

A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE WINSTEDT SCHOOL DIPLOMA: Frequently Asked Questions

The Winstedt School offers the UK National Curriculum from Reception-Y13 (or K-12) and is an EduTrust-Certified (Singapore) and ACS WASC Accredited (USA) international school in Singapore.

1. What is The Winstedt School Diploma and what is its equivalency?

The Winstedt School Diploma is a 4-year programme of study (Year 10 through Year 13) whereby students must achieve 22 credits* to graduate and obtain the Diploma (*please refer to Question 10 for graduation requirements).

- United Kingdom: Equivalent to 5 General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSEs) at passing grade
- United States: Equivalent to a High School Diploma
- Other countries: Equivalent to successfully completing secondary education

2. What official body confers The Winstedt School Diploma?

The Winstedt School was granted approval on 20 April 2021 by the Committee for Private Education (CPE), SkillsFuture Singapore, Ministry of Education, to issue a Diploma to our students who successfully complete the course requirements to graduate.

3. What is Committee for Private Education (CPE)?

The Committee for Private Education (CPE) is an agency under the SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) within the Ministry of Education of Singapore. CPE was established under the Private Education Act of 2009, giving CPE legislative power to regulate the private education sector in Singapore. As such, The Winstedt School is registered and regulated by CPE (which is the case with all international schools operating in Singapore). The CPE was created to ensure that private education institutions including international schools level-up and continue to have high standards in the local private education industry.

4. What is SkillsFuture Singapore?

SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) which governs CPE is a statutory board under the Ministry of Education in Singapore. Statutory boards of the Singapore Government, like SSG, are organisations that have been given autonomy to perform an operational function by legal statutes passed as Acts in parliament. The statutes define the purpose, rights, and powers of the authority. The statutory boards usually report to one specific ministry, and in this case, SSG reports to the Ministry of Education.

5. I understand that The Winstedt School is officially certified by CPE. What are the requirements and certifications under CPE, and what requirements has The Winstedt School met?

(1) [Enhanced Registration Framework](#) (ERF): ERF sets out the basic standards that a Private Education Institution (PEI) must adhere to in order to operate as an international school in Singapore.

- The Winstedt School maintains a 4-year ERF which was renewed on 28 June 2020 and is effective until 27 June 2024. It is renewed every 4 years. Our CPE Registration No.: 200910070W

(2) [EduTrust Certification Scheme](#) (EduTrust): EduTrust is a *quality assurance* scheme administered by CPE for *select* international schools and private education institutions in Singapore. It aims to *distinguish* private schools that consistently maintain a high standard of quality in the overall provision of education services and governance, and make continual improvements that lead to positive student outcomes. The EduTrust Certification also enables the school to issue [student passes](#) for international students residing outside of Singapore via Singapore's Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA).

- The Winstedt School was awarded the four-year EduTrust certification in 2019 and is effective until 2023. It is renewed every 4 years. Our Cert No.: EDU-2-2128 Validity 11/10/2019 - 10/10/2023.

6. I understand The Winstedt School attained “WASC Accreditation”. What is WASC and what does it mean to be WASC accredited?

The Winstedt School attained full WASC accreditation in February 2022 for all year levels from Reception to Y13 (or K-12). The Accrediting Commission for Schools, [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#) (WASC) is an accrediting association based in the United States that is widely considered as a world-renowned accrediting agency and works closely with the Office of Overseas Schools under the U.S. Department of State. The accreditation validates the school as a trustworthy institution for student learning and the integrity of the school's programme and transcripts. It also helps to facilitate transfer of credits to other English-speaking schools which is critical for college/university acceptance worldwide. The Winstedt School joins over 5,000 schools worldwide, which includes select international schools, that are ACS WASC accredited.

7. If the Diploma is WASC accredited, does that mean that the Diploma is a U.S. (American) High School Diploma?

While the Winstedt Diploma is equivalent to a high school diploma in the U.S., The Winstedt School Diploma is not an American High School Diploma *per se*. This is because Winstedt is not a school based in the U.S., but an international school based in Singapore, governed by the Singapore Government.

8. I know that Winstedt uses the UK National Curriculum. What does this mean in terms of what the Diploma means?

Throughout Senior School, for core subjects (English, Maths, and Science) students cover content up to and including Key Stage 4. When a student successfully meets the course requirements to graduate, a Diploma is conferred – which is equivalent to 5 GCSEs at passing grade in the UK. For students in Years 12 and 13 that *excel* in their core subjects, extension work may be aligned to Key Stage 5, or SAT/AP study, depending on the individual and their future study goals.

9. When my student obtains the Diploma at Winstedt, what does this mean in terms of being able to apply for universities and colleges in Singapore or outside of Singapore in other countries?

Students who have obtained The Winstedt School Diploma are eligible to apply to any post-secondary educational institutions including colleges and universities worldwide. It is important to note that admissions criteria vary from country to country and institution to institution.

- If a student is planning to go straight to university after graduating from Winstedt, students will, in most cases, need to provide an [SAT](#) examination score or [AP](#) courses to bolster their application. Winstedt is a member of the [College Board](#) (a U.S. based organisation) that administers these examinations and can help with this process.
- Another option for a student is to apply into a foundational course, or a vocational college. These mostly have pathways/links to university programmes.



10. What does my student need to obtain the Diploma?

The Winstedt School Diploma is a 4-year programme of study (Year 10 through Year 13) whereby students ***must*** achieve the following credits to graduate and obtain the Diploma:

Credits Required:

Subject	Credits
English	4
Maths	3
Science	2 (3 is preferred)
Humanities	3
Language Other Than English (LOTE)	2
P.E. and Health	2
ICT	1
Electives	5
Total:	22

One credit is equivalent to a full year of study whereby a student has achieved a passing grade. Winstedt uses a 1-7 grading system; students must obtain a minimum of 3 to achieve their credit.

Grade	Knowledge	Analysis
7 Excellent 90 – 100%	A comprehensive, highly structured, focused, and concise response to the assessment task.	A deep and systematic engagement with the assessment tasks, with a consistently impressive demonstration of the subject matter.
6 Very Good 80 – 89%	A thorough and well-organised response to the assessment task.	A substantial engagement with the assessment task.
5 Good 70 – 79%	An adequate and competent response to the assessment task.	An intellectually competent and factually sound answer.
4 Satisfactory 60 – 69%	An acceptable response to the assessment task.	An acceptable level of intellectual engagement with the assessment task.
3 Marginal 50 – 59%	A response to the assessment task which meets the minimum acceptable standards.	A factually sound answer with a partially successful, but not entirely acceptable, attempt.
2 Unacceptable 40 – 49%	A response to the assessment task that is unacceptable.	An unacceptable level of intellectual engagement with the assessment task.
1 Wholly Unacceptable 39% and below	No response.	No intellectual engagement.

Transcript

For a student starting in Year 10, their schedule will be designed to ensure that the student achieves all credits. For those joining after Year 10, we will look at previous school reports and will include those credits in the final transcript to ensure all credits are accounted for towards graduation.

Our WASC accreditation validates Winstedt as a trustworthy institution for student learning and the integrity of our school's programme and transcripts. It also helps to facilitate transfer of credits to other



English-speaking schools which is critical for college/university acceptance worldwide. All Winstedt transcripts and Diploma will be embossed with the ACS WASC Accreditation seal.

Curriculum

Through the credit system, students will cover core subjects alongside a range of different electives. For core subjects, content is planned and delivered in line with the [UK Key Stage 3 and 4 curricula](#).

For students in Years 12 and 13 that excel in their core subjects, extension work may be aligned to Key Stage 5, or SAT/AP study, depending on the individual and their future study goals.

Career/Post-Graduation Support

Throughout Senior School, students are engaged in a discussion about their next steps and pathways. Our Career Studies Electives give students the opportunity to gain experience, knowledge, and skills in a wide range of subjects. They also provide students with the opportunity to understand what it is like to study in a university/college and/or vocational learning environment. The Winstedt School has a partnership with various tertiary educational institutions including the [National University of Singapore](#), [Raffles College](#), [Singapore University of Social Sciences](#), and other vocational institutions.

From Year 10, students document their work on a centralised platform ensuring that when they need to complete a CV/resume/application form they have recorded their activities.

In Year 13, students attend a class which specifically teaches employability skills and supports students to plan for their pathway post-Winstedt. In this year, Year 13 students will also have to identify, apply for, and partake in a 'Work Experience' placement.

ISTE Standards

For quality assurance, we teach in line with [ISTE standards](#) - a globally recognised set of competencies which ensure that our students are:

1. An empowered learner
2. A digital citizen
3. A knowledge constructor
4. An innovative designer
5. A computational thinker
6. A creative communicator
7. A global collaborator

If you are a prospective parent, please contact our Admissions Office at admissions@winstedt.edu.sg to learn more about our Senior School programme.

For current Winstedt students, please contact Ms Tara Beck, Senior Teacher and Head of Careers & Post-secondary Education, for more information at tbeck@winstedt.edu.sg.

