

Our Guide to...

Early Years
Foundation Stage



**THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF BEIJING, SHUNYI**
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

*Play is central
to young
children's
learning*



About BSB Shunyi

The British School of Beijing (BSB) Shunyi is a large international school offering Primary through Secondary education on one campus, providing high quality international education to students ages from 1 to 18 from 60 nationalities.

The British School of Beijing (BSB) Shunyi follows an internationally adapted English National Curriculum leading to International GCSE and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma examinations. BSB also offers an optional German Thuringia Curriculum for Klasse 1-4 for native German speakers. We have a proven track record of producing excellent academic results year after year. In standardised assessments of students at all age levels, we sit well above UK national and world

averages.

BSB is epitomized by the highest academic standards, taking our students on to the world's very best universities, but also ensuring that every student is truly valued as an individual and that the sense of family, community and opportunity pervades all we do.

Our philosophy is to be ambitious for every single child and young person to achieve far more than they ever dreamed possible, in whatever field that may be, and to grow into a truly global citizen who contributes to making the world a better place. BSB belongs to Nord Anglia Education's (NAE) family of 40+ international schools.

NAE partners with world-leading organisations to ensure that our

curricula and initiatives are second to none. For example, BSB students follow an innovative embedded performing arts curriculum created in collaboration with The Juilliard School. Our science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) curriculum was developed in collaboration with one of the world's top universities, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Students at BSB have amazing opportunities, learning, growing and connected together with 36,800 NAE students in 15 countries everyday.



A Message from our Head of Primary



Our Early Years department is committed to ensuring that our children embark on their learning journey in an environment that provides stimulating and exciting experiences, and where the strong pastoral ethos helps the children feel safe, secure and happy to learn. We have well established systems in place for welcoming and supporting children to settle in to their new learning environment. We value each child as an individual and work hard to nurture their personal strengths and interests.

We lay the strongest foundations for the total development of each individual through a nurturing and child-centred approach. We cultivate a love of learning across a broad and balanced curriculum, where an enchantment with books, language and self-expression, as well as a genuine interest in numerical concepts and the world around them is encouraged. This is achieved through creative and integrated learning experiences in a stimulating environment where children feel valued, confident and independent. All this is underpinned by our commitment to supporting every child's social, emotional, spiritual and cultural awareness.

Visitors to our Early Years department always comment positively on what they observe including the warm teacher-student relationships, the children's independence in learning and the children's very obvious enjoyment and security in their learning environment. We are very proud of our Early Years department and do invite you to come and see this very special part of our school for yourselves.

Nonie Adams
Head of Primary

An Introduction

The Early Years Foundation Stage consists of Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception. During these years, children develop the fundamental skills to develop as a whole child. Our highly skilled staff support them through the early stages of their development, ensuring high quality learning experiences in an outstanding environment. 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.
- Making learning fun, motivating and exciting.
- Knowing your children, and your family well, building a strong relationship and valuing your individuality to provide an exceptional experience.

We believe that your child's early years should be filled with magical learning experiences that motivates and excites them every day and allows them to develop and achieve high standards at their own pace and ability.

BSB's Baby Group

We offer a baby and toddler group one morning a week which is delivered by a member of our highly skilled EYFS teaching team. This is a great way to meet other parents, provide your child with a range of developmental experiences and become part of our close and caring BSB family.



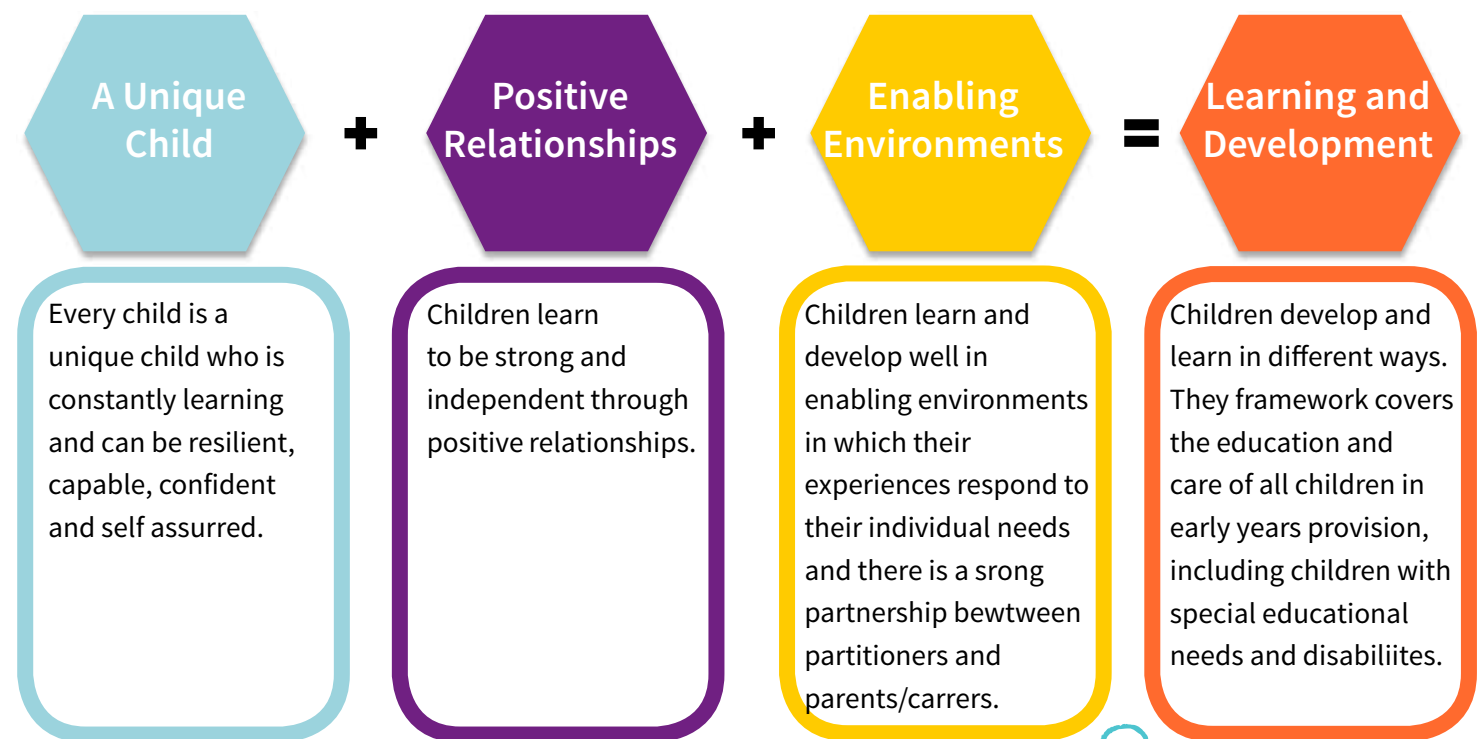
Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.

- Jean Piaget

Curriculum

We follow the UK's Early Years Curriculum which provides age-related expectations for children aged 0-5 years. The framework is based on four principles which are an essential part of outstanding education and development and we pride ourselves on displaying these in everything we do here at BSB.

The curriculum is made up of seven areas which are fundamental for early education and growth. These areas are separated into Prime and Specific areas of learning.



Prime Areas of Learning

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Specific Areas of Learning

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Our curriculum allows the freedom for your children to express themselves and develop strong skills across all areas of learning, based on the things that interest and motivate them the most.



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

We revisit areas of interest throughout the EYFS 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 the future.

Personalised learning can cover a wide range of subject matter, with recent favourite topics including

- dinosaurs
- under the sea
- transport
- traditional tales

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.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The characteristics of effective learning are a key element of Early Years education. They detail the way in which children should learn from their environment, experiences and activities. The characteristics are split into three main sections, each outlining key features to help children to become life-long learners. They include:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

Assessment

We use rigorous and modern assessment strategies to monitor and respond to children's individual learning, ensuring all children make good progress at the best rate for them. Our individualised approach to learning ensures all children achieve to a high standard.

We regularly share assessments of children's learning with parents through our electronic learning journeys.



Our School Day

Our school day is from 8.15am until 3.15pm, with Pre-Nursery and Nursery children having an option to attend a half-day session.

Depending on their age, children take part in one or two carpet-time sessions a day in which they are taught a specific skill linked to our curriculum areas. They spend the rest of the day accessing independent learning opportunities in our classrooms and outdoors, supported by skilled teachers who extend their development further.

During the afternoon, Pre-Nursery and Nursery children have an option to sleep at school.

At home-time, children have the option to be collected from school or to travel on our school buses. For small Nursery children, seats must be provided and Pre-Nursery children must be accompanied by an adult.

Lunch and Snack

Children have access to a free-flow healthy snack each morning and afternoon, which they can self-select when they are hungry.

They also eat a well-balanced lunch at school, which varies each day. Pre-Nursery children eat lunch in their classroom, while Nursery and Reception children eat lunch in our school canteen.

Specialist lessons

Children will be taught some lessons by highly skilled, specialist teachers who ensure the best quality of education. These times begin with 15 minute sessions and build up to 30 minute sessions in Reception. These subjects include:

- Chinese
- Music
- Swimming
- PE

Home-School Relationship

BSB is more than just a school, we are a community and a family. The family-orientated nature of our school ensures we build strong relationships with our families, supporting their needs as well as their children and ensuring they settle into our school well. We offer strong communication links by:

- Regularly sharing children's learning journey using our online assessment tool.
- Regular parent workshops to show parents how we teach children as well as provide strategies to support at home.
- Opportunities for parents to come into school and join in learning with their children.
- Regular e-mails to inform parents of events as well as good news about their children.
- Parent's Evening and progress reports.

The Learning Environment

The learning environment plays a large part in children's development and we strive to create and maintain an outstanding environment, promoting independence, free-choice and accessibility to allow children to develop their learning on their own terms and in their own individual ways.

Our classrooms are divided into learning areas, allowing children to develop a range of skills in each area. These areas include:

- Carpet area
- Role-play area
- Book corner
- Investigation area
- Sensory area
- Writing area
- Creative area
- Construction area
- Sand and water

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is an essential part of learning in the EYFS and we're very lucky to have a large and well-developed outdoor space for children to further enhance their skills. Our indoor learning space is mirrored outdoors, with learning areas set up, allowing children to develop their skills in each area.



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

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