

Bernadotteskolen

Copenhagen, Denmark

Named for wartime Red Cross rescuer Folke Bernadotte, this Hellerup reform school pairs Danish grundskole roots with IB pathways.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	53/100
Academic outcomes	55/100
University placement	53/100
Prestige & heritage	53/100
Alumni network	52/100
Facilities	52/100
Transparency	42/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Bernadotteskolen’s defining feature is its split identity: a Danish grundskole with IB credentials, teaching in both Danish and English, and doing so in Hellerup rather than on an out-of-town international campus. That combination is **genuinely distinctive** in Copenhagen. Founded in ****1949**** and named for Folke Bernadotte, the school sits in a niche between the local and the international: non-religious, day-only, and serving ages ****3-16****. For families who want a child anchored in Danish school culture without shutting the door on an IB pathway, that is a serious point of difference. It is also an IB World School and accredited by the Danish Ministry of Education, which matters because this is not an informal bilingual experiment; it is a school operating with recognition on both the national and international side.

The attraction, then, is not scale, prestige theatre or a glossy expatriate package. It is **educational hybridity with a clear purpose**. Bernadotteskolen gives parents a route that keeps one foot in Denmark and another in an international framework, with Danish and English both in play. That will suit bicultural families, internationally mobile households that still want local integration, and Danish families who value a more outward-facing education than a standard municipal option offers. The age range stops at ****16****, which is a material constraint. Parents need to think beyond the lower secondary years, because this is not a through-school to 18 and it does not offer the long runway that many international families expect.

In market terms, Bernadotteskolen reads as a **specialist local-international crossover** rather than a full-service international school. The average annual day fee is ****28,440 DKK****, which places it well below the fee level associated with Copenhagen’s more overtly international operators. That lower price point strengthens its appeal for parents who want bilingual or internationally inflected schooling without buying into the full expatriate-school cost structure. The trade-off is straightforward: families seeking a classic international-school experience in English from nursery to graduation need to look elsewhere. Families who want a school with **strong local roots**, a bilingual setting, and an IB-backed dimension

should put Bernadotteskolen on the shortlist. The child who thrives here is one comfortable moving between languages, cultures and academic traditions — not a child looking for a cocooned international bubble.

STRENGTHS

- Offers both the Danish national curriculum and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, giving families flexibility between local and international pathways.
- Located in Hellerup, an affluent residential suburb just north of Copenhagen with easy access to the city centre.
- As a day school with a dual-curriculum structure, it caters to both Danish national families and internationally mobile expat households under one roof.
- Small overall school size typical of Danish independent schools, which generally allows for closer staff-student relationships than larger international schools.

TRADE-OFFS

- Its dual Danish/IB structure means Danish-language instruction is central for younger years, which can be a barrier for newly arrived non-Danish-speaking families.
- As a lesser-known name outside Denmark, it lacks the extensive international alumni network or global brand recognition of larger IB schools in Copenhagen.
- Being a single-campus day school in Hellerup, it is not well suited to families based elsewhere in the greater Copenhagen area without a manageable commute.
- Independent verification of academic results, university placement outcomes, or IB pass rates is limited in public sources.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is typically at standard Danish school entry points, with places allocated through direct application to the school, subject to availability and, for younger year groups, proximity or sibling priority common to Danish private schools. IB Diploma entry in the upper years generally requires a satisfactory academic record and, for non-Danish speakers, evidence of readiness to manage a bilingual academic environment. Families should contact the school directly for current fee schedules, waiting lists and language-support requirements, as these are not consistently published online.

WTS RATING 

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