



Riverside School
Prague

Primary School

Welcome

to the **Primary School**
information
booklet

Challenge, Community, Care



*"Pojď sem, synu, uč se moudrým býti."
"Come here, son, and learn to be wise."*

J. A. Komenský (1592 - 1670)

Students may be dropped off at the Primary Campus starting at 8:15 am each morning. The school grounds will be monitored by staff from this time, with the school day starting at 8:25 am.

Our academic day begins at 8:25 am and ends at 3:25 pm. Students may be dismissed to their parents or caregivers at this time, or opt to use the Riverside Bus service to return home. Optional, Skills for Life activities begin after school, at 3:30 pm, and run until 4:20 pm each afternoon. Clubs run daily, and change each term. Students are expected to be dismissed to parents or caregivers after clubs finish, or opt to use the Riverside Bus service to return home.

Daily Schedule

8:15 am – 8:25 am	drop off and student arrival
8:25 am	school begins
8:30 am – 10:05 am	classroom and specialist lessons
10:05 am – 10:25 am	outdoor break and snack
10:25 am – 11:55 am	classroom and specialist lessons
11:55 am – 12:55 pm	lunch and outdoor break
12:55 pm – 2:00 pm	classroom and specialist lessons
2:00 pm – 2:20 pm	outdoor break (for Years 1-2)
2:20 pm – 3:25 pm	classroom and specialist lessons
3:30 pm – 4:20 pm	skills for life after school clubs (optional)



Curriculum

The aim of Riverside Primary curriculum is to provide a relevant international curriculum for every child, to enrich their life and to prepare him or her for the experiences, opportunities and responsibilities of future stages. We believe a focus on individual progress, active participation and engagement by each student, throughout the learning process, is essential. This is achieved through a vibrant and enriched classroom environment, matched by an active and exciting curriculum.

The Riverside Primary Curriculum is designed to provide exciting opportunities for our students to explore and learn. The wide range of experiences and approaches to facilitate learning are listed below:

Mathematics

Literacy

Inquiry: Science, History and Geography

Design Technology

Religious Education

PE

Computing

Performing Arts

Fine Arts

Music

Languages

Czech

Physical Education



Maths

The Primary follows the UK National Curriculum for Mathematics. Students are grouped based on their learning needs for each new topic, an approach called fluid setting, allowing teachers to tailor lessons to match the exact needs of the students in their classes. This helps students to individually develop their skills at the pace and level of challenge that is best suited to their needs and supports a growth mindset.

Lessons are focused on building a deep understanding of number concepts using manipulatives and visuals to understand mathematical processes, as well as on developing fact fluency and problem solving techniques. Riverside students regularly outperform their peers in the UK and other international schools on Numeracy assessments.

Each unit of study contains at least one Maths Application and Problem Solving lesson, a time set aside to explore how Maths concepts are used in the real-world. These lessons often involve cooking, building, team-problem solving and other fun, hands-on ways of exploring Maths.



Literacy

Literacy lessons are based on the UK National Curriculum with a strong focus on both building technical skills in reading, writing and oracy as well as developing an enjoyment of literature. Riverside's historical assessment results show students consistently and significantly achieve above UK and international benchmarks.

Literacy lessons are organised by genre, allowing students to explore high-quality texts and develop their own creative writing in a variety of styles. Teachers take advantage of the small class sizes to give extensive feedback on pieces which celebrates students' growth as writers and helps students to improve their skills in the technical aspects of writing such as grammar and spelling. Students share their work in written and spoken formats, often writing pieces that showcase their learning in other subjects such as History, Geography or Science.

Reading lessons take place in small groups arranged by reading ability which helps all students engage with texts at their level. Students practice reading fluency, as well as discussing books together to develop comprehension skills. In addition, each class completes two high-quality book studies which helps build deeper vocabulary and use advanced skills to analyse literature.

Phonics in Years 1 and 2 are taught through a synthetic phonics approach using the Twinkl Phonics programme. This is supplemented with the Collins line of fully-decodable books which allow students to read independently from their very first weeks of learning letters and sounds. As students move up through the school, they change to the Words Their Way programme which uses inquiry based methods to help students find patterns and build connections with their spellings. This programme extends all the way into teaching Greek and Latin roots, which give students a strong foundation to read and spell advanced vocabulary.



Inquiry

Riverside recognises that in our modern world, students need to learn how to find reliable information, understand the world around them and make connections just as much as they need to learn new information. For this reason, lessons in Science, History, Geography and Religious Education are focused around building inquiry skills.

These skills help students to do more than learn information, but rather support students to develop the skills they need for independent research and higher-level thinking about their learning and how it personally connects to them.

Inquiry lessons are often built around collaborative projects, experiments and using a variety of sources to find information. They tend to be cross-curricular, connecting skills across multiple curriculum subjects.



Music

Music tuition is built into the Primary curriculum and weekly timetable. Students start their introduction to Music while learning the recorder in Years 1-4. Here they start learning basic notes, tempo and music theory. By the end of Year 4, students will feel comfortable understanding scales, reading sheet music and performing songs.

In Years 5-6, students are given an instrument by the school, choosing 1 of 7 instrument options. These include the violin, viola, clarinet, flute, trumpet, cello and trombone. Students study their instrument with a specialist peripatetic instructor in an ensemble setting.

Our students have many opportunities to perform and display their progress in Music throughout the year. These include performances in school, as well as outside of school, where our students are given access to performing in some of the best venues in Prague.



Performing and Visual Arts Programmes

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts team also includes specialist Drama teachers who deliver weekly lessons. With a focus on singing, acting and production, the students are part of creating all parts of the school performances such as the Christmas Show and the year-end Summer Show, which takes place at the Hybernia Theater in the centre of Prague, featuring songs and dances from each year group.



Visual Arts

All Primary students have weekly Visual Arts lessons in the Visual Arts Studio. Students benefit from an Art specialist, focusing on the areas such as drawing, painting, crafting and sculpting. Student work is displayed throughout the school and culminates in a final art exhibition at the Art Centre at the end of the year.

Digital Integration and Design

As our students grow up in a rapidly changing world, we recognise that they will need to develop skills that are ready for life in a landscape that we don't yet understand.

Students have Computing lessons each week where they work on ICT Skills, Coding, E-Safety and understanding the use of technology. Lessons are taught by a specialist but also often connect to topics of study in other subjects, giving students the opportunity to use technology to show their understanding of different topics.

Technology is also integrated into subjects throughout the school, which give students the opportunity to learn to use the internet and AI safely for research, to explore new tools for developing creative projects and to support and individualise their learning.

The school has a Makerspace, designed for students to be able to develop their learning through building and design. The space is available for classes and Skills for Life activities to use for projects. It has both a set of computers and 3D printers for computer-aided design, as well as a workspace for physical building, woodworking, sewing, cooking and other design projects.

Each class also completes two Design and Technology projects during the year where each student designs and builds a project, such as: wiring a burglar alarm, building an electric car, sewing a pencil case or creating a boat. These projects help students develop practical building skills alongside using problem solving and design-thinking in real-world situations.



Sports, PE and Outdoor Adventure

All students participate in a range of physical education activities throughout the year in the Primary School. Students participate in P.E. lessons twice a week. These lessons support students in learning sports such as football, badminton, athletics, volleyball, basketball and cricket, as well as developing their fitness levels. Swimming lessons are also included in the programme.

Part of students' P.E. schedule is also dedicated to the Outdoor Adventure programme, providing all students the opportunity to try other physical challenges such as canoeing, mountain biking, hiking and orienteering in smaller groups. The Outdoor Adventure lessons take advantage of the Primary's ideal location by the river, with easy access to forest paths.

The Athletics programme at Riverside encompasses a range of sports teams, representing our school in matches and tournaments within the Czech Republic and beyond. These teams are built through the Skills for Life programme and provide the opportunity for further challenge for our gifted athletes.



Languages

At Riverside Primary School all students have the opportunity to begin to explore different languages. Students in Years 3-6 can choose between French and Spanish lessons. These lessons take place twice a week and focus on vocabulary development, speaking and listening. Non-Czech speakers also receive a lesson each week in basic conversational Czech.

Czech speakers can participate in the Czech for Czechs programme. This programme allows them to keep up with national standards through lessons offered during the Czech for Foreigners lessons, before school and during some break periods each week. Students in Years 1-4 develop their Czech reading, writing and grammar skills. Students in Years 5-6 also receive Vlastiveda lessons as they explore Czech History and Geography. Students in this programme regularly receive high marks on Czech language assessments.

Students who are learning English are provided with small-group lessons to speed up their language development and support their work in other lessons. EAL (English as an Additional Language) support lessons take place daily and are arranged to avoid key academic and social times. These students also receive differentiated work and instruction in class.



Skills for Life Programme

The Riverside Skills for Life programme offers a wide range of opportunities for our students to seek a unique skill they can develop and use long after their time in school concludes. The Skills for Life programme takes place after school and is organised by our PE department. Skills for Life clubs are run by the teaching staff and external providers, with over 80 options weekly. Options include individual and team-based sports, fine and performing arts offerings, computing and robotics, as well as further academic endeavours. Skills for Life is considered a valuable part of our curriculum, with activities designed for specific outcomes to improve student progress and confidence.



Leadership Opportunities

The Primary School have adapted the IB CAS model, providing opportunities for student leadership activities throughout the school year. Primary students have many opportunities for leadership development and are encouraged to participate in the **Student Council, Eco Council, House Captaincy, Wellbeing Ambassadors and Future Leaders** programmes. A **Buddy system**, including **Reading Buddies** between older and younger year groups is in place to further develop leadership.

Providing opportunities, at the Primary level, to cultivate and enhance leadership skills, in a variety of ways is essential to the growth of our students and their involvement with the local and international communities.



Student Health and Wellbeing

Student health and wellbeing are of vital importance at Riverside Primary School. A full-time nurse works at the Primary Medical Centre, where students are supported and have their medical needs addressed. In addition, the school has a School Counsellor who is available for both drop-ins and regular appointments for students who are working through mental or emotional health needs.

A member of the Primary School Leadership Team is in place to support the wellbeing and welfare of the students. A broad and varied Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum is delivered across the school. It includes issues such as safeguarding, bullying, diversity, charitable works and fair trade. It is encompassed within a whole school focus on 'Growth Mindset'. Our PSHE Curriculum and Whole School Assembly content is continuously adapted in response to PASS (Pupils Attitudes to Self and School) survey analysis to further meet the needs of our students.



Memorable Experiences

*Challenging
the whole child*



Memorable Experiences



Uniforms

BOYS

- *red sweatshirt with school logo*
- *red/navy blue polo shirt with school logo*
- *navy blue cardigan with school logo*
- *navy blue shorts/pants (solid, no denim)*
- *Riverside PE kit*



GIRLS

- *red sweatshirt with school logo*
- *red/navy blue polo shirt with school logo*
- *navy blue cardigan with school logo*
- *navy blue shorts/pants/leggings (solid, no denim)*
- *navy blue pleated skirt*
- *red/white or blue/white striped summer dress*
- *navy blue logo pinafore (worn with red, white or blue plain shirt underneath)*
- *Riverside PE kit*



Bus System

A bus system is in place to provide easy access, to and from school, for our students. A free bus line is available for all students, from our Hradcanska site, which carries students to the Early Years and Primary School locations. This is particularly helpful for those parents that may have students at multiple sites.

We also offer fee-based bus lines that allow for pick up and drop off options for our parents. These lines accommodate those families living in various parts of the city, including Prague 2, 3 & 5, as well as surrounding neighborhoods of Prague 6. These line change each year as we do our best to accommodate and provide pick up and drop off locations for various families.

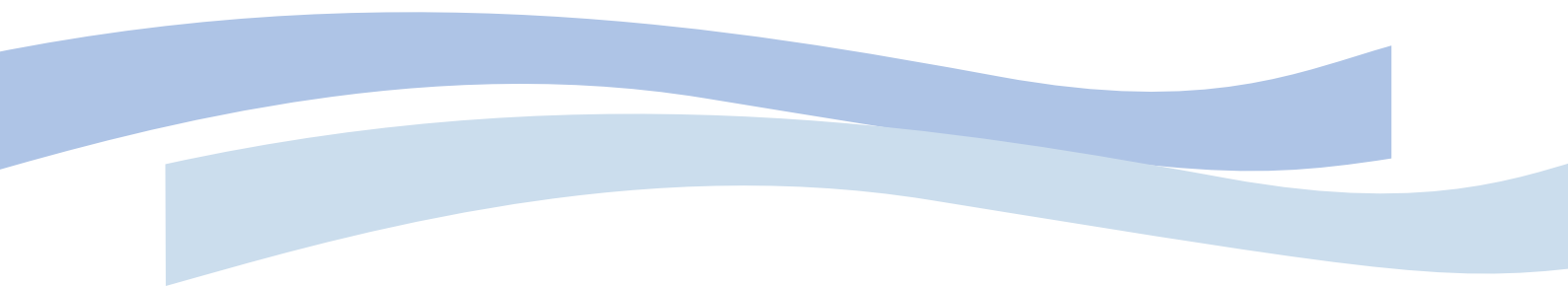


Lunch and Snacks

We stress the importance of healthy eating and lifestyle choices through our school curriculum, Eco Council and PTA led initiatives. Healthy snacks are available from our lunch provider and PTA snack bar. Students are also encouraged to bring healthy snacks to school.

Each day students have the choice of bringing a packed lunch from home, or, the choice of hot lunches. The hot lunch is provided by a respected caterer who exclusively uses fresh and quality ingredients. The hot lunch service requires a simple registration where parents have the ability to choose from the hot lunch menu (3 choices and a salad, sandwich and soup option), days in advance. Food choices and payment are completed online. This allows the caterer to provide the lunch option you have chosen for your child and provide their lunch without a financial transaction involving your child.







Contacts

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Mission Statement

Riverside School values the uniqueness of the individual and provides high quality education for students of diverse cultures within a Christian ethos and supportive family environment. The staff team is dedicated to building positive relationships with students, preparing them to be accomplished, global citizens.

