

Special Needs Policy

The IB Diploma Programme at St Olav videregående skole

Academic Needs

St. Olav vgs has a dedicated IB counsellor to offer career advice as well as assistance with university applications, and all such related matters. Appointments are made as necessary. In addition, the counsellor is a member of the IB Leadership group together with the IBDP Coordinator and CAS Coordinator and attends all Pedagogical Forum meetings plus general IB student meetings with the IB Coordinator to issue information and illicit response/information on student needs.

Physical Needs

currently, the majority of IB classes other than Science labs are held in the ground floor classrooms or the basement. At present this is only accessible by two stairwells at opposite ends of the hallway. Science labs on the third floor are accessible via an elevator. However, the local education authority will start a major renovation project of the school this autumn bringing it in line with requirements for access needs for those with physical limitations/challenges. During this renovation phase, all IB classes (as well as other sections of the school) will be moved to a different campus out of the centre of the city. This temporary campus has access to all floors via an elevator. The purpose of this renovation project is to renew all teaching areas and provide bigger classrooms with better light and ventilation. Additionally, elevators will be installed to allow access to the basement floor where most IB classes will once more be held.

Psychological Needs

St. Olav vgs has a dedicated full time counsellor concerned with students' social, emotional, psychological welfare in accordance with Norwegian regulations. Additionally, a school nurse is on the premises one afternoon each week to meet solely with students on a drop-in basis. Students may, however, request an appointment at any time.

In accordance with Norwegian regulations, students who are diagnosed with or express a need for psychological counselling are referred to the local authority service and assigned a counsellor/psychologist.

Upon starting the IB Programme at St. Olav vgs, students are placed in tutor groups of around 10 – 15 students with a Personal Tutor who is also their teacher in at least one IB subject. These groups meet fortnightly during the school day to discuss issues of concern. The personal tutor also arranges an in-depth start-up interview with each student in her/his charge to discuss all pertinent issues: academic, social, emotional, psychological and physical. They then arrange a follow-up meeting towards the end of each semester. The personal tutors also meet with students to discuss and advise on the individual's CAS programme.

Personal Tutors then meet once a semester with the CAS Coordinator to give an overview of student progress and the situation with students' CAS programmes. At this time, any problems or issues are discussed and progress, or lack thereof, is checked. Meetings are called every semester to record grades, behaviour and the general attitude of students to spot any problems, actual or potential, and alert the Personal Tutor to any issues. The Personal Tutor will then raise these issues with the relevant student(s) and as necessary contact parents, CAS Coordinator, IBDP Coordinator.

Teachers throughout the school are currently participating in a sponsored Research and Development programme to encourage standardised responses to students' work aiming to acquaint them with and reinforce the standards expected at each level of each course. In this way teachers also become supportive of students in terms of assisting with language problems (every teacher is a language teacher) and helping students to become more aware of their academic strengths and weaknesses.

Personal tutors who observe students with special needs inform the student of their rights within the IB Diploma Programme with regard to the help available on/with final written exams.