

FAQs about Year 3 at ISCT

How does the timetable work?

In Year 3, most lessons take place with the class teacher, except for lessons such as Music, Art, IT, Phys Ed and Foreign Languages. Parents will receive a copy of the timetable in the new year, and students are given advance warning if or when the timetable changes.

How will my child be assessed in Year 3?

ISCT uses a levelling system - these levels are a description of a particular skills set for each stage/ level, and are linked to Bloom's Taxonomy of Thinking Skills. Levels are shared with students and parents in the report, so the students know what they have to do in order to progress to the next level.

Assessment is both formative and summative - ongoing, continuous assessment, as well as a having assessment weeks each term. Termly assessments should not cause undue anxiety for children so are administered as per the needs of the class.

Greater value is placed on the ongoing teacher assessment as opposed to just the end of term/ year tests, though these do say much about which skills may have been secured and where further attention may be required in order to secure the objectives.

Homework - how much should my child have and for how long?

Homework is only expected to be done on Mondays to Thursdays. A reading book is given for the week and an activity linked with the book must be completed by the Friday of that week.

Maths homework is sent in a workbook.

Homework should be completed *increasingly independently* by your child.

The guideline is to spend around 1 hour a day – breaking the tasks into smaller manageable chunks.

Reading is KEY – set aside 20-30 mins a day for this (this should constitute part of the 1 hour).

Occasionally there will be project homework. In this case clear guidelines will be given as to what must be done, how it must be done and where to find the resources to do so.

What foreign languages will my child do in Year 3?

French is compulsory for all students in Year 3 & 4. They also choose *either Afrikaans or Spanish* as a third language. They have 1 hour of each language per week.

This changes in Year 5 – when they select ONE of the 3 languages on offer to study for 2 hours a week and carry on into the High School.

No other languages are offered as there has not been sufficient interest in them in the past when trialled.

Technology - How are iPads implemented in the Year 3 classroom?

Children *from Year 4* bring their own iPad to school. However the school has a bank of iPads which are regularly booked out to the Year 3 classes and are used as a learning tool. iPads are used about twice a week, for research (using age appropriate websites) in the Geography/ History/ RE lesson as well as in Maths.

Keyboard skills are one of the many things taught in IT lessons, using the Dance Mat typing programme. The main focus is however still on handwriting, building on cursive font (we follow the Nelson Handwriting programme) and increasing fluency.

Will my child still have a library lesson?

There is a 30min library lesson a week for the class as a whole, during which children exchange their books, listen to a story and learn library skills and etiquette. Students are also able to use the library after school to exchange books, or (in Y6) to sit and read or work quietly.

How is Music incorporated into the week?

Year 3's have a Music lesson once a week as part of the curriculum. The recorder and a range of percussion instruments are introduced in this lesson.

There is KS2 community singing which practices every Thursday morning. The songs they practice are usually chosen to be performed at particular events (e.g. South African songs for SA Day, international songs for Founders Day and Christmas songs for Prize Giving and possible concerts).

There is also the opportunity to take private individual music lessons after school.

Extra-murals - what can my child take part in?

A variety of extra murals are available, both sporting and otherwise. You will be sent a sign up form at the beginning of the summer and winter terms as the extra murals change according to the seasons.

After extra-murals your child will be taken to and supervised in the Loggia and you may fetch them from there. If they have not been fetched by 3.30pm, they will go to After-care, which is billed at R26/hour or part thereof.

How does discipline work in the Year 3 class?

We use a 'traffic light system' (Green, Orange and Red). Everyone starts off the day on Green. Should a student need a warning, their name moves to Orange. In the rare event of a further disciplinary issue, the name moves to Red. The student then has to see the Head of Key Stage or Principal of the school in such instances – a 15 minute detention will be issued. Names return to Green again at the beginning of the next day.

What classroom support is available?

As of 2016, KS2 will have a Learning Support assistant and an admin assistant. These will each work with the class for the equivalent of ONE day a week. Support may include hearing a child read, changing books, or working with particular children during lessons to consolidate understanding of concepts and skills.

What is the best way to contact my child's teacher if I have a problem?

ALWAYS feel free to ask your child's class teacher further questions. Emails are the preferred method of communication, though a quick chat on the Loggia at pick-up is also often helpful.

The school diary can be used to comment on homework or ask questions. We would rather you voice a concern as soon as it arises. We do our very best to accommodate a child's needs and ISCT prides itself on providing a personalised education and nurture every pupil.

Channels of communication should follow thus:

1. Class Teacher
2. Pam Hoffman (SenCo)
3. Key Stage Head
4. Principal

Isn't it a bit scary having break with the High School children?

While the break times coincide with the High School, they do not have break together in the same place. Teachers and prefects are on duty at all times to keep an eye on behaviour. And the older children turn out to be not that scary after all!