



**THE FIRST FULLY BILINGUAL SCHOOL  
IN GREAT BRITAIN  
ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN**

2016

[www.azbukafoundation.org](http://www.azbukafoundation.org)

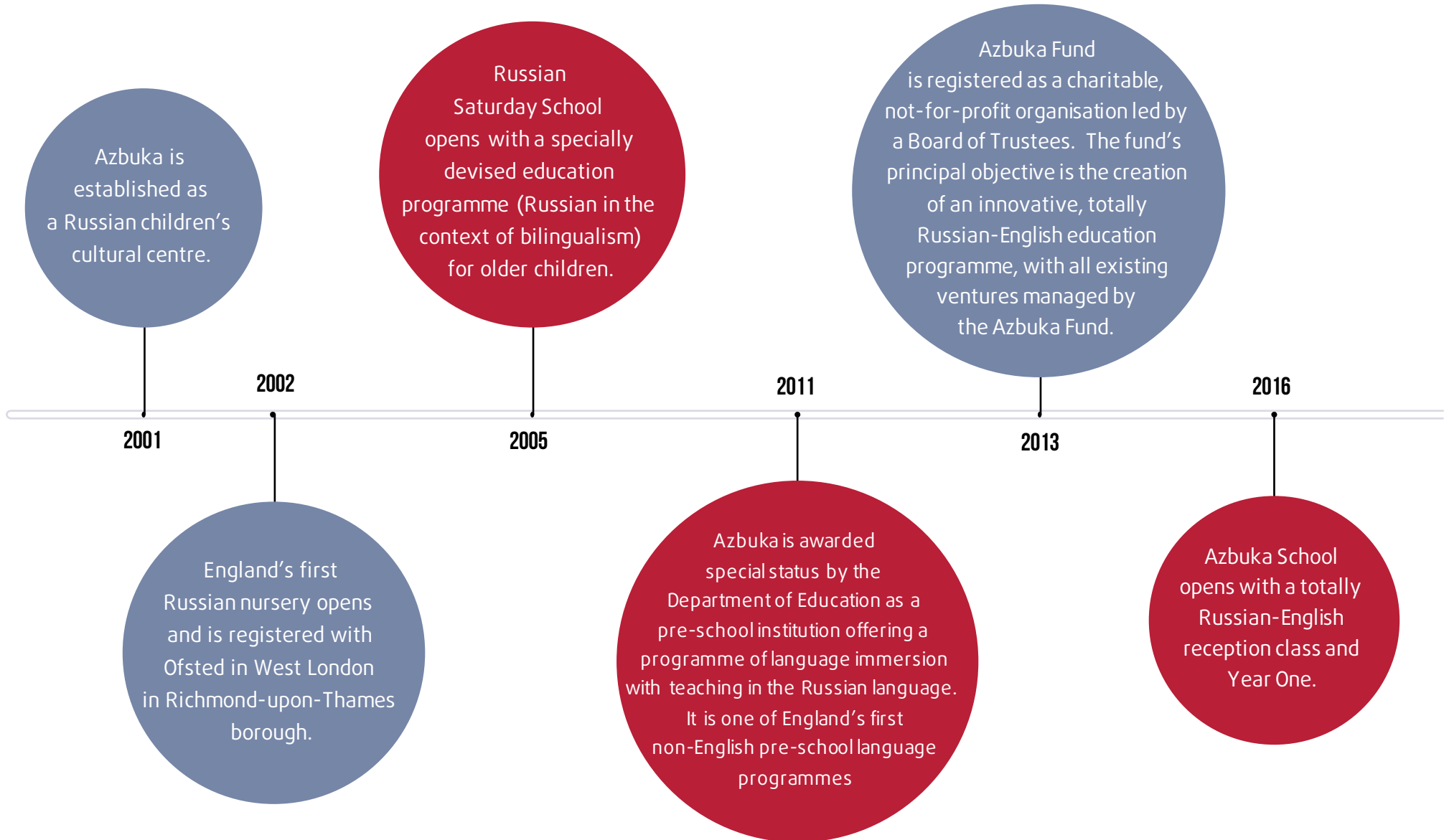


**AZBUKA FOUNDATION**



**AZBUKA — RUSSIAN-ENGLISH BILINGUAL SCHOOL**

# AZBUKA - THE HISTORY





# AZBUKA TODAY: KEY FEATURES



The Azbuka Nursery School, Saturday School and Cultural Centre have 16 years' experience of working successfully within the English educational system for 16 years. The nursery has a two-year waiting list.



Our special bilingual education programme is built on a wealth of experience and best practice from across the world, bringing together the best teaching and cultural traditions of Russia and England.



Azbuka's Information Centre opens to the public, for use by teachers, parents, professionals from other diaspora and all those interested in the language and culture of Russia and bilingual education.



Azbuka's teachers are experts and professionals in their field, linguists with considerable experience of working within the Russian and English education system.



Full compliance with requirements and standards for schools in Britain.



Trustees and consultants, both Russian and English, are experienced professionals in their respective fields of education, finance and culture.



Cooperating with a range of Russian and English organisations involved in education and culture.

# AZBUKA – TRUSTEES, CONSULTANTS AND PATRONS

## Maria Gavrilova

Russian, living in the UK since 1990. Background in Russian philology (Tartu University, Estonia) and MA in Applied Linguistics (Birkbeck, London). In 2000 founded AZBUKA, London's first Russian Nursery as well as Saturday School and Russian Children's Club to be registered with Ofsted (Educational Standards Department). After two years of negotiation with the Department of Education (DfES) the AZBUKA Nursery became the first pre-school institution with 'language immersion' to operate under British law on pre-school education. Mother of two bilingual daughters. Passionate supporter of bilingual education.

## Svetlana Malinina (Rifat)

Born, raised and educated in Moscow. Background as the principle dancer of the famous Igor Moiseev National Dance Company and the Irish stage show Riverdance. Involved in various dance and theatre productions in Great Britain, USA, Russia and Ireland. Since 2002 teacher and Deputy Head of the AZBUKA Russian Saturday School in London. Producer-Director of many AZBUKA school performances. Svetlana is firmly committed to bilingual education as well as Russian culture and heritage. She lives in London with her husband and two bilingual children.

## Dr Charmian Kenner

Dr Charmian Kenner is a Reader in Educational Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her research focuses on children's bilingual development in the home and the community. She has directed research projects on early bilingualism, intergenerational learning as well as bilingual learning through partnerships between school teachers and community language teachers. Her published works on bilingualism include: 'Home Pages: Literacy Links for Bilingual Children' and 'Becoming Biliterate: Young Children Learning Different Writing Systems'. Mother of a bilingual son. Supports bilingualism in mainstream schools.

## Andrei Usachov

One of Russia's most successful writers who, despite his relative youth, is regarded as a classic children's author. In 30 years of writing he has published over 250 books (including reprints) in Russia. 15 of his books have been translated into 11 languages. Patron and consultant for AZBUKA since 2012.

## Petr Reznikov

Born in Russia. Background in Russian philology, linguistics and simultaneous interpreting. Was Head of Russian at Eton College for 15 years. He has substantially raised the standard of Russian language teaching at Eton. Father of bilingual children. Director of the educational consultancy PRINCE.

# AZBUKA – TRUSTEES, CONSULTANTS AND PATRONS

## Taissia Chinina-Kelly

Born and educated in Akademgorodok, Novosibirsk, where she read linguistics and Japanese studies. She subsequently completed an MBA at Nottingham University. Currently lives and works in London with her husband and two bilingually raised sons. An event organiser, Friend of Pushkin House, supporter of Russian culture and language. She has extensive experience in producing conferences and other events, including cultural and educational projects related to Russia.

## Andrew Jack

Andrew Jack works as a journalist with the Financial Times. He was based in Moscow from 1998 to 2004. Co-chairman of Pushkin House ([www.pushkinhouse.org](http://www.pushkinhouse.org)), a London-based cultural charity (Russian Cultural Centre), and has previously served as a trustee of two other charities, one promoting philanthropy in developing countries, the other providing social services to low-income families in London. His son is trilingual and attends AZBUKA Saturday school where Andrew provides considerable assistance.

## Jason Manning

English, geologist, father of two bilingual daughters. Longstanding supporter of Russian-English bilingual education in London and of AZBUKA. After the birth of his daughters he was 'converted' to the theory and practice of bilingual education. Jason has also learnt Russian and uses it in his work, at home and abroad.

## Marc Wolstencroft

Marc Wolstencroft was Headteacher-Consultant of Wix Primary school where children receive a 'two-way immersion' education in French and English. Marc's career began in the oil industry and was followed by a PhD and teaching in secondary schools. He later became a consultant and inspector. He has worked for most of his career in multicultural London primary and secondary schools and is therefore no stranger to the challenges of inner city schools. The bilingual model Marc has pioneered works for any combination of languages. He works as a consultant for Azbuka.

## Maya Gavrikova

Maya studied economics and accountancy at the Government Academy of Finance in Moscow. She has lived in London for the past 14 years. Maya completed her training with the Big 4 accountancy practices, both in Moscow and London. Qualified as a certified chartered accountant in 2003. Worked as an accountant/auditor for Gorman & Darby Co in London. Her children are longstanding pupils of the AZBUKA Saturday school and Maya is a passionate believer in bilingual education.

# AZBUKA – THE SHORT-TERM PLAN ... THE NEXT 3 YEARS

01

Successfully expand the work of the primary school as the core of the organisation. For this Azbuka needs its own building by 2017.

02

Open classes in Years 1-5 in Azbuka's own building in London.

03

Establish a permanent base and cooperate with other Azbuka entities in one place – the HOME of Azbuka in London.



# AZBUKA – THE SHORT-TERM PLAN ... THE NEXT 10 YEARS

01

Nursery operates in Azbuka's own building, with a swimming pool, medical facilities and counselling services.

02

Totally Russian-English primary school with teaching based on the latest research and world-wide best practice in education and bilingualism.

03

Russian-English secondary school (11 - 16 year olds). Blending two educational programmes and teaching strategies (the best of Russian and English traditions).

04

Russian children's cultural centre opens for all London families and members of the public with an interest in theatre, art, dance, music and education for Russian children.

05

Information resource centre on bilingual education, supporting other diaspora in London in developing theories and practical approaches to effective bilingual teaching. An open science base for research into linguistics, bilingualism and teaching.





# AZBUKA – YOUR SUPPORT

You can support us by:



# AZBUKA – YOUR SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

You can support us by:

01

To acquire Azbuka's own building and equipment - £10 million. Any substantial donation made will be used to meet this goal.

02

Any donation will be gratefully received and we are willing to discuss any conditions that a sponsor may require.

03

To secure a long-term building lease and to purchase the appropriate equipment we need £3 million.

04

Donors who help us to fulfil our goal of acquiring Azbuka's own building may have their name attached to the school and create their own mark in the history of education.



Газета



Подписка

АНГЛИЯ

Weekly Russian Newspaper

Недвижимость

Деньги

Ваше право

Наши на острове

Интервью

Жизнь в UK

Красота и здор

## Фонд «Азбука» открывает в Лондоне первую русско-английскую школу полного дня

### ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS BILINGUALISM

# Best of both worlds

A Russian-English bilingual school in London is giving children a unique learning experience, finds Karen Paux

The traditions of Russian theatre, music and dance are very much alive and thriving in the nursery at the Azbuka Russian-English bilingual school in West London. Children enjoy regular visits from Russia's traditional Pribludka Puppet Theatre, and the nursery has made large wooden puppets of its own, including Dasha. Now 14 years old, Dasha is a friend with the children and a character that features in role-play activities based on national folk motifs.



Nursery teacher Diana Pavlovskaya says, 'Our children love using role-play and adapting their voices and personality to a different character they are portraying. Drama supports language skills, as children develop their oral language skills, they learn to listen and wait for their turn, and use their knowledge of both English and Russian to create their own time of their own.'

Drama and music activities based on Russian culture are important to the ethos of Azbuka. Just under half of those attending are from families where first language is Russian, while others have first languages including German, French and Thai. In terms of staff, 10 of the 15 teachers speak English and Russian, and use an immersion language approach, which is reported to be the most effective way of teaching a second language to each child. Teachers work flexibly with a balance of English to Russian across the nursery, of learning, and aim for growing the ability to English by the time the child is five years old.

**ACHIEVING A DREAM**  
In 2007, the Azbuka Russian-English Nursery was the first Russian 'immersion' nursery to be registered with Ofsted. In March this year, founder

and head teacher Maria Gavrilova welcomed her dream of opening her nursery into an independent school and opened the doors of its new premises, close to Marble Arch.

The free-paying establishment, which has 25 nursery and Reception children, is owned by the Azbuka Foundation, a charity of which Maria Gavrilova is chairman, and its income is reinvested in the nursery.

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INDEPENDENT

News &gt; Education &gt; Education News

## Teaching in tongues: the bilingual pre-school tapping new potential

Introducing the first officially accredited Russian-speaking bilingual nursery in Britain

Richard Garner | Tuesday 31 December 2013 | 3 comments

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

## Russian nursery can stay in EYFS

By Sue Launer

A Russian bilingual nursery school has won its two-year battle with the Department for Education and can now operate purely in Russian and still work within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The EYFS framework states,

Azbuka nursery school in Richmond, London, which has an ethos of 'language immersion'.

Maria Gavrilova, who runs Azbuka nursery school, said, 'The children are immersed in the language environment with their classmates and peers on a daily

Ms Gavrilova added, 'Most children at our nursery are bilingual already, also attending English nurseries and often having one English speaking parent as well.'

'The reason the families choose to come to our nursery is to immerse in the Russian side of

RUSSIAN UK: EDUCATION

## ФОНД АЗБУКА-РУССКО-АНГЛИЙСКАЯ ШКОЛА В ЛОНДОНЕ

О языках, билингвальном образовании и о том, почему школа не может быть бизнесом

В международном мире, где бизнес преобладает и многообразие, билингвальное образование уже не роскошь, а необходимость для многих детей. С этим согласны не только родители, преподаватели, чиновники, но и родители, и даже сами дети!

Лондон. Одно из самых многоликих и динамичных городов в мире. В этом мире, который меняется гораздо быстрее, чем мы успеваем заметить, границы между странами становятся все более условными. Наши дети вырастает в мире, абсолютно не похожем на реалии нашего детства. Сменив культуру здесь не могут и не

абстракция, а повседневность. От того, как дети смогут выжить в эту реальность, зависит их дальнейший жизненный путь.

Британскому образованию не откажешь в качестве, однако оно до сих пор рассчитано на требования усложненного «бизнеса». А главное, оно в основном основано на англоязычной среде (то есть динамично развивающейся при таком количестве существующих языков). Многие семьи сегодня ищут альтернативы. Неудивительно, что возникает все больше школ с билингвальными образовательными программами.

В 2015-16 годах в Лондоне на базе русской школы «Азбука» открывается первая билингвальная русско-английская

школа полного дня. «Азбука» — это школа организации: первый зарегистрированный в Общедоступной школе в Лондоне (с 2002 года), субсидиарная школа в культурный центр. За 14 лет существования школы через нее прошли более 600 детей, от 2 до 15 лет. Здесь создана уникальная программа погружения в русский язык и культуру для двуязычных детей. За образец планируется взять успешные билингвальные учреждения, а не школы. «Наша культура — это мир».

В Британии, и российское образование сильно связано с традициями, но оно совершенно разное. Мы ставим цель объединить преимущества двух разных

AZBUKA – bringing UK minority-language education into the 21st century

Maria Gavrilova



I didn't get my first big culture shock until I had been living in London for about 10

the world, became a foundation of AZBUKA org – Russian nursery, school and Club.

AZBUKA Russian Nursery

At the time of writing, I have just received another call from a Russian family upset that despite the home language being Russian, their child goes to an English nursery and at the age of 3 already speaks mostly English with her Russian-born friends. Yesterday I had a similar conversation with a Russian mother and English father whose child has been sent to





**Maria Gavrilova**

Chair of Fund and Head Teacher of School

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