

Group Placement 2026-2027

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Introduction

At Optimist International Academy (OIA), students are placed in classes based on their chronological age, following our academic year from August 2026 to July 2027. OIA is on the journey to offer a full international educational continuum from Primary to Secondary education.

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) lays the foundation for learning in Groups 1–7, while the Middle Years Programme (MYP) supports students in MYP 1–5, preparing them for future education. Primary covers ages 4–12 (Groups 1–7), and Secondary covers Years 1–5 (ages 12–17).

In 2026–2027, OIA will offer Years 1 and 2 in Secondary only.

Student Placement & Progression

Students are placed with peers of similar ages to support academic, social, and emotional development. Exceptions could be made and are based on readiness, developmental needs, and assessment. Final placement decisions are made by the Admissions Manager and/or Head of School, in consultation with the counsellor, class teacher, and parents.

School Entry & Cut-Off Dates

The cut-off date for school-year placement is October 1st. Children who turn 4 before October 1, 2026, will begin Group 1 (Early Years) at the start of the school year. Those who turn 4 on or after October 1 will join during the academic year on their fourth birthday.

Personalised Placement Discussion

Parents participate in the placement process through an intake discussion with the Admissions Manager and by applying via our Open Apply Portal. Once all application documents are complete, we consult other educational professionals as part of our internal review. For students joining mid-year, an initial classroom visit is arranged to ensure a smooth transition.

Group Placement for the School Year 2026–2027

	Date of Birth	Age	OIA Formation	British System (UK)	K–12 System (US/India)	Notes
Primary Lower	1 Oct 2021 – 30 Sep 2022	4-5	Group 1	Foundation (Reception)	Pre-School (Pre-K)	First year of formal schooling
	1 Oct 2020 – 30 Sep 2021	5-6	Group 2	Key Stage 1 – Year 1	Kindergarten	Transition to early primary education
	1 Oct 2019 – 30 Sep 2020	6-7	Group 3	Key Stage 1 – Year 2	Grade 1	Students begin structured learning
	1 Oct 2018 – 30 Sep 2019	7-8	Group 4	Key Stage 2 – Year 3	Grade 2	Focus on independent learning skills
Primary Upper	1 Oct 2017 – 30 Sep 2018	8-9	Group 5	Key Stage 2 – Year 4	Grade 3	Building academic and social skills
	1 Oct 2016 – 30 Sep 2017	9-10	Group 6	Key Stage 2 – Year 5	Grade 4	Strengthening academic and social skills
	1 Oct 2015 – 30 Sep 2016	10-11	Group 7	Key Stage 2 – Year 6	Grade 5	Final primary preparation year
Secondary School	1 Oct 2014 – 30 Sep 2015	11-12	Year 1	Key Stage 3 – Year 7	Grade 6/7 Transition	OIA follows the UK progression into secondary; in some K–12 systems this age range is Grade 6
	1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sep 2014	12-13	Year 2	Key Stage 3 – Year 8	Grade 8	Continued lower secondary learning

Brief Explanation:

This table uses the 1 Oct–30 Sep date-of-birth cut-off for 2026–2027 placements and shows equivalent stages across systems. The K–12 column includes a “Grade 6/7 (transition)” note because OIA moves into secondary in line with the UK system, while some K–12 structures place this age range in Grade 6.