

20 YEARS

BERLIN COSMOPOLITAN

SCHOOL –

SHAPING THE FUTURE,

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD



WELCOME TO THE BERLIN COSMOPOLITAN SCHOOL

The Berlin Cosmopolitan School (BCS) is a non-profit, international school in the heart of Berlin. As an IB World School, it offers a comprehensive educational concept from early childhood to the end of upper secondary school. With a bilingual approach in English and German, BCS optimally prepares students for a global future.

WHERE EDUCATION TAKES ROOT AND DREAMS LEARN TO FLY

As a mother, entrepreneur, and teacher, in 2004 I wished for a school that would be more than just a place of knowledge transfer – a space full of curiosity, warmth, and possibilities. But in Berlin-Mitte, I couldn't find a school that combined internationality, creativity, languages, music, natural sciences, equal opportunities, continuous personal development, and humanity. So I founded the Berlin Cosmopolitan School – inspired by the ideas of great thinkers, progressive educational concepts, and my own experiences in East and West. Here, every child is allowed to be who they are – brave, open, creative, sometimes quiet, sometimes loud. We believe in the power of community, in mistakes as learning opportunities, in



Yvonne Wende, Gründerin und Direktorin der Berlin Cosmopolitan School

self-efficacy, empathy, and in a future that our children will shape themselves. Our school is more than an educational institution – it's a living experiment, inspired by the teachings of the past and the knowledge of today. Here we form not only intelligent minds but also wise hearts that are ready to master the challenges of the future with excellence. For us, education means strengthening young people in their entire personality. This is exactly where our

„Skills in Practice“ concept comes in. It encompasses 16 core competencies – from empathy, creativity, and knowledge to perseverance, team spirit, and critical thinking. Our students develop these from preschool to graduation – in lessons, in nature, in projects, and in over 100 clubs.

Yvonne Wende

Click here for the book
The Child of Tomorrow,
by Yvonne Wende



Nature and modern technology in harmony

The aim of the school is to take everyone along with their abilities from the very beginning – whether in kindergarten, preschool or school. Education should do justice to the complexity of our modern world. An important aspect is the appreciation of nature, which nevertheless leaves room for modern technology such as artificial intelligence.

The Vision of Berlin Cosmopolitan School

Our vision was created together with students, parents, and teachers – and is continuously developed. We promote lifelong learning and an attitude that actively helps shape a respectful, enlightened, and compassionate world. Growth mindset paired with perseverance forms the foundation on which long-term goals can be built.

This way, our students grow reflectively, openly, and with engagement beyond themselves.

Note: We use alternating male and female designations that refer equally to all genders.



A BRIEF LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

2003

Yvonne Wende founds the non-profit organisation 'Initiative für Bildungs- und Begabtenförderung'. Within a year, the first international preschool is established in Berlin-Mitte.

2004

The first bilingual English-German kindergarten opens in Berlin-Mitte – the foundation stone for today's Berlin Cosmopolitan School.

2007

Start of the Berlin Cosmopolitan School primary school in the building of the Evangelical Sophienkirche, Berlin-Mitte. One year later, the primary school moves into the current building at Rückerstraße 9.

2009

Opening of the Berlin Cosmopolitan School and the science laboratory.

2011

The second kindergarten and the preschool 'Kindergarten in the Park' enrich the programme of the Berlin Cosmopolitan School.

2012

Establishment of the school's own kitchen.

2015

Successful completion of the first IB Diploma year.

2016

Marking the successful launch of our bilingual Abitur Programme.

2017

Two IB students are among the top 1% worldwide.

2018

The first TEDx Youth Event with

students from grades 4 to 11. Yvonne Wende is honoured as 'Entrepreneur of the Year'. The school is awarded an EU grant to promote value systems in educational institutions.

2022

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Abitur class achieves the best result in Berlin with an average of 1.5.

2024

The highest BCS score at the school is an impressive 42/45. In addition, the Abitur class of 30 students achieved an average of 1.73.

2025

20th anniversary after the end of the first pre-school class and the first summer show.



NATURE EDUCATION: BETWEEN GREEN AND SCREEN

Outdoor activities have been a central part of our school from the very beginning. With excursions, our own forest school and nature seminars at Müggelsee, we enable our children in kindergarten and preschool as well as our pupils to experience nature up close. In doing so, we encourage their mindfulness and appreciation of the environment.



LEARNING WITH ALL SENSES – IN THE HEART OF NATURE

Once a week, our sixth graders exchange the classroom for the forest in Prennden. In all weather conditions, they experience nature first-hand, discover plants and animals, learn responsibility, respect, and

mindfulness – away from screens. Forest days promote concentration, creativity, and strengthen self-confidence. Nature becomes a teacher here – and an experience.





A classroom without walls – learning with all the senses in the forest at the Nature Campus of the Berlin Cosmopolitan School

NATURE EDUCATION AT BERLIN COSMOPOLITAN SCHOOL: EDUCATION IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

In an increasingly digital and urbanized world, regular contact with the natural environment is gaining importance for children and young people. At Berlin Cosmopolitan School, we enable our students from the Berlin metropolitan area to have a holistic learning experience that goes beyond the classroom. Our two nature locations – the school forest in Prenen and the Nature Campus at Müggelsee – are integral parts of our pedagogical concept. There, our students experience nature not just as a backdrop, but as an active learning space.

Nature education promotes sustainable education that strengthens body, mind, and community. During regular stays in the forest and by the lake, children and young people learn to sharpen their senses, take responsibility for

themselves and others, and understand ecological connections. Nature-based education not only promotes emotional intelligence but also social competencies such as cooperation, resilience, and empathy.

Particularly in today's time, when concentration ability, creativity, and movement are increasingly challenged, spending time in nature offers a necessary balance. Learning at our Nature Campus and in Prenen strengthens physical health, reduces stress, and creates space for imagination and complex thinking. Abstract concepts from mathematics, language, or science become tangible and sensually experienceable through experience-based learning.

At the same time, nature education at BCS is designed inclusively. Every student brings their own strengths – in the forest, everyone meets at eye level. Shared learning in nature creates a strong group feeling and contributes to every child feeling seen and valued. Nature education thus promotes not only individual potential but also academic success – in harmony with 21st-century competencies.

[Click here for the book ➔](#)
Forest Days, by Chris Carter,
expert in forest education



[➔ Click here for the book](#)
The Ideal Childhood,
by Katharina Ehrenfried



STAGE, PLAYING FIELD, LIFE – DEVELOPING TALENTS HOLISTICALLY

At Berlin Cosmopolitan School, music, art, dance and sports are not just school subjects – they are forms of expression, personal development, and community experience all at once. We foster talents from the beginning and create diverse opportunities to grow beyond oneself – in the classroom, on stage, and on the playing field.



MUSIC, DANCE, ART & SPORTS – MOVEMENT FOR BODY AND SOUL

From Musical Early Education to the Stage

Our music program begins early: Already in kindergarten, we foster musical curiosity and expression. From Grade 1, our students receive 90 minutes of music instruction per week – with theory, practice, and ensemble work. Whether string, wind, or guitar groups – every child learns at least one instrument. In orchestras, jazz and rock bands, choirs,

or ensembles, they experience music as an expression of emotion, creativity, and community.

The idea “From Start to Stage” accompanies us: Music should not only be learned but lived – at lunch concerts, Open Community Concerts, Summer & Winter Shows, or at competitions like “Jugend musiziert” or “Jugend tanzt”. Our students regularly achieve top

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In an interconnected world, empathy is one of the most valuable qualities we can teach. Together with ethical behaviour, it forms the moral compass that enables our students to play a positive role in society.

“

Yvonne Wende,

Founder of the Berlin Cosmopolitan School

places there. International cooperations and support programs open new perspectives. The „Music Friends of Cosmo“ also support musical trips, instrument purchases, and concerts – a heartfelt thank you!



BCS & Sporting Lisbon Girls' Basketball Teams, 2025



BCS Boys' Basketball – Florida 2019, with Coach Sven Wehrmeyer



BCS Summer Show It's showtime!

Dance as Expression and Cooperation

Dance enthusiasts also find a broad spectrum with us: Whether ballet, tap dance, jazz, or street dance – creative movement is part of school life. Together with the Fanny Hensel Music School Berlin-Mitte, we design professional dance classes and stage performances. Anita Kreft, who taught the first class at BCS in 2004, still accompanies many children on their way to the stage today. Her book “Dance” is available through Cosmication. Thank you for your inspiration, Anita!

Click here for the book →
Dance, by Anita Kreft



ess, and technical skills. A special highlight is the exhibition of our IB art graduates. For two years, students work on a coherent series of works, develop their own artistic language, and document their process in portfolios and comparative studies. The final exhibition impressively shows the depth, diversity, and creative power with which young people can express themselves. This exhibition is not just an examination performance – it's an artistic statement.

Athletic Diversity for Body and Character

Sports is also thought of holistically with us: Over 20 sports are available – from classic team sports to yoga to Tai-Chi. Every student participates in regular physical education and additional sports hours. It's not just about fitness, but also about fairness, resilience, and team spirit. Cooperations with professionals like ALBA Berlin (basketball) or Viktoria Mitte (football)

provide inspiring training impulses. A highlight: Our basketball team “Central Hoops Berlin Cosmopolitan e.V.” trains early in the morning, during breaks – and celebrates international success.

In every game, our students learn to make lightning-fast decisions, deal with mistakes, and continue playing together. This strengthens decision-making joy and mental strength. Thanks to our coach Sven Wehrmeyer!

Music, Dance, Art & Sports as Life School

Whether in the choir, on the dance floor, the playing field, or in front of the easel – music, movement, and creative design promote expressiveness, self-confidence, and belonging.

At Berlin Cosmopolitan School, we create spaces where every child can unfold – with joy, attitude, and energy for life.

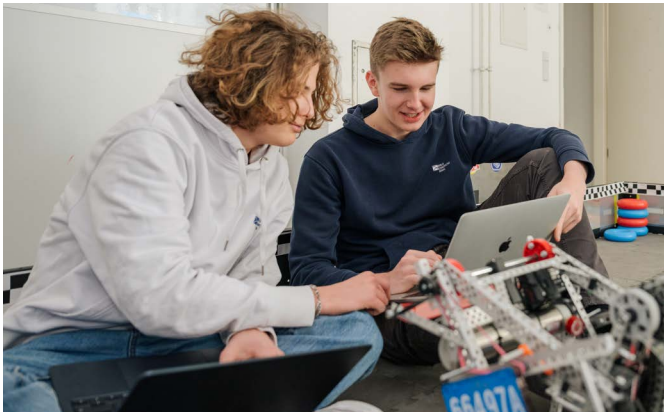
Art – Making Creativity Visible

Visual arts also has its firm place at BCS. In regular classes and beyond, we promote creative thinking, expressiveness,

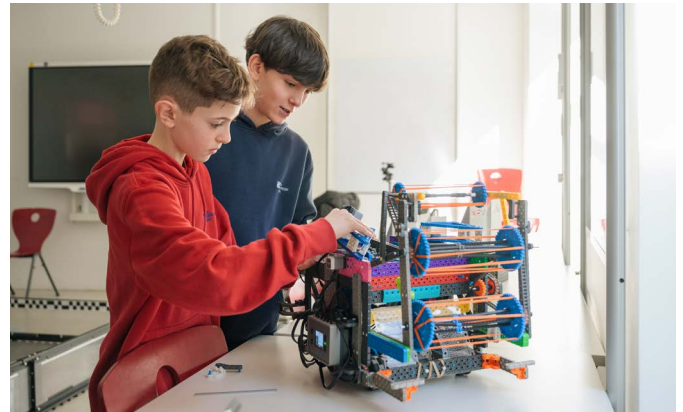


FIT FOR MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

We rely on the curiosity, openness and creativity of our pupils. That's why we offer extra-curricular activities such as programming, makerspace, Vex Robotics and the wood workshop. The Infento programme, in which life-size scooters, skateboards and cars are created, is brand new. The engineering talents of tomorrow can prove themselves here today.



Strategy, precision, passion – the road to the VEX World Championship



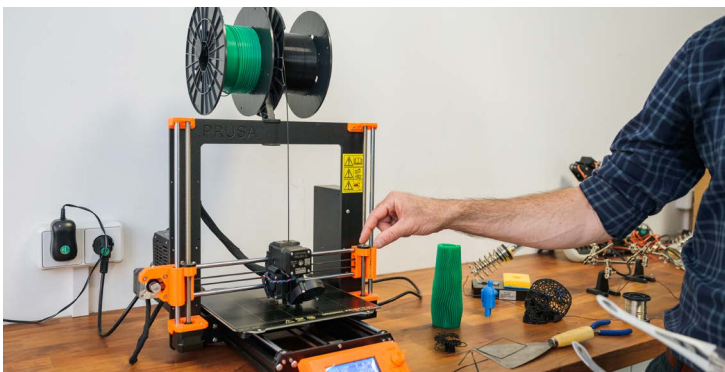
Fine-tuning for the championship – technical expertise meets team spirit

NATURAL SCIENCES AND INNOVATION – LEARNING WITH CURIOSITY AND DEPTH

At Berlin Cosmopolitan School, we combine technological education with natural science practice. In offerings like the Robotics Club, the Makerspace, the woodworking shop, or the new Infento program, our students not only discover their talents in programming, constructing, and tinkering – they also develop a deep understanding of mechanics, physics, and teamwork.

We promote scientific thinking in subject classes as well as beyond. For example, upper school students dove deep into the world of radioactivity and polymer chemistry during a visit to the Glass Laboratory Berlin-Buch – equipped with lab coats, Geiger counters, and electron microscopes. Theory becomes tangible here: through their own experiments, accompanied by specialists.

A special highlight: Two of our teams were recognized at the 2025 VEX Robotics German Masters and qualified for the World Championship in Dallas. There, one of the teams reached the final round.



Learning in 3D – the BCS Maker Space



Science begins here

VEX ROBOTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



The BCS team reaches the Round of 16 at the VEX Robotics World Championship 2025 in Dallas

READY FOR THE FUTURE – WITH PROJECTS, PRACTICE, AND PERSPECTIVES

How do you learn to stay curious? And how do you prepare young people for jobs that may not even exist today? Berlin Cosmopolitan School provides practical answers to these questions – with projects that make science, technology, and innovation come alive: Already in 6th grade, students go into businesses and organizations, and from 7th to 10th grade, they regularly do internships.

The BCS Career Day brings career orientation to eye level. In direct conversations with national and international experts from various industries – all from the BCS parent community – our students meet people with real life paths, shaped by detours, setbacks, and courageous decisions. This creates

not only new career images in their minds but also concrete impulses for their own future.

In Grade 10, the young people take the wheel themselves: In a freely chosen project, they design content, methods, and results independently. These projects range from building a robot dog for grandmother, developing a learning platform, writing a book, making a film, creating a sustainable school architecture concept, or designing plastic film from natural materials. Scientific thinking, communication, creativity, and personal initiative grow together naturally here. In the end, there are professional presentations to classmates, parents, and teachers – moments that last.

We also specifically foster political interest: through participation in the Federal Parliament simulation game in Grade 10, at BERMUN (Berlin Model United Nations) for Grades 8 to 12, as well as through lectures by international experts in cooperation with the Aspen Institute.

A special dynamic unfolds in the STEM subjects. Already in Grades 7 and 8, our students work project-based on the UN Sustainability Goals – combined with excursions to laboratories and research facilities. Since the 2024/25 school year, we specifically promote mathematical talents: with a second subject teacher in class and individual support. In competitions like “Mathematics Day”, in team challenges, or in the school mathematics club, many students show extraordinary engagement.

For this diverse engagement, Berlin Cosmopolitan School has been recognized multiple times – as “STEM-friendly School”, “Digital School”, “House of Little Researchers” and “Forest Expert”. In competitions like “Youth Researches”, the “International Junior Science Olympiad” or the “VEX Robotics German Masters”, our students regularly demonstrate innovation and excellence.

These successes show: Natural science and technology are more than just lessons for us – they are an invitation to research yourself, take responsibility, and actively help shape the future.



THE FUTURE IS MORE THAN TECHNOLOGY

At Berlin Cosmopolitan School, the focus is not only on tomorrow's world – but also on the person who will live in it. In a constantly changing society, we impart knowledge and strengthen attitude, creativity, and values. Because those who think globally, act empathetically, and learn self-effectively will not only understand the world – but also shape it.



Playful design – digital and intuitive



Creative learning with digital tools

PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE. SHAPING THE FUTURE.

Berlin Cosmopolitan School is more than a learning place. It's a living space for development, inspiration, and responsibility. Our students grow up in a world that changes faster than ever before. That's why education today needs more than subject knowledge – it needs attitude, curiosity, and courage to change.

"Our school is a living experiment", says school founder Yvonne Wende.

The foundation for this is an educational concept that combines international perspectives with a clear moral compass. It's inspired by the philosophy of the ancient Greeks, progressive educational approaches, as well as knowledge about personality development through sports, dance, music, and art – supplemented by elements of the learning culture of Anglo-Saxon boarding schools. Curiosity, courage, and

openness are not just buzzwords with us, but lived practice. In a climate of appreciation and reflection, children and young people learn to take responsibility for themselves and others.

Mistakes are not evaluated but used – as springboards to the next stage of development. This creates a real growth mindset, supported by perseverance, self-efficacy, and creativity.





Practice early: robotics meets primary school

The future also means: sharing knowledge. 20 years of kindergarten, pre-school, and school – that's two decades of pedagogical experience that we pass on. Our teachers publish bilingual specialist literature, appear as keynote speakers at international conferences like UNESCO, and advise other educational institutions. This way, we set impulses – also for state daycare centers and schools that want to break new

ground. With the Cosmo Academy, we create a learning platform for parents and colleagues of BCS. And through our own publishing house Berlin Cosmication, we publish practice-oriented publications on current pedagogical topics.

Our goal: To enable young people to help shape a networked world with knowledge, character, and empathy.

To the offers of the
Cosmo Academy →



← To the publisher
Berlin Cosmication





A SCHOOL ALIVE WITH EVENTS

Much more than just lessons: there is also a lot going on at Berlin Cosmopolitan School. Throughout the year, we offer numerous events where our students can discover all kinds of new things and strengthen the school community in a unique way. Excursions at home and abroad with the Erasmus+ programme are just as much a part of this as special theme days, cultural events or sports competitions. With this diverse range of activities, we realise our claim to comprehensive personal development.



BCS-Hall of Fame



Summer Show

MORE THAN LESSONS: STAGE FOR PERSONALITIES

A school year at Berlin Cosmopolitan School is rich in events that promote creative thinking, cultural exchange, and personal development. Whether stage performance, competition, or trip abroad – the diverse event program is an integral part of the holistic educational approach.

A special highlight is the annually held TEDxYouth@Berlin Cosmopolitan School. Here, students speak about topics close to their hearts – beyond social media, in the protected space of the school. There's laughter, amazement, sometimes trembling – but above all,

Numerous events take place, such as the Summer- and the Winter Show, Fête de la Musique and many more. Below left: TEDx Youth@BerlinCosmopolitansSchool; bottom right: Fête de la Musique

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I think the many dance programmes such as tap dancing, ballet, jazz dance and ballroom dancing are important across the board. Equally important is the concept of learning to love music by making music. That's why everyone at our school learns an instrument and plays in an orchestra, a band or is active in the choir.

“

Yvonne Wende,

Founder of the Berlin Cosmopolitan School





Experience parliamentary democracy in a fun way with the Bundestag simulation game, 2025

courage is shown. When the applause begins and the whole auditorium listens, unforgettable moments arise.

Music, dance, and art are firmly anchored in the school year: At the Summer and Winter Show, the Music Days at FEZ Berlin, or the major event “6K UNITED!” children from kindergarten, elementary school, and upper school take the stage. They gain not only musical but also social and organizational experience – supported by teachers and the Music Friends of BCS e.V. association, which also enables musical trips, instrument purchases, and concerts.

Excursions and class trips are an integral part of everyday learning. International trips, for example to Málaga or Nice, promote cultural exchange, language practice, and independence. Regional trips lead to historically significant places like the Kroat Mill in Saxony, to Dresden, or to memorial

sites in Berlin. Sports competitions have already taken our students to Tokyo, Seoul, Sydney, Lisbon, or Chile. Whether exchange programs, MUN conferences, or natural history trips – they open new perspectives and make education experiential.

We also address political and social topics: through laying stumbling stones, workshops on fake news, Bundestag visits, or discussions about the US electoral system. Here, democracy becomes alive in everyday life.

Mathematics fans and robotics enthusiasts get their money’s worth in competitions like the Mathematics Olympiad or the VEX Robotics German Masters. Here too, it shows: Learning doesn’t end at the classroom door.

This multifaceted program is made possible by the commitment of the “Friends of Cosmo” – an active network of parents and friends who enrich

school life with ideas, time, and experience.

This way, Berlin Cosmopolitan School creates spaces for creativity, expression, and community – and offers its students diverse opportunities to develop self-confidence, be courageous, and grow beyond themselves as a team.





SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Since it was founded in 2004, the Berlin Cosmopolitan School has developed steadily - from a kindergarten to an internationally recognised IB World School with a comprehensive educational programme up to the Abitur. It is the only bilingual grammar school in Berlin to offer both the IB Diploma as a university entrance qualification and dance as an optional subject.



Creative design boosts motor skills and spatial thinking



Learning through dialogue – international and open-minded

OUR VISION FOR THE YEARS AHEAD

We see education as a living, ever-evolving process. In a world of constant change, we keep asking ourselves: What should school look like today – and tomorrow? What do people need to confidently shape their own paths with courage, creativity, and a sense of responsibility? For us, school is far more than exam preparation – it is a space

for personal growth, community and learning that inspires.

A central concern is learning in and with nature. The school-nearby forest in Prenzlau and the Nature Campus at Müggelsee are long-established learning locations. Here, children experience education with all their senses,

grasp ecological connections, and develop a deep awareness of sustainability and compassion for the environment. Every year at the beginning of the new school year, former students return to the Nature Campus to tell the young people in Grades 9 to 12 about their path after school time – personally, openly, and inspiringly.



In the IB-Art course, students learn to make their voice visible



Final exhibition of the IBDP art class 2025



Teamwork and tinkering: Primary students build with Infento

We also actively shape digital change. New technologies open individual learning paths, promote creative thinking, and enable collaborative work. We see media competence as a key qualification: Our students learn not only to use digital tools but also to question them critically and use them responsibly.

Internationality is lived reality with us. Cooperations with schools worldwide, exchange programs, MUN conferences, and international excursions broaden horizons and promote a deeper understanding of global connections. It's not just about traveling – it's about encounter, change of perspective, and the willingness to approach the world with curiosity and openness.

At the same time, we promote inner strength, self-efficacy, and ethical orientation. Resilience, empathy, and

responsibility are central values that we consciously strengthen in school life – as a foundation for a successful life in a complex world.

Berlin Cosmopolitan School remains a place of diversity, co-creation, and community. Parents, teachers, and students shape school life together – this cohesion is our strength.

The future begins today – with every child who asks us questions, takes responsibility, and grows beyond their limits. For us, school is more than knowledge transfer: It's a living space where young people develop those 16 personal competencies that make them happy, self-confident adults.

We live Empathy, Equity, and excellence in education.



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Visit us and discover

Berlin Cosmopolitan School!



Many thanks to the
Friends of Cosmo and the Music
Friends of BCS – together for a
strong and committed school
community.



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