



*Our Guide to...*

# Early Years Cubs

2017-18



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
SHANGHAI, PUXI  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

*Our students are  
inspired to be  
innovative and  
ambitious in all  
endeavours.*





## About Our School

The British International School Puxi is a vibrant learning community offering an outstanding education to a truly international student body. With over 11 years of history offering the English National Curriculum & the IB Diploma Programme, our students achieve at the highest academic levels and access the most prestigious universities worldwide. Our modern campus is ideally situated within a very popular expatriate residential area and provides great facilities for great learning, in and beyond the curriculum. We develop students who understand and display internationalism, leadership and concern for others, through an innovative academic programme coupled with first rate extra-curricular and pastoral provision.

“ British International School of Shanghai is building a strong, well-rounded curriculum, and where other schools have pulled budgets and time away from PE, Art, Music and general learning, BISS strengthened these areas. ”

— BISS Parent



## Welcome to Our School

# *A Note to our Parents*

Welcome to the British International School Shanghai, Puxi. We are a school for children of all ages whose aim is to help our students to develop and grow through the English National Curriculum.

This guide is about the first stage in our primary school, which is a community of 800 children aged from 2 to 11.

We aim to give you an introduction to what your child will learn throughout this first stage of the primary school. More than this, we hope it will give you a sense of our educational philosophy, which is about putting children in situations that enable them to be happy, to thrive, to grow and to progress at the right rate for them.

A guide like this can only tell you so much, and we very much look forward to being able to meet you in person and talk more fully about how we might be able to be part of your child's education.



*Dr Neil Hopkin*

Principal



## *An Introduction*

The Early Years Foundation Stage covers Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception. Our high standards in teaching support children's early development in the essential learning skills at this very important stage of their lives.



We have lots of experience in what is important to parents and children in their early years. We give children the best possible start to their education by:

- providing a happy, safe, secure and inspirational learning environment;
- setting the highest possible standards in learning, development and care to ensure that every child makes continuous progress;
- creating an open and honest partnership between parents and our teachers in which regular communication and mutual support is fundamental;
- planning learning and development around the individual needs and interests of the child;
- using modern assessment methods to understand children's needs;
- valuing all children in a culture of mutual respect and understanding;
- celebrating children's achievements.
- we want all children entering our school in the Early Years Cubs classes to have very positive first experiences of school, starting to build a love of learning that will help them succeed as children and adults.

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“Our high standards in teaching support children's early development in the essential learning skills at this very important stage of their lives.”







We cover seven areas of learning and development, fundamental for early education and growth:

- personal, social and emotional development;
- communication and language;
- literacy;
- numeracy;
- physical development;
- understanding the world;
- expressive arts and design.

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. When parents choose to use Early Years services

they want to know that provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework that provides that assurance.

*From the UK government's introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage*

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# Personalising Learning

**Within Early Years we incorporate the interests of each child into our teaching to help empower them as learners, increase their motivation and confidence, and allow each child to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and their place in it.**

Our overriding aim is to make sure that every child develops at the right pace for them, and we help this along by choosing topics that capture the interests of young minds: often different, but always fun and stimulating.

We revisit areas of interest throughout Early Years to spend time on the themes that capture enthusiasm and motivate. How children access material is more important than what they study. They develop learning skills and habits that will be of great value to them in future years.

Personalised learning can cover a wide range of subject matter, with recent favourite topics including:  
dinosaurs;  
under the sea;  
celebrations;  
transport;  
traditional tales;  
weather.

We look for familiarity, encouraging children to feel more confident and secure, take greater risks in their learning and make more connections. Whatever the topic, children will constantly be gaining new skills.

We consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development for each child and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for every child in all areas of learning and development.

# Ongoing Assessment

**We understand the importance of assessment in the delivery of effective and high quality education to all children as they learn with us during their Early Years stage.**

Our assessment methods draw on the best practice in the UK and elsewhere, and include:

- individual assessment, making timed observations of a child's movements and interactions in the learning environment
- planned observations of children working with a teacher in groups or individually, so that learning can be assessed against a set of criteria
- informal observations, where children make links in their learning or comments to others that give the teacher insight into the way their understanding is developing
- digital cameras are used regularly to capture images and footage of children's learning which is shared with our pupils to allow discussion, reflection and self or peer assessment.

Our assessment systems allow us to monitor and respond to individual children's learning and we make sure that everyone makes progress at the best rate for them.

Assessment and progress information on the seven areas of development for each child are always accessible to parents via Tapestry; our digital learning journals. We encourage parents and children to look at the e-journal regularly as it allows us to celebrate success, identify areas for development and build pride in a child's achievements. The e-journal forms an important record of progress in Early Years, and a memento of childhood for families for future years.

*Our teachers are trained to optimize the learning potential of each child*

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## Specialist Teachers

**As well as their class teacher, children have access to a wide range of specialist teachers for key subjects and activities.**

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Teachers work with children to develop digital literacy skills, including mouse control, dragging and dropping skills and keyboard navigation. Programs used help to support other areas of the Early Years curriculum, developing early number and calculation, phonics and music alongside digital literacy.

Physical Education is a specialist subject from Pre-Nursery age, and weekly lessons with PE teachers develop spatial awareness, coordination and ball skills through games, dance and gymnastics.

Swimming lessons are provided for all children. We build confidence and understanding of safety in the water through games and use of floats.

We have specialist MUSIC teachers who take the children for weekly lessons to our Music rooms. Music is experienced and enjoyed through singing and playing instruments.

Children work and perform as individuals and in groups. Music is also an integral part of the Early Years curriculum every day, with singing used as a basis for teaching in many areas.







## *Beyond the Classroom*

**Learning outside the classroom is an important part of our students' development and growth as an individual.**

We are very fortunate to have access to unique resources and outstanding opportunities in our part of the world.

Children enjoy a variety of carefully planned educational visits, linked to their work in class, and we also welcome many visitors to school to conduct workshops and other activities. Full risk assessments ensure that even the most exciting and challenging activities are completely safe.

Trips help to bring learning alive and provide children with a practical perspective on what they are learning. Teachers often organise a visit before children

begin a new topic, to provide a sense of purpose and excitement in advance of the work that they undertake in the classroom.

*Reach for your dreams,  
try something new,  
and above all,  
be ambitious.*





*We believe that no-one  
has a limit to their  
potential or ability*

## Contact us

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