



Association for Swedish IB schools, [ASIB](#)

Dear Dagens Nyheter,

We are writing in response to an article published on 19/2-2020 by Peter Letmark concerning Dibber International School Sollentuna.

The article states that the school has falsely marketed itself to parents as an IB school although it has not been authorized to run the IB programmes and is unable to issue the “*internationella examen*.”

This article is concerning for the Association of Swedish IB schools (ASIB) as it has several pieces of misleading information connected to it which could have a negative impact on the IB profile in Sweden. As a result, ASIB has chosen to make a statement to Dagens Nyheter regarding the article to clarify misconceptions and request correction regarding the article.

Please find the documentation needed for clarification allocated below:

Firstly, an overview of the International Baccalaureate and its programmes. It is important to note that the IB (International Baccalaureate) coordinates four distinct educational programmes. The Primary Years Programme (ages 3-11), the Middle Years Programme (ages 11-16), the Diploma Programme and Career Related Programme (ages 16-19). Each of these programmes are distinct and can run independently of one another. Some schools run a single programme and other schools run a combination. It is also worth noting that in the case of the PYP and MYP programmes schools can offer the entire age range or a limited span depending on the local context of a given school. Also the PYP and MYP are educational frameworks, based upon concepts, context and content developed by each school individually in their units of work, following the requirements set forth by the IB.

In the case of a school becoming an IB world school, the school must complete a feasibility study, attend IB accredited training and submit an application to the IB to be reviewed **prior** to beginning the implementation process. Prior to this point schools are prohibited from teaching using the IB pedagogical framework.

All IB world schools must go through the above candidacy phase for a period which usually takes approximately two years. During this time, schools are permitted to teach according to IB pedagogical framework as well as issue progress and final reports in accordance with IB assessment policies.

During the candidacy phase schools are not allowed to use the IB logo nor claim to be an IB world school on their marketing materials. It should be clearly stated that the school is a candidate school. In the case of Dibber International School Sollentuna, it states in both Swedish and English on the school's website that the school is in its candidacy phase, which is

in line with the IB requirements for the implementation phase. The statement required by IB regarding candidacy status is too lengthy to fit on a brochure, but the IB views that the school is in compliance by clearly stating on the website and linking to the IBO.org.

Secondly, the article stated that the school is unable to issue "*internationella examen*." This statement we also view as incorrect and misleading. Within the four IB programmes, the Diploma Programme and Career Related Programme issue exams to students as a mandatory part of the education. In the case of the Middle Years Programme, there are no mandatory final exams and within Sweden the gross majority of MYP schools do not offer students the optional final exams to their students. The Primary Years Programme does not have any exams for students.

ASIB has chosen to make a statement regarding this article because we feel that the inaccuracies in the article casts a negative light on the International Baccalaureate as a whole which could have a negative effect on IB schools within Sweden, which is of course is worrisome for our organization.

The IB programmes are research-based educational frameworks designed to educate both international students situated outside of their home country, but also to provide a rigorous framework of education in conjunction with a national curriculum. The IB has been educating both local and international students in Sweden since 1981. There are a total of 37 IB schools, which offer programmes in both English, but also Swedish.

The Association of Swedish IB schools would encourage Dagens Nyheter and Peter Letmark to gather more sources and do further research prior to publishing another article concerning the IB and its schools. With some simple research much of the inaccuracies of the article could have been corrected prior to publishing. We request that a correction to the article be published.

If required in the future, the ASIB board is more than willing to support you as a reliable source from within the IB world.

Yours Sincerely,

The board of ASIB.

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