



## Swedish School of Shanghai, Giving Back to the Community at SCIS

Every Tuesday and Wednesday, the children of the Swedish Community at SCIS Hongqiao and Pudong Campuses gather to learn their mother tongue.

The first classes were held in the home of a teacher who became the founder in 2001. The School grew quickly as the Swedish Community grew in Shanghai and had 90 students at SCIS in 2010- 2012. Today, there are around 50 students in Shanghai as the Community became smaller.

Swedish School in Shanghai is a non-profit organization, supported by the Swedish government and operated by a voluntary based Board of four people and seven employed teachers. SCIS Puxi and Pudong Campuses host the Swedish school. Due to Government support and voluntary work of Board members, only a small admissions fee is needed to cover costs of educational materials and teachers. Teachers work for the Swedish school part-time and, to ensure high standards, they are all qualified instructors.

*“Keeping up with the mother tongue is so important and we are so lucky to have this opportunity for our children here in Shanghai. Our children, now 15 and 17, have done Swedish School from the very beginning. For me, it was natural to engage and volunteer in the Swedish School in order to support our children’s mother tongue. Especially since we have been in Shanghai many years, we believe our children would have forgotten their Swedish if they hadn’t attended classes. Instead, today our daughter is able to do Swedish as her second IB language in the DP program, and she is doing very well!”* comments Alexandra Köhring, Head of the Board at Swedish School of Shanghai.

The Swedish School follows guidelines from the National Curriculum of Sweden. In addition to 90 minutes class time, children are assigned weekly homework in order to work with their mother tongue at least one more time every week. Parent support is an integral part of the children’s learning and families are encouraged to keep up with the mother tongue in the home environment. Embracing the Swedish culture and traditions are also important parts of the curriculum, so the school makes sure to celebrate these either during lesson time or by organizing festive celebrations and inviting parents to join and volunteer. For example, there is Lucia at Christmas time, the Swedish Midsummer at the year-end in June, and so on.

“When we came to Shanghai and chose SCIS as the school for our six-year-old daughter, we were so happy she could join Swedish classes as well. She really loves it, says its so much fun, and we feel that for her to be able to meet with other Swedish children in her age makes her feel safe and at home. I also decided to engage in the Swedish School and it is really nice for me to be part of the community and giving back this way”, says Magnus Linderang, Coordinator at SCIS Hongqiao and member of the Board.



Svenska Skolan i Shanghai

