

Meiji Gakuen to Launch an “International Course” at its Elementary  
School in April 2027  
Course Information Session to be held on  
Saturday, February 28, 2026

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Meiji Gakuen Elementary School, operated by the Meiji Gakuen Educational Corporation (Principal: Kazunari Sato; Address: 5-1 Sensuicho, Tobata-ku, Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture), will launch a new “International Course” in April 2027, in which students will study various subjects in English at grade level.

In response to rapid globalization and increasing diversity of values, this course aims to foster students’ global awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and practical English communication skills essential for shaping the future.

## Background to the Establishment of the International Course

In recent years, Kitakyushu City, where Meiji Gakuen is located, has seen an increase in families relocating from overseas due to the appeal of foreign companies and the expansion of international business. There has also been growing demand for an educational environment where children who are native English speakers, or who have been educated in English, can continue their learning seamlessly.

At the same time, many local families have expressed a strong desire for their children to acquire practical English skills and a global mindset from an early age in order to thrive in an international society.

Meiji Gakuen has already been guided by its long-standing educational philosophy of nurturing students to become capable individuals with integrity who can contribute to social transformation. This mission has led Meiji Gakuen to consistently value each child's individuality while promoting independent learning, rich character development and solid academic achievement.

Building on this foundation, the International Course will further expand opportunities for students to engage with diverse cultures and values. Through learning together in a multicultural environment, students will develop mutual understanding and respect, preparing them to become globally minded individuals who can contribute locally and internationally.

## Course Overview

- Start Date: April 2027
- Grade Level: First Grade (with plans for gradual expansion each academic year)
- Capacity: Approximately 25 students per grade

## Key Features of the Course

### **1. Immersive English Environment**

Students will spend most of their school day in an English-speaking environment.

Frequent exposure to English will promote natural language development and help students grow their practical communication skills.

### **2. Subject Learning in English**

Except for selected subjects such as Japanese language studies, most subjects will be taught in English.

By learning content in English, students will develop critical thinking skills and expressive abilities.

### **3. Team-Teaching System for Secure Support**

Classes will be taught by a team of two teachers: one native English-speaking teacher and one Japanese–English bilingual teacher.

This system ensures careful, individualized support for each student.

### **4. Original Global Education Program**

The school will implement its own international education program focusing on themes such as cross-cultural understanding, diversity, and global issues.

Through inquiry-based learning and presentations, students will cultivate the perspectives and attitudes needed to participate actively in the global community.

### **5. Learning Rooted in Japanese Language and Culture**

Japanese language education will be emphasized to develop strong multilingual literacy skills.

Students will also engage with Japanese culture and traditions, fostering well-rounded character development.

## Course Information Sessions

For the 2025 Academic Year

- Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026
- Venue: Meiji Gakuen
- Application submission begins Wednesday, January 28, 2026
- How to Apply: Via the Meiji Gakuen official website

Upcoming events in 2026

- Planned for April, June, August, September, and October

For details, please visit our official website:

<https://meijigakuen.ed.jp/elementary/>

## About Meiji Gakuen

- Organization Name: Meiji Gakuen Educational Corporation
- Address: 5-1 Sensuicho, Tobata-ku, Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture
- Chairman: Shuji Murakami
- Head of Gakuen: Hiroshi Soda
- Founded: 1910 (115th anniversary)
- Educational Institutions: Elementary School, Junior High School, and Senior High School
- Mission: To educate students to become capable and principled individuals who can contribute positively to society and its transformation.