



Durham International School

Thigiri | Nairobi





Confidence for Life



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Welcome from the Headteacher

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Durham International School Kenya.

Starting school for the first time or moving to a new school is a very important milestone for every child and their parents. At Durham International School we know how special this time is and we recognise that a caring, nurturing, supportive environment is critical to a child's educational success. At Durham Kenya, we are committed to nurturing your child's potential ensuring that their first experience of school is one filled with happiness; a time where they develop a love for lifelong learning and 'Confidence for Life'.

Durham Kenya is a happy place, where children and staff alike want to be. When you walk through the door you feel a sense of belonging; I believe this is what makes us so special. Strong, genuine relationships are at the heart of an exceptional education and a happy childhood, and here at Durham Kenya every member of our community is known, valued and celebrated as individuals.

Durham's talented and dedicated staff, together with our creative curriculum and beautiful school facilities, encourage children to use their imagination, to think creatively, to explore the world around them and to strive to excel. High standards and expectations are grounded in the conviction that academic excellence and enjoyment of childhood go hand in hand.

Come and see what makes Durham Kenya a wonderful school for your child's preparatory education. We would be delighted to show you around.

Mrs Sue Small
Headteacher



A Message from Durham School UK

With an overall heritage of some 600 years' experience here in Durham UK, the Durham family of international schools has quickly established its reputation as the best possible place for children to begin their educational journey, and so develop their own 'Confidence for Life'.

Located in the city suburb of Thigiri, Durham International School Kenya is well placed and enjoys a fabulous site, as well as having facilities of the very highest standard. Children enjoy a range of outdoor spaces, as well as spacious classrooms and other specialist teaching areas. Teachers are passionate about and experienced in all aspects of early years and primary education; the curriculum is based on the UK's Early Years Foundation Stage and the English National Curriculum, and outcomes ensure children are happy in school, enjoy learning and are developed in the round.

Durham International School Kenya shares the same values, standards and overall ethos that have imbued our way of life here at Durham School UK. We are wholly committed to supporting Durham School in Nairobi and I am in no doubt that those children fortunate enough to be enrolled in Durham Kenya will benefit from the best possible start in life.

Mr Kieran McLaughlin
Headmaster of Durham School UK



About Durham Kenya

Durham International School Kenya is a truly special place. Located in the heart of Nairobi, we offer children a world class education.

As the first branch of a British School to open in East Africa, we are a sister school of Durham School UK and enjoy a long legacy of education excellence stretching back 600 years to the founding of Durham School in 1414.

We follow a British curriculum comprising the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the English National Curriculum, drawing on a wide range of educational approaches and enhanced by the exciting learning opportunities made possible by our Kenyan setting.

At our beautiful Thigiri school, next to Karura Forest, students thrive in a welcoming, engaging and vibrant learning environment. Our school offers a charming balance of a home-away-from-home feel and modern facilities custom built for the school. We strive to offer students an engaging variety of experiences, with creative learning spaces both indoors and outdoors.

The School is committed to delivering an education that is engaging, challenging, motivating and fun. Using a holistic approach to education, children learn through stimulating and creative experiences ensuring that every child's first experience of school is positive and so lays the foundation for all subsequent learning.

Our current location offers plenty of room to grow and we are actively expanding our facilities to continue to provide students with new and exciting learning opportunities.



Educational Ethos

Our core values of Moral Integrity, Ambition, Responsibility and Kindness underpin all our teaching and learning at Durham. We aim to develop a love of lifelong learning coupled with a culture of perseverance in the face of challenge so that students can flourish emotionally, socially, academically and physically. Children are encouraged to challenge themselves, think critically, explore different ways of doing things, reflect on their learning, collaborate and be a team player.

We believe this is fundamental in developing a child's sense of well-being, nurturing their resilience, self-esteem, sense of respect for others and sense of social responsibility.

A Durham Education

A Durham education is one that inspires, nurtures and encourages students through the provision of the finest quality teaching coupled with extensive opportunities to enable our students to achieve. Our excellent teachers encourage students to think creatively, to apply knowledge and skills successfully and imaginatively, and to constantly challenge themselves whilst building 'Confidence for Life' in a positive and supportive environment.

Durham Kenya is committed to delivering an education that is engaging, challenging, motivating and fun. Using a holistic and rigorous approach to education, our students learn through stimulating and creative experiences, in the classroom and beyond, in lessons and co-curricular activities. We aim to ensure that every Durham student's experience of school is positive and productive laying the foundation for academic success.



Our Mission

Our Mission is to provide students with a rounded education; one which inspires and nurtures a love of lifelong learning, an aspiration for achievement, respect for others, and 'Confidence for Life'.

Our Aims

Within a community shaped by moral integrity and kindness, Durham Kenya aims to cultivate responsibility, respect and ambition to ensure that every student can thrive, be happy and make a positive mark in the world.

The three pillars of a Durham School which support this aim and shape the environment where students can learn and grow are:

Academic challenge: providing students a lifelong appetite for learning

Pastoral care: supporting students emotional, moral and spiritual strength

Co-curricular: providing opportunities to enrich and develop the individual, fostering collaboration, teamwork and leadership.

We do this by nurturing and supporting our students to become:

- Thinkers who can research, evaluate, innovate, solve and create both collaboratively and independently
- Individuals who are reflective, emotionally resilient, and effective communicators
- Global citizens who act with responsibility and humility and are ready to make a positive contribution to society



Our Values

M

Moral Integrity

We achieve our goals by consistently working toward them

We go above and beyond the call of duty

We aim for the best in 'me and them' and take pride in all we do

We seek help and support before giving up and identify lessons in setbacks

We encourage all to develop maximum potential and support others to achieve

We embrace opportunities, challenge, and seek to develop our skills and talents

We identify opportunities for School Development



A

Ambition

We achieve our goals by consistently working toward them

We go above and beyond the call of duty

We aim for the best in 'me and them' and take pride in all we do

We seek help and support before giving up and identify lessons in setbacks

We encourage all to develop maximum potential and support others to achieve

We embrace opportunities, challenge, and seek to develop our skills and talents

We identify opportunities for School Development



R

Responsibility

We do what we say we will

We are punctual and prompt in all that we do

We use our resources responsibly, developing and caring for our environment

We act before being asked and consistently deliver on expectations

We prepare thoroughly for all tasks

We encourage autonomy in all and seek leadership

We acknowledge and seek to resolve problems

We pioneer better ways of doing things



K

Kindness

We are open and approachable to all

We welcome and listen to the opinions of others

We look to engage and involve all in the community

We attend to newcomers and those needing help, and build relationships actively

We are positive in responding to questions

We support each other and stand up for fellow colleagues and pupils

We acknowledge individual needs within the community

We speak positively of the school community





Our Unique Approach to Learning

Every child deserves the best possible start as they begin their educational journey, and our Creative Curriculum delivers an education that is engaging, challenging, motivating and fun.

At Durham, how students learn is as important as what they learn. We recognise that not all children grow and develop at the same pace or in the same way. Our child-centred approach celebrates the individual talents, readiness and personalities of every student. With low student to educator ratios and warm, positive relationships, teachers use varying approaches to personalise learning for individuals. Through child-initiated activities, students are able to engage with academic topics through their unique interests, and our teacher-led lessons provide them with active learning opportunities that challenge students in fun, interesting ways.

Whilst we maintain an academic focus in all of our learning, Durham Kenya is also committed to instilling strong values and life skills that will benefit children as they progress in their education. Students in the Pre-Prep and Prep School years are not only discovering foundational academic topics, they are learning how to learn. We are committed to giving them the skills they need to thrive in an educational environment.

Durham fosters a culture of perseverance in the face of challenge and new possibilities, nurturing resilience, self-esteem, respect for others and a sense of social responsibility.

Innovative and enthusiastic teachers are at the heart of our learning community, providing the framework for students' educational, cultural and social development. Our teachers and support staff take a close interest in all children's pastoral welfare, fostering a sense of belonging and self-confidence.



Our Creative Curriculum

At Durham Kenya students explore and discover, create and innovate, question and problem solve, work together and individually as they focus on big ideas and their passions. Through play and project based hands-on experiences which foster social interaction and ignite creativity and imaginative thinking, students become independent, self-confident, inquisitive and enthusiastic learners.

Our experienced teaching team caters to the needs and interests of every child through a range of learning opportunities designed to be enjoyable, engaging, challenging and motivating. Inviting indoor and outdoor spaces allow for a free-flow of movement, and provide varied environments for self-initiated activities, guided lessons, and small and large group interactions.

Durham educators closely monitor each child's progress at every stage of learning, and celebrate and value their successes. Teachers continuously assess children both in their everyday activities and play, and in their more focused work. This allows us to support, stretch and challenge our children as individuals.

Through active learning, purposeful play, creativity and critical thinking, our students grow into lifelong learners equipped for a diverse and changing world.





The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Children entering Durham Kenya in Playgroup, Foundation Stage 1 (FS1) and Foundation Stage 2 (FS2) follow the Early Years Foundation (EYFS) Framework, a UK Early Years programme based on a practical, hands-on approach. Children are guided through seven interconnected Areas of Learning and Development:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Children develop a positive sense of themselves and others; form positive relationships and develop respect for others; develop social skills and a readiness to learn including perseverance and resilience, and the ability to work co-operatively as well as independently.

Communication and Language: Children are provided with a rich language environment to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development: Children are active throughout the day to develop gross and fine motor skills, coordination, balance, stability and control in their movement.



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Literacy: The foundations of literacy are incorporated into every aspect of the daily routine to support emerging reading and writing skills. This includes developing spoken language and vocabulary, knowledge of print, alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, linking sounds to letters, active engagement in stories and developing a love of reading.

Mathematics: Throughout the day, children actively engage with mathematical concepts and operations through play and hands-on activities, developing early mathematical reasoning, understanding and skills.

Understanding the World: Children's natural curiosity is encouraged as they make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design: Children's creativity is fostered through exploring, trying out new things and sharing their ideas through a variety of activities in art, design, music, movement, dance and role-play.







Little Durham

Ages 1 to 2

Little Durham offers children aged 1 to 2 years old a safe, happy and nurturing start to their school journey. Children enjoy fun, age-appropriate activities led by our caring teachers in an environment that feels like a home away from home.

Little Durham sets the stage for lifelong learning by encouraging the development of positive educational and social skills that children will master as they grow. Children enjoy an interesting, varied schedule of activities that focus on play and socialisation, while reinforcing teaching and learning. Through discovery play, children are able to move around as they actively explore their own interests and develop their independence.

By encouraging social and emotional development, Little Durham lays the foundation for your child's future education, builds 'Confidence for Life' and provides a seamless transition into Durham International School.



Little Durham

Ages: 1 - 2 years



Playgroup

Ages 2 to 3

Playgroup is your child's first introduction to formal school, and the beginning of their Durham educational journey. It is a precious time of exploring the world around them, making friends and becoming more independent. Our Playgroup classrooms are bright, lively and welcoming environments, with well-qualified staff ready to greet and support your child on arrival.

Social interactions form the basis of children's learning in Playgroup and children receive nurturing support as they develop new friendships and interact with peers and adults. Teachers encourage children to expand their developing confidence and skills through play, movement, dancing, singing, acting, role playing and stories. Children engage in a variety of activities, to 'have a go,' and test out new ideas.

Focused play areas and activities target a specific skill development, like role play to encourage talk and communication, crafts to build fine motor skills, and pattern building to lay the foundations for mathematics.

The Playgroup classrooms provide a rich literary environment, with books, story-telling, singing songs, and reciting rhymes to ignite early reading skills. Children have free access to paint, chalk, sand, and water play, and the use of a variety of malleable materials, such as clay, corn flour, wet soil and sloppy sand, which engages them in exciting tactile and sensory experiences that are paramount in their early development.



Foundation Stage 1

Ages 3 to 4

FS1 is an exciting year at Durham Kenya, where we emphasise exploratory self-directed learning rooted in meaningful play. Students in FS1 have the time and space to explore, to investigate, question, collaborate and play out all the experiences that underpin lifelong learning. Children in FS1, learn actively through multi-sensory play, and fun activities that introduce academic instruction.

Children enjoy role-play, where they are encouraged to extend their imagination, make believe, and create stories together. They develop their understanding of basic literacy skills and take part in early reading immersed in the sounds and experiences of stories or quietly enjoying the book corner, both independently and with friends. Teachers give children plenty of opportunities to use their emerging reading and writing skills in meaningful ways, like the provision of menus, recipes, note paper and pencils in an outdoor restaurant.

Students also enjoy both group activities and free play with a range of construction toys, drawing and craft materials, and puzzles. Teaching staff encourage them to explore numbers in creative ways, and introduce them to scientific concepts with activities based around discovery. FS1 classes regularly move to outside learning areas to experiment and play with water and sand. Children are in constant interaction with their environment, manipulating objects, making predictions and asking questions.



Foundation Stage 2

Ages 4 to 5

Children arrive in FS2 eager to take on the increased challenges of specific, content-led areas of our wider curriculum. Our teachers create structured activities, ensuring that FS2 is a vibrant and stimulating environment that challenges and engages each child. Learning to read and write, and mathematics are key elements of the FS2 curriculum, which builds on the rich early literacy and mathematical reasoning experiences of FS1. Teaching occurs through a balance of whole-class interactive teaching, small-group activities, partner work and play.

Reading and writing are taught through a systematic and structured approach, building children's phonic knowledge and skills explicitly, and teaching spelling and handwriting directly. Spoken language, vocabulary development and listening comprehension are embedded into all aspects of their work.

We use a range of practical applications to encourage children's understanding and fluency in counting, numbers, quantities, comparisons and problem solving. These hands-on activities help students develop mathematical understanding, and deepen children's core understanding of the reasoning behind the concept they are learning about.

Through scientific investigation, children in FS2 explore and experiment. Teachers encourage inquiry, spurring children to ask why things happen and how they work, as well as what they think will happen next.



Key Stage 1 – Year 1 and Year 2

Ages 5 to 7

At the end of the Early Years foundation Stage, pupils move seamlessly into Key Stage One (KS1) which comprises Year 1 and Year 2. Key Stage 1 is a two-year phase, covering the 5 to 7 years age range.

A more formal approach to lessons begins in Key Stage 1, although a lot of the learning is still taught through play, especially in Year 1. Building on the child-centred foundations set in the Pre-Prep years, the journey through Key Stage 1 at Durham is a time of nurturing individuality, of opening young minds to endless possibilities, and of encouraging pupils to think creatively and form their own ideas – all while having fun. Our core values of honesty, perseverance, respect and kindness, together with a strong sense of community across the Pre-Prep and Prep School years, is at the heart of a Durham Kenya education, ensuring continuity and consistency across all areas of learning and development.

We believe that it is essential that children have a good grounding in the basics and we concentrate on the teaching of reading and writing through a daily phonics programme and developing vocabulary, as well as increasing familiarity and confidence with numbers

Curriculum

In Key Stage 1, the core skills of English and Mathematics are still the focus of learning, and we further develop other subjects, such as Science, History and Geography, which our teachers incorporate across the curriculum in termly topics.

English is a central feature of everyday lessons and involves building on phonics and reading skills as well as developing comprehension and





understanding of texts to support all areas of the curriculum. Children in Year 1 and 2 gain skills to write in a variety of different genres such as story writing, poetry, letters, information texts and diary extracts; and spelling, punctuation and grammar are consolidated across all areas of work.

Mathematics is a key feature across the curriculum at Durham Prep School. Children work with manipulatives and real life situations to develop mathematical reasoning, conceptual understanding and fluency in counting, number, place value and operations. Children begin to apply mathematical reasoning to solve problems and make estimates, and they develop their understanding of shape, space and measure.

Science in Key Stage 1 involves developing scientific knowledge and scientific thinking by providing opportunities for children to explore and investigate the world around them through observation, data collection, analysis, questioning, interpreting evidence, classification and developing vocabulary to explain and give reasons for their findings. Science topics in Years 1 and 2 include: Materials, Animals, The Human Body, Habitats, Electricity, Changing State and Plants.

Geography involves developing locational knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography and beginning to use geography skills like mapping. The school is located next to Karura Forest which provides a natural treasure trove of places and features to explore.

History involves researching different time periods and ways of living. Children explore both their local environment and the wider world around them. Topics draw upon different cultures, allowing the children to understand that people have different beliefs, customs and traditions, encouraging understanding and tolerance of other people and their environments.



Key Stage 2 – Year 3 to Year 6

Ages 7 to 11

Key Stage 2 (KS2) is a four-year phase covering the 7-11 years age range.


Key Stage 2 purposefully focuses on equipping all students with a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience to engage them, foster their strengths and challenge each individual student to be the very best that they can be. Learning builds on prior knowledge as students are engaged in experiences to apply their ideas, generate new possibilities and make decisions, as well as to plan, monitor and evaluate their progress as they build on their skills and understanding.

Initiative, curiosity and risk-taking are encouraged as students become more independent and they take greater responsibility for their words and actions. Through a range of experiences, students are encouraged to experiment with ideas, learn from mistakes, work collaboratively and become more self-directed in their learning. Students' self-esteem and self-confidence are explicitly fostered along with their ability to manage their own emotions and interact effectively with others to enhance their own learning.

Curriculum

In Key Stage 2 enjoyment of reading and writing, speaking and listening transcends all subjects and is fostered throughout the Durham learning journey. In addition to appreciating the writing of others, students are guided to harness their own creativity and imagination to become confident, articulate and passionate speakers, writers and readers.





In Mathematics, students are encouraged to investigate mathematical principles and reason logically. Problem solving strategies are modelled in lessons and opportunities to apply these strategies through real-life problems develop a firm understanding in key mathematical concepts.

Science in Key Stage 2 focuses on stimulating natural curiosity and broadening students' scientific view of the world around them through exploring, talking about, testing and developing their ideas about functions, relationships and interactions. Students are encouraged to ask their own questions about what they observe and make decisions about which type of scientific enquiry is likely to be the best way to answer them.

In Geography, Key Stage 2 students explore ways in which our planet's features are shaped, interconnected and change over time. As students progress their growing knowledge about the world, they deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and how these affect the way we live today and might live in the future.

History in Key Stage 2 develops concepts like cause and consequence to bring the past to life. Skills like assessing evidence, making balanced arguments and reaching conclusions are developed – all skills that are valuable for upper primary, secondary school and beyond.

The students benefit from school visits and outside activities to support and enrich the curriculum.





Co-Curricular

Durham Kenya offers a world-class education that combines traditional academic rigor with innovative approaches to learning through a broad and balanced curriculum. We understand the value of offering children a rich and varied school experience, and co-curricular learning is an important part of every school day at Durham Kenya. By introducing children to a wide range of exciting activities, we give them the opportunity to try new things and find new interests. Students are challenged to think creatively and develop new skills, giving them the opportunity to succeed and build confidence in their abilities.

Sporting Activities

Physical Education (PE) and Movement are integral to learning as they help increase memory, perception, attention, language and decision-making, as well as balance, agility, stability and coordination. All children enjoy PE and swimming in our own heated pool every week. PE classes during the school day include athletics, football, tennis, netball, hockey and cricket. Other co-curricular opportunities that are available include golf, basketball, gymnastics, karate and yoga. Durham Kenya has partnered with the Spanish Academy AIRFC to offer academy-level coaching at the school.

Participating in sports offers individual skills development as well as the opportunity to be part of a team and develop skills like responsibility and leadership within a supportive team environment. Sports teams participate in matches and tournaments against other schools in Nairobi. In addition, there are opportunities for internal sports competitions through the house system that enables all students to represent their house in a variety of events.





Music, Art, Drama and Dance

Music, Art, Drama and Dance alongside other creative activities are extremely important in a Durham education. One of the great joys of working in early years and primary education is the opportunity to build a child's imagination, language and their ability to act creatively. Musical opportunities include singing and peripatetic music lessons.

Drama classes are incorporated into class lessons and students have the opportunity to be involved in school concerts and productions. Students regularly perform for their peers at school assemblies and for those students who especially enjoy performances, there is an additional co-curricular drama class offered. Dance has a special place at Durham. It embodies the diversity of our student population as children are given the opportunity to perform across a range of styles and traditions. Ballet classes and an additional co-curricular dance class are also offered for those students who are particularly passionate about dance and performance.

Languages

Kiswahili is taught alongside the culture and traditions of Kenya in every Year Group at Durham. Our co-curricular programme also offers students the opportunity to develop their mother tongue language in specialist weekly classes in Gujarati, French and Dutch.

Karura Forest Fridays

With the school's close proximity to Karura Forest, Durham has built into the curriculum an environmental morning in Karura Forest each term. It is one of the most enjoyed days as the children get to engage with the natural environment of the forest in a hands-on and thoughtful manner allowing them to develop their relationship with the natural world through self-discovery and problem-solving.





600 Years of British Education, Now in Kenya



Contact Us

We invite your child to make their mark at Durham Kenya and look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

We fully understand how important the decision is when choosing your child's school, and we are committed to ensuring that their first experience of education is one filled with happiness and learning.

If you would like further information, our friendly team would be delighted to answer your questions and can organize a tour of the school so that you can see for yourself all that we have to offer.

Durham International School

Telephone: [+254 700 387426](tel:+254700387426)

Email: info@durhamkenya.com

Online: durhamkenya.com

Make an Appointment

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www.durhamkenya.com