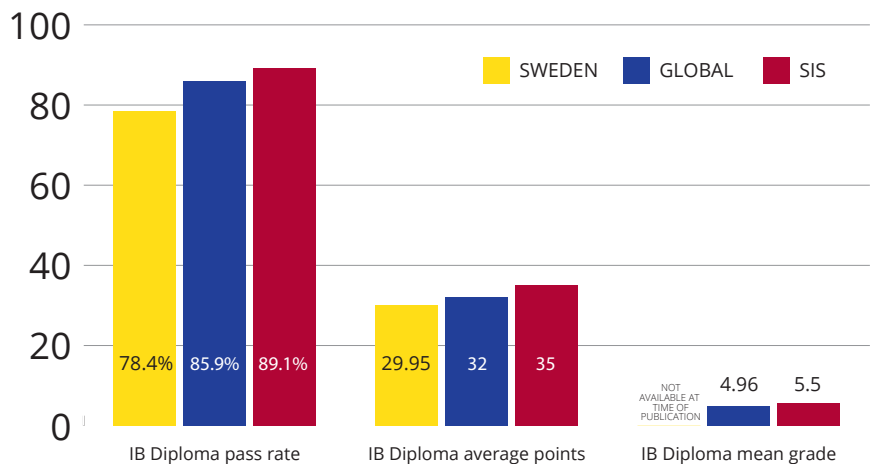
NATIONALITIES

In 2021-22 no fewer than 64 nationalities were represented within our student body, a profound indicator of our internationality.



IB RESULTS

Once again SIS's results in the IB Diploma Programme exceeded global averages by a significant margin, across pass rates, average points, and mean grades. (Sweden's mean grade outcome not available at time of publication.)



Our community

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Like the School itself, the SIS Parent Community (SPC) celebrated 70 years of its existence in the 2021–22 academic year. A community that began when student numbers were less than 50, now fosters community spirit and organises gatherings for the families of nearly 800 students. And the SPC Insider website continues to provide useful information to help new families settle in, and shares tips and advice from those who have been here for a while.



SPIRITED SUPPORT

One of the early highlights of the SIS year is Spirit Week in October. The week balances educational activities that emphasise our internationalism – for example UN Day – with fun activities that showcase the needlecraft and imagination of SIS families. From Crazy Hair Tuesday, through Dress Up Day that reflected the fashions of the seven decades since SIS was founded, to the end of week horrors of Halloween, the School brimmed with colour and creativity. And Spring Hat Day in April produced an impressive abundance of floral headpieces, and many other variations besides.



LET'S DANCE

It wouldn't be a proper anniversary celebration without a party – so the SPC had several! There was a method to this busy programme however. The celebratory party for parents in March raised funds to provide dances for students to round off the year. With additional support from the School, all students had an opportunity to dance their hearts out and party in their own way as part of the fun of being at SIS!

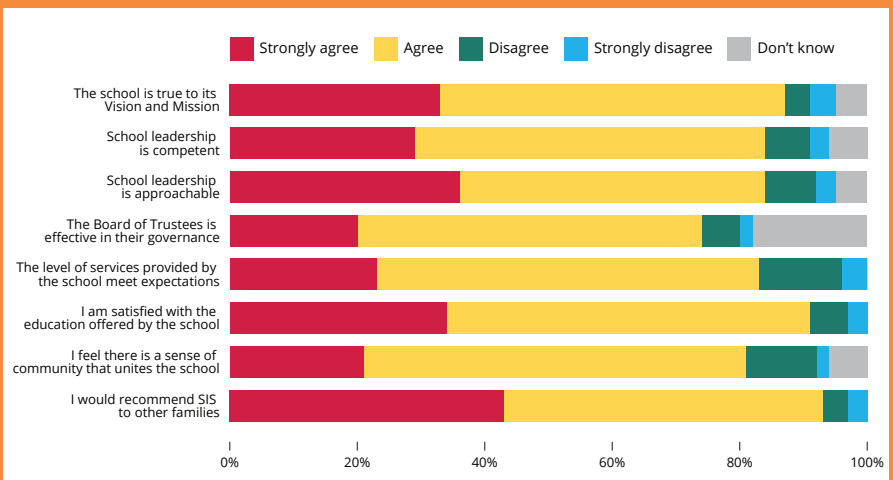


GIVING SOME LOVE

'Love your teacher' was the exhortation of the SPC on Valentine's Day. In recognition of the dedication teachers had shown in working tirelessly through the pandemic and safeguarding the mental health of the students, the SPC invited them to share their wishlist for their classroom, and organised a drive to provide a rich mix of valuable contributions.

LISTENING TO OUR FAMILIES

Every year the school conducts a survey of parents and guardians to discover their perceptions of the school, and how they view its strengths and weaknesses. This structured, quantifiable approach allows us to understand the levels of satisfaction in our community, and to identify areas for improvement.



Some survey comments...

“Excellent school only possible thanks to its extraordinary staff. You all should be proud for your contribution!

“Community feeling is very high especially in primary thanks largely to the parent community.

“Thank you for all of the hard work and effort the staff and faculty put in... This school has been one of the best that any of my children have attended.

Student life

Nepal clothing drive



Our friends at the Shila Devi school in Nepal had a tough year, but everyone involved with the SIS Nepal Project did everything they could to show our commitment remains as strong as ever. Though it wasn't possible to make personal visits as had happened in previous years, the project organised a clothing drive to collect warm clothing for the winter months. This was shipped to Shila Devi in February and gratefully received. The School, and the region where it is located, have been going through difficult times as the pandemic impacted tourism which had been slowly recovering after the 2015 earthquake. The SIS Nepal Project will continue doing everything it can to help Shila Devi thrive, and is looking forward to the time when visits can resume.

Erasmus+ on the move again

The Erasmus+ programme has been a popular option at SIS ever since it was first introduced. The last couple of years have been frustrating as the pandemic curtailed the option to travel, and restricted meet-ups to online events.

But Spring of 2022 saw face-to-face visits – mobilities – return. An SIS group travelled to Greece to meet up with fellow students from schools in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Romania, who were all warmly welcomed by Team Greece with an opening ceremony of Greek music, choirs, speeches, and traditional dancing where everyone joined in.

Teams presented and developed their understanding of the SG7, 'Reusable Energy', throughout the week through presentations, workshops, and visits to an environmental hydroelectric centre.



Student Council leaps to the aid of Ukraine

The whole world stood shocked in February when Russia launched its assault on Ukraine. As a school that fosters global citizenship and respect for other cultures, the notion of one nation launching an invasion of a neighbouring independent state is anathema to our way of thinking.

It was this sense of social justice that led to the Student Council, with the support of the SPC Board, creating a drive to support the many displaced families in Ukraine. Collections of clothes, bedding, and everyday essentials quickly accumulated in collection points in all the campus sites. The goods collected were shipped to Ukraine and some of them distributed to families who had come to Sweden to escape the turmoil.

The SIS Board also decided the School should welcome students who had their education disrupted through having to leave international schools in Russia and Ukraine at short notice. Fees for these student were waived until the end of the term.



Going Green with success

SIS was named as one of the top five schools in all of Sweden participating in the 'Green Flag' scheme. Green Flag is a unique learning programme in sustainable development, operated by 'Keep Sweden Clean (Håll Sverige Rent)' and is part of the international network, Eco-Schools. The programme invites Sweden's schools and businesses to translate knowledge into direct action.

Stephanie Bradford was the staff member coordinating the school's efforts. 'I've been delighted by the enthusiasm with which students have engaged with the sustainability issue, not just where it

features in their school work, where we might address more sustainable product design, or examine the trade-offs between local versus international production, for example. The students are taking the ideas home and applying them in everyday life', she says. 'They are thinking about their consumption, seeking to reuse materials where possible, and applying the ideas to everything from the things they buy to the things they eat.'

SIS didn't claim the ultimate accolade for all of Sweden, but the students flew the (Green) flag for SIS with great accomplishment and pride!

Happy birthday, SIS!



Stockholm International School 1951–2021

Celebrating Our Impact

Founded in 1951, Stockholm International School is one of the longest-established and most respected in Europe. Reaching 70 years has been no mean achievement, and the School celebrated those seven decades during the 21-22 academic year. With the uncertainty of the pandemic still hanging like an ominous cloud over any planning, the School established a 70th Anniversary working group to organise celebrations during the year, together with the SIS Parent Community which also celebrated 70 years.

During the year we reflected on the impact the School has made in the lives of its students and in the Stockholm region. Alumni returned to share their experiences and recall how their time at SIS had influenced them; we tracked the history of the School across the five locations it has occupied in Stockholm and considered how it has grown and contributed to the city by welcoming families from across the globe.

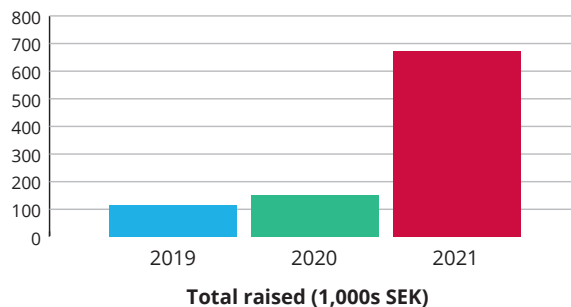
And at the end of the year – we partied. Our Anniversary Gala raised over 330,000Kkr for the SIS Spirit Fund, and an end-of-year concert celebrating the seven decades of SIS brought together the largest gathering of students, families, and teachers during the year.

The 70th Anniversary Gala was a glittering occasion, held under the chandeliers of the Berns Hotel ballroom. Over 200 members of the SIS community enjoyed an evening of dining and dancing, with live entertainment from talented SIS parents and others. There was also an auction in aid of the SIS Spirit Fund for good measure. An exciting range of auction lots kindly provided by generous sponsors saw enthusiastic bidding and provided a major boost to the SIS Spirit Fund.



Early June saw a fitting climax to the year in an all-school celebratory performance that saw an audience of over 500, plus around 100 performers, come together in the expansive Immanuelkyrkan close to the School. The occasion seemed a perfect ending to the year: after the restricting months of Covid the sense of community togetherness was palpable, and the event provided a perfect showcase for the creativity and imagination of our students and wider community, with music, singing, and drama all coming together to touch the hearts of the audience.

Our supporters



Smallest donation
50 SEK

Largest donation
100,000 SEK

Scale of donations to the SIS Spirit Fund in 2021/22

Championing the students of today and tomorrow

The SIS Spirit Fund was founded in 2019 to promote innovation and excellence, support campus development, and provide enhanced opportunities for students. The 2021-22 year saw the fund boosted on a number of fronts, particularly the 70th Anniversary Gala and a small number of significant donations – in particular the

Hitz Foundation, and the Nordlander Zeidler family foundation and Ståhlberg Gustafsson family.

During the year we launched a number of categories to recognise the generosity of donors. From the Platinum Circle, through the Director's Circle, and Oggi's Champions, the message is clear: every

donation to the SIS Spirit Fund helps, and adds value to the student experience.

Most international schools run an annual fund of some kind, and our ambition for the SIS Spirit Fund is to see it continue to grow and develop, so that current and future students will gain the maximum benefit from their time at SIS.

The SIS Spirit Fund supported:

Students on the DP maths programme have benefited from the procurement of TI nSpire calculators – arguably the most dominant handheld calculator technology used in IB DP Mathematics. It offers students a friendly, modern, and intuitive user experience and interface, along with plenty of opportunities to explore mathematical concepts through the use of technology. This move also benefits students in grades 9 and 10 who can inherit the current devices used by DP students, thereby helping increase their engagement with technology in Mathematics.



The SIS Spirit Fund supported:

On the sports fields and basketball courts, and where ever else SIS sports teams appear, they'll be among the best turned out in Scandinavia thanks to the SIS Spirit Fund. Existing sports kit was getting old, dating from the time before the School's rebrand in 2019. As a result, the colour no longer reflected the School, and the badge too was out of date. The SIS Spirit Fund has provided the Sports Association with new kits for soccer, basketball, floorball, cheerleading, and volleyball. Emblazoned with the SIS logo on front, there will be no mistaking these red devils when they come to play!



Backing education and trusting SIS



Early in 2022 Ken Hitz became a member of the Platinum Circle as his family foundation made a major donation to the SIS Spirit Fund. Ken spoke to the SIS newsletter – *The Dispatch* – near the time. He pointed to SIS's governance and not-for-profit status as appealing reasons to back the School:

'I do have a big issue with for-profit schools. When people are making millions running schools as corporate entities that means there's profit somewhere that is not going into the education of the children. The non-profit status of SIS is a huge attraction for me.'

And he expressed his confidence that the SIS Spirit Fund was worth backing:

'We donate to organisations where we really trust the leadership. We don't want to set objectives, or designate targets. We believe those close to a project are best equipped to make the decisions on how to spend the funds, and we trust them to do that.'

Donors and volunteers

Stockholm International School would like to acknowledge and thank the donors and volunteers who gave so generously to support the School during the 2021/22 school year. Your donations to the SIS Spirit Fund allow us to support academic excellence, provide extraordinary experiences, and enhance our campus facilities for the benefit of our students. The time, energy and expertise volunteered helps build and strengthen our community. We thank each and every one of you.

DONORS

PLATINUM CIRCLE

70 000+ SEK Donated

Nordlander Zeidler Family
Foundation
Hitz Foundation
Jan Ståhlberg and Jennie
Gustafsson

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

7 000+ SEK Donated

Claes and Merike Dahlbäck
Francios Gaudet and Liisa
Raasakka Gaudet
Brian and Claude Kelly
Fredrik Jejdling and Rossanna
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Lage Jonason
Lara Korteland and Michiel
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OGGI'S CHAMPIONS

1 000+ SEK Donated

Sten Holmström and Chino
Aguerre Batoctoy
Joseph Berglöv Kenneway
Luigi Biondi and Jenny Corbo
Patsie Evans
Farrah Gillani
Marcus Glader and Neha Jani
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Catherine Miller and
Lars-Åke Norling
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Jeff Sukach
Rod Walker

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Hans Skeppner
Anna-Maria Malm
Bradley Lister

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Marianne Roder-Lauridsen
Vice President

Johanna Hajman
Vice President

Claude Kelly
Secretary

Farrah Gillani
Treasurer

We would also like to thank the numerous volunteers who have contributed to the community with their time and service over the year. From supporting new families on arrival in Stockholm, helping to staff events, baking, making, and generally helping to make SIS the wonderful supportive community that it is – we thank you.

Celebrating our staff



Admissions Team takes the initiative

We're proud of our global outlook at SIS, and that extends not only to where our students and staff come from, but our awareness of our role as part of a community of international schools.

During 2021-22, Lori Rubotton and Dwayne Thomson, our admissions team here at SIS, contacted admissions offices in international schools with a proposal to get together to share best practices. The idea quickly gained momentum, and from an initial group of four or five schools, the meeting grew to be a mini conference of more than 25 admissions officers. Among schools represented were the International School of The Hague, Oslo International School, the American School of Barcelona, the American International School of Budapest, and Inter-Community School of Zurich – a truly pan-European gathering.

The group shares its experience on processes – for example, how we handle the re-enrollment process, and how schools manage their application review process, and what documents schools require when a family applies. Dwayne and Lori's forward thinking puts SIS at the heart of International Schools' admissions practice for some time to come.

Thinking strategically

SIS is part of a dynamic and rapidly evolving environment, both in the changing needs of Stockholm and the region, and changes in the educational landscape. To ensure the School continues to flourish and meet modern requirements, we need to constantly review our operations and achievements, and reset our goals and ambitions to best serve our community. Our staff are heavily involved in the process of formulating the ideas and actions that go into our forward-planning strategy.

In November of 2021 we published our Strategic Plan for 2021-24, so set out how we would do this over the next three years.

The new Plan sets out our updated guiding principles and identifies our goals for the community, for teaching and learning, attracting talent to the school, and enabling the secure and sustainable development of SIS in the future.

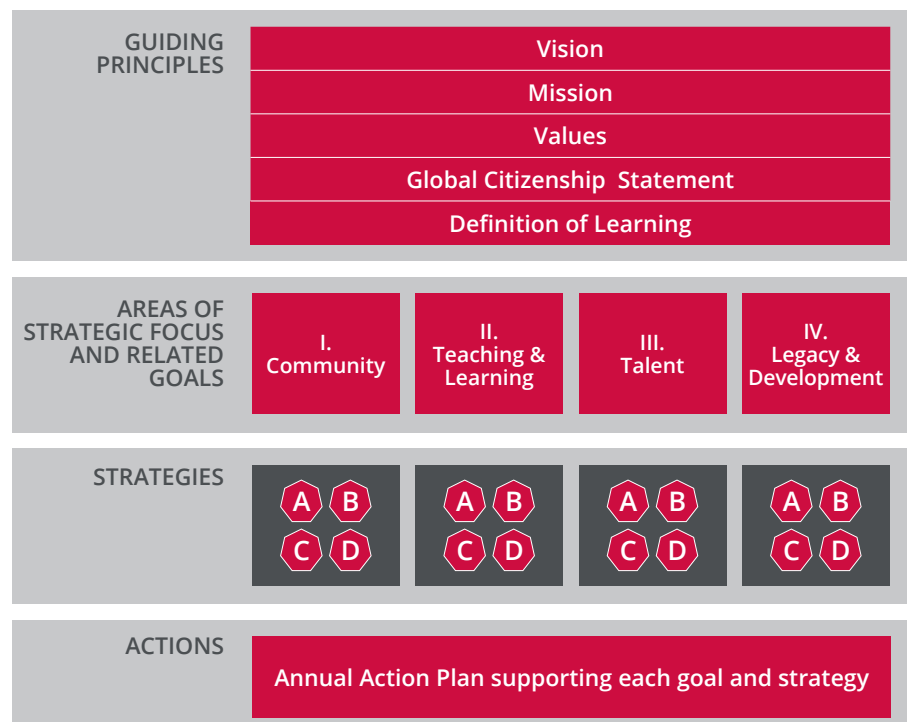
These guiding principles are embedded



in everything the School does, from decisions on the curriculum, to our approach to sustainability in the School. The principles are on display in every classroom, and in every management meeting. They express the essence of SIS.

The Strategic Plan is available to download from the website and in it you can learn more about the action plans designed to preserve the School's reputation as a beacon of excellence in Stockholm.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee consulted with parents, students, teachers, and other staff, and identified four areas of strategic focus in the life of the school; Community, Teaching and Learning, Talent, and Legacy and Development. The Committee expressed the main goal in each of these areas over the next three years, and defined strategies to achieve those goals. This provides the framework within which the actions of the school as an institution, the teachers staff as individuals, and the whole school community, can plan and make informed decisions.



New building, new era

As the 21-22 year drew to a close, SIS was able to announce exciting news that provided a suitable marker to the end of the 70th anniversary year, and also reset the School clock for perhaps the most exciting period in its history. After years of searching for new premises that would accommodate the growing demand for the School's services, we were able to conclude negotiations on a 25-year lease on the magnificent Norra Latin building in central Stockholm.

Originally built as a School at the end of the 19th Century, Norra Latin will become a perfect complement to the main building on Johannesgatan (which dates from the same period) as well as providing a hub for whole-school activities. SIS will vacate the current annexes and premises on Olof Palmes Gata once teaching commences at Norra Latin in the autumn of 2023.

Together, the two buildings will see a substantial nett gain of space rising from just under 8,000 square metres to almost 14,000. Norra Latin will also offer over 12,000 square metres of outdoor space for recreation and events. The underground car park will remain operational but without direct access to the school grounds. The 25-year lease agreement is unusually long in the world of commercial real estate, and provides a stable base on which to plan for future developments and expansion.

Adding Norra Latin to our profile will allow us to satisfy more of the families on our waiting list and will greatly increase our appeal. It will allow us to provide more facilities and build upon our reputation as the leading international school in the city offering IB programmes through all grades from primary to upper school.





Stockholm International School

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