



Inclusive Education Policy
IB Diploma Programme
Porsgrunn Videregående Skole

Porsgrunn Apr. 2024

Porsgrunn Videregående Skole recognizes the right and responsibility of every student to experience the joy of setting and achieving meaningful goals as a learner and as a human being, alone and together with others, and to contribute to the school community as a valued and unique member of it.

We believe that when students work with teachers and each other, the diversity of their backgrounds, abilities, skills, and interests strengthens both the individuals' learning and the learning community. Therefore, our view is that students with special needs educational needs shall as far as possible take part in regular learning activities, and only in situations where a student has significant concentration, behavior, language or learning difficulties or illnesses that make learning in the classroom inappropriate shall more individualistic arrangements be made.

Academic Needs

Porsgrunn VGS has a dedicated IB counselor to offer career advice as well as assistance with university applications and all such related matters. Appointments are made as necessary. In addition, the counselor is a member of the IB leadership group together with the IBDP Coordinator and the CAS Coordinator and attends all pedagogical forum meetings in addition to general IB meetings with the IB Coordinator to issue information and illicit response/information on student needs.

Physical Needs

The IB students here in Porsgrunn occupy their own pavilion in the school grounds. More or less all class are held here except for then the science lab is needed. This is on the first floor, but can be accessed via an elevator. For those who need we also have exclusive restrooms and toilets.

Psychological Needs

Porsgrunn VGS has a dedicated full-time counselor concerned with students' social, emotional and psychological welfare in accordance with Norwegian regulations. Additionally, a school nurse is also available 5 days a 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 counseling are referred to the local authority service and assigned a counselor/psychologist.

Prior to the start of the IB Programme all students are interviewed in order to see which level they are at in English, math and Norwegian. This is to ensure that they choose the right subjects to be able to finish their Diploma. Upon starting the IB Programme at Porsgrunn VGS, students are placed in classes with their appointed class teacher, who is also their teacher in at least one IB subject. The class meets weekly during the school day to discuss issues of concern. The class teacher will also conduct personal in-depth interviews with each student to discuss pertinent issues: academic, social, psychological and physical. A follow-up meeting will be arranged at the end of each semester.

The CAS coordinator meets with the Coordinator on a regular basis every semester to give an overview of student progress and the situation around their CAS programme. At this time, any problems or issues are discussed and progress, or lack thereof, is checked.

Meetings are called twice every semester to record grades, behavior and the general attitude of students to spot any problems, actual or potential, and alert the class teacher to any issues. The class teacher will then raise these issues with the relevant student (s) and if necessary contact parents and the DP Coordinator.

The class teacher and the DP coordinator observe students with special needs and will inform the students of their rights within the IB Diploma Programme with regard to the help available with the final written exams.