

## Information for new parents

### Introduction

We are pleased to know that you are looking for a suitable school for your child(ren) and are interested in the Eben-Haëzer School.

Our school opened in 1974 and we have a yearly average of 240 children across 11 groups. The school serves the wider regional community, but the majority of children live in Boskoop and Waddinxveen.

### Admission policy

We have an open admission policy. Children of parents who endorse or respect the principles of the school will be admitted. Parents who endorse the school's principles can become members of the school association. The supervisory board is chosen from members of the school association.

### Religious background

Almost all parents are church-going and attend church services on Sundays. Half of the parents are members of the Reformed Congregations and about a quarter of the parents are members of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands or the Restored Reformed Church. Some parents are members of the Evangelical Congregations or the Baptist Church.

### Identity

We are a reformed school. We do not just provide primary education so that children can move on to secondary education after Groep (school year) 8. We also teach from the Bible. Our core message is that we and our children are lost because of the Fall of Adam and Eve in paradise, and that we increase our guilt every day. Through faith in the Lord Jesus, forgiveness of sins is possible and we are reconciled with God.

### Expression of our identity

Our identity is based on a number of core values

#### *Trust*

Trust in God and have trust in each other. Be trustworthy, care about others and forgive each other.

#### *Acceptance*

We are welcome to come to God as a sinner. Treat others the way you want to be treated yourself.

#### *Positive thinking*

Expect all help from God. Give each other compliments and say good things about others.

#### *Honesty*

Ask God: 'What do you want me to do?' Be honest with the Lord, yourself and others.

#### *Safety*

Those who love God seek refuge in Him (Psalm 91). It is important that everyone feels safe at school.

#### *Vigilance*

Be on guard against falling into temptation and remain dependent on God. Do not cooperate in wrong doings. Pray not only for yourself, but pray for others as well.

## **Identity throughout the day**

We start the day by singing a psalm or song, a Bible story and prayer. Children are also welcome to suggest prayer requests. Children learn a psalm/song almost every week or, in the higher school years, a question from the Heidelberg Catechism. During class, teachers try to relate aspects of our identity to the subject matter in a natural way. The afternoon also starts and ends with prayer. In our school, we use the State Translation ('Statenvertaling') and sing (sometimes rhythmically) from the Psalter of 1773 ('Psalmberijming'). In each school year, we teach pupils a number of songs. Teachers are aware that they are identification figures for your child and seek to set a good example in all their actions and conduct. Female colleagues, girls, and mothers in the school are expected to wear a skirt or dress.

## **What we expect from all parents and children**

All parents and children are expected to respect and observe the school rules and identity rules. The Biblical Ten Commandments are our guiding principle:

- We participate in singing, praying, Bible lessons, celebrations, homework;
- We speak positively about the Christian faith;
- We do not engage in expressions of faith related to other religions;
- We speak respectfully about other people and other religions;
- We treat each other respectfully and show this through our attitude and use of language;
- We wear appropriate clothing, without advertising for sports clubs or references to pop culture or occultism;
- Gym clothing is mandatory during gym classes and sports activities;
- Girls wear a skirt or dress;
- We do not wear headgear;
- We abide by the applicable rules and agreements.

## **School climate**

Our pupils enjoy coming to school, and they feel safe. We have an enthusiastic team with a wealth of knowledge and experience. The colleagues show their love for the children and are committed to them. The contacts with parents are good and they are informed promptly if there are any issues.

## **School hours**

We have traditional opening times. We start the day at half past 8 and end at a quarter past 3. Children in kindergarten are free on Fridays. On Wednesday and Friday afternoons, all pupils are free from 12:15 p.m.

## **Facilities**

In partnership with Kind & Co, we offer preschool on our premises. Currently, the preschool is open 4 mornings a week.

At lunchtime, children can stay over for lunch. About 95% of the children make use of this. This costs about 150 euros annually; if you sign up to be on the schedule to supervise the children during the school lunch hour, there are no costs. Parents who help during the school lunch break, also supervise the schoolyard and clean classrooms.

## **Out-of-school Care (BSO)**

Since August 2022, in partnership with Kind & Co, we provide out-of-school care (BSO). Out-of-school care, during which your child will be kept entertained and occupied, is provided on several afternoons until around 6 p.m.

## **Care**

Our school's care structure is well-established. As soon as a child experiences difficulties, he or she will receive extra support. We have three educational support coordinators ('Intern Begeleiders' or 'IB'ers') at school, who help and advise teachers in the approach of pupils who need additional support. We also have a lot of support from teaching assistants who work with individual pupils or guide pupils in groups. On occasion, the teaching assistant takes over the lesson so that the teacher can provide the necessary guidance. For pupils who need more challenges, there is an enrichment class, in which they are challenged cognitively. For children who mainly learn by doing, there is a hands-on class (since January 2021).

## **Newcomers**

Also if your son/daughter does not have a sufficient command of the Dutch language, he/she is welcome at our school. Until your child turns 6, he/she will participate in all classroom activities. We strive to give your child extra guidance in the area of language development. The municipality of Alphen aan de Rijn also offers extra support to children who do not yet have a sufficient command of the Dutch language.

From the age of 6, your child will have to attend language classes at another school, possibly in another town, for a number of half-day sessions a week. The other half-day sessions, your child will attend the lessons at our school. You will have to arrange the transport to and from the language class yourself.

## **Tests**

We regularly test the progress of the children. We do this from Groep 3 to 8. Tests are taken twice a year so that we get a good picture of the learning results. We do not test the children in kindergarten; we follow these pupils using the learning guidelines for young children. In Groep 8, pupils take part in the national year-end test. This test gives advice on the stream of secondary education suitable for your child.

## **Parents' committee**

The school has a parents' committee that organises all kinds of things, such as sessions to check the hair of the children for lice, school camp, the school library, school cleaning, etc. We expect from new parents that they will also get involved in school activities.

## **Future plans**

- We hope to gradually replace the paving and playground equipment in the schoolyard
- In the kindergarten group we will make more use of ICT tools
- Renovation and expansion of our school building

All our plans can be found in our school plan. To view our school plan, visit our website [www.ehsboskoop.nl](http://www.ehsboskoop.nl)

### Quality of the school:

In Groep 8, pupils take the national year-end test. Our school's results are higher than the national average and the inspection standard.

Year	Score	Inspection standard	Nationwide
2023	539.4	534.6	535.3
2022	535.6	534.6	535.2

### Advance to secondary school:

The table below shows by school year which stream of secondary education the Eben-Haëzer School pupils moved on to.

School year	VVO		HAVO		VMBO-gt / HAVO		VMBO-k		VMBO-b		Lwoo/Pro	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2022-2023	6	30	8	40	3	15	1	5	1	5	1	5
2021-2022	9	29	7	22.5	3	9.6	8	25.8	2	6.4	2	6.4

### Starting school

Children who have turned four can start school on the first Monday of the new month. Depending on when the summer holidays start, the last admission moment will be in early May or early June. If the classes are at risk of becoming too large due to admission throughout the school year, it may be decided to stop admissions earlier. If this is the case, these children start in Groep 1 after the summer holidays.

- Pupils who turn 4 before 1 October start in school year 1 (Groep 1). After the next summer holiday, they will normally move on to Groep 2.
- Pupils who turn 4 between 1 October and 1 January start in school year 1. After the summer holidays, these pupils will normally move on to school year 2. In school year 2, in consultation with the parents and depending on the child's development, it is decided whether the child will move on to Groep 3 after the summer holidays, or will have an extended 'kindergarten period' in Groep 2.

In certain cases, in consultation with the parents, a child can be placed in Groep 1 again after his/her in-year admission. In this case too, the child will have an extended 'kindergarten period'.

- Pupils who turn 4 on or after 1 January start in a group of new admits. After the next summer holiday, these children will normally move on to Groep 1.
- At each decision moment for either an extended kindergarten period or moving on to Groep 3, we look, in consultation with the parents, at the pupil's language and mathematical development, socio-emotional development, motor skills and play development.

## **Kindergarten group**

In the kindergarten group, we work with themes. Different themes are covered in a year. The content of the themes is geared to the learning guidelines (what a pupil should be able to do). Methods are also used, such as a method for teaching English, Children and their Social Talents, and 'Spreekbeeld' (a teaching tool for learning and automating the link between sound and syllable).

The children learn through play and ample attention is paid to the development of motor and social skills. The teachers are easy to approach; you can talk to them in the schoolyard at the beginning or end of the day, and you can easily contact them through the parent portal with any questions or concerns that you have. You will be kept well-informed about what is going on in the kindergarten groups, also through the newsletter that is shared with you.

## **Admission**

After a first meeting, you will have the opportunity to fill in an application form. The headmaster will then decide whether the child can be admitted. If you register your eldest child at our school, we assume that any other children you have will also enrol in our school in the future. A separate interview will be held for admission to the school association. You will receive an invitation for this.