

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL?

There are various ways in which to gather information to help in making the right choice. Increasingly, schools publish a great deal of information on their websites and this is often the first port of call for prospective parents. Without doubt the best way to find out about what a school is like is to pay a visit. This is not always geographically possible, but many schools are instead happy to provide answers to questions via email.

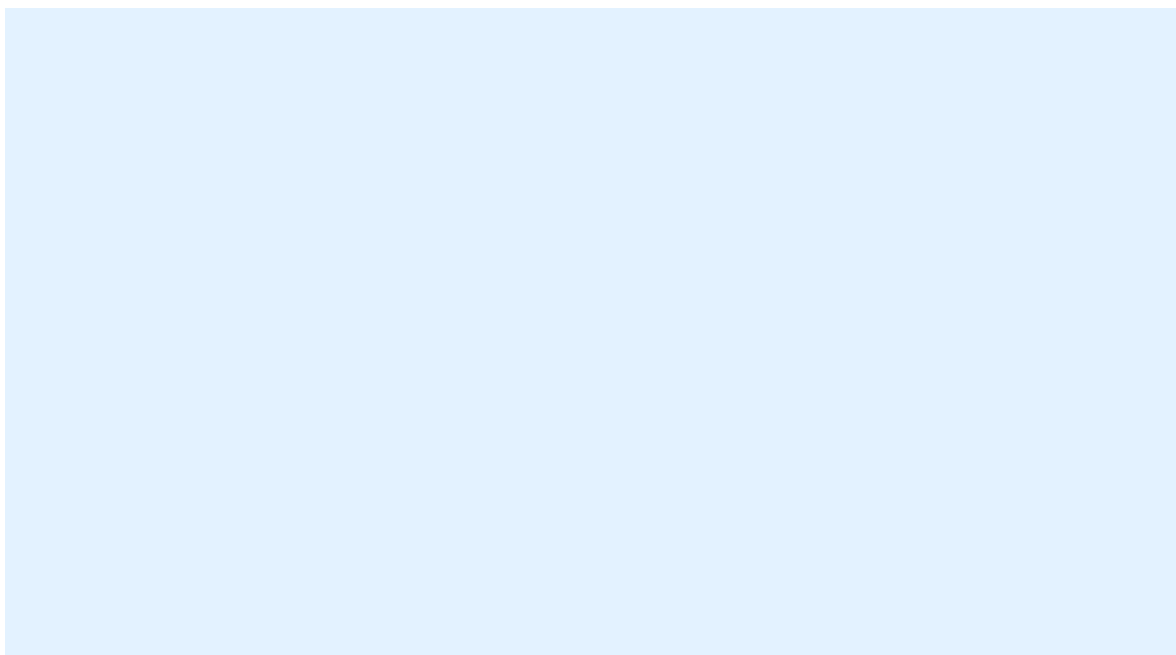
Below there are ten key questions (by no means are there only ten ! that should be considered. After each aspect has been briefly outlined, there is information explaining the approach at Sanna. For more detailed information about most of the questions appears on the school website and/or in various publications available from school.

This list is not in order of priority. Naturally some aspects will be more important to some parents than others.

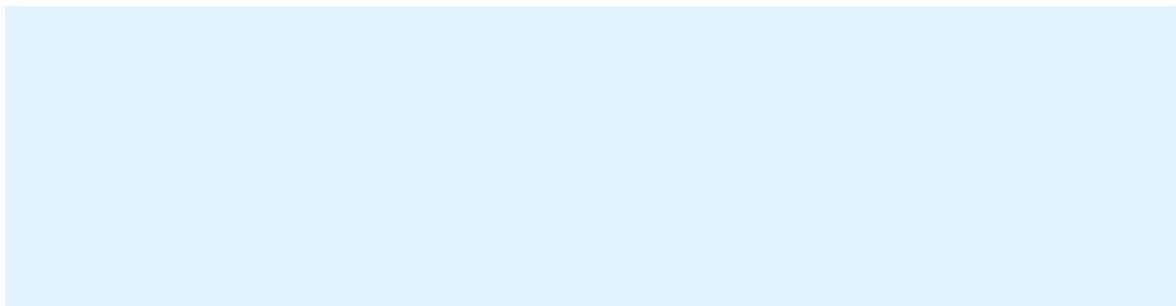
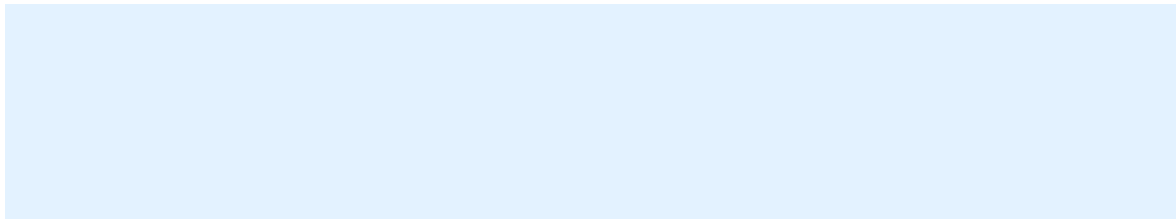
1. WHAT TYPE OF CURRICULUM DOES THE SCHOOL OFFER AND HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED?

There are different approaches regarding curriculum content and teaching styles in international schools worldwide (in some cases the curriculum on offer might largely match that of a particular country, but with local features. For example, the curriculum on offer in an international school in Thailand could be very similar to that offered in the UK, but Thai language and culture classes would also feature. A school might create its own curriculum, selecting different aspects from a number of different styles. Good schools publish curriculum documents outlining their programmes.

There are different types of assessment, with good teachers constantly noting progress made and looking at ways in which to help students improve in different areas. Some schools feature more



In Years 5: and 5; , students study /I- "dvanced \$evel courses (" \$evels!. /urrently \$anna offers twenty different " \$evel courses(many more than most comparably si<ed schools. " levels are one of the most recognised and respected high school qualifications in the world, /ambridge International "dvanced level (" level! is widely viewed as representing a =gold standard> and is accepted as proof of academic ability worldwide. +ood grades at " level can be the key to



4. HOW IS THE SCHOOL GOVERNED?

Quite a large number of international schools are privately owned, often by someone with little or no experience of how to organize a school, and do not have a governing body or board of directors. More reputable establishments have some sort of governing body. School websites should feature details (if not, it is a good idea to ask the Head Teacher or Director of the school for details).

In March 1999, the school established an Advisory Board with the intention of improving the school's

various in-school house team competitions as well. We compete in football, basketball, volleyball, futsal, badminton, swimming and cross-country running from primary school right up through the school. We have a very busy sports calendar.

" school orchestra is also now developing, along with a number of ensembles and other student bands. *tudents learn a great deal in our classrooms but the wide variety of extra-curricular experiences adds hugely to their education.

7. WHAT IS THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS?

If you have the money to pay fees, for some schools that is all that is needed to satisfy the admissions procedure. Better schools typically ask prospective students to sit some form of entrance assessment, with some also using non-verbal reasoning tests. It is likely that one or two of the most recent school reports will be requested and in many cases, some sort of interview is likely to be required, although sometimes there will naturally be geographical restrictions and sometimes a place will be offered based on other information provided. The adm

