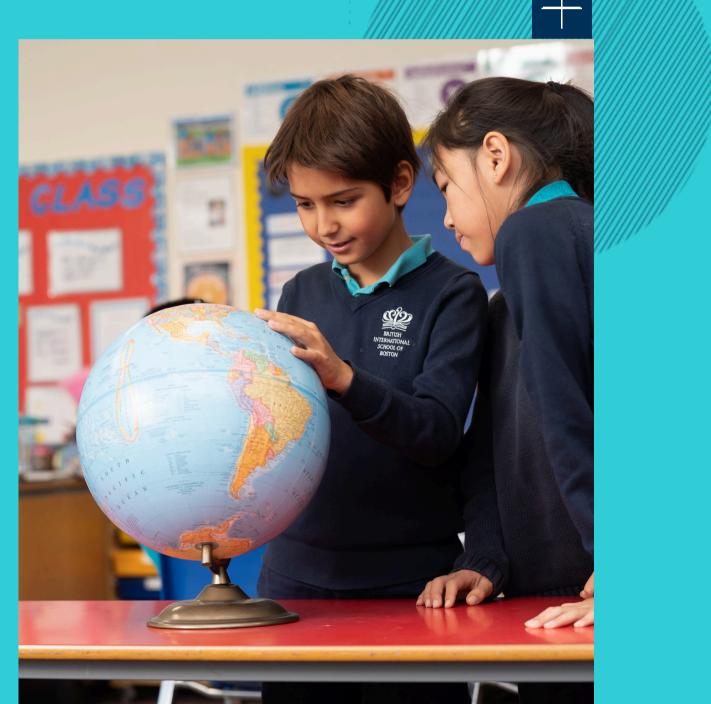


# LOWER SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK 2024-25



## CONTENTS

Welcome from the Head of School	Page 3
Vision, Mission and Values	Page 4
Non-Discrimination Policy	Page 4
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging	Page 4
Inclusive Language	Page 4
Academic Calendar	Page 5
School Hours	Page 6
Arrival and Departure Procedures	Page 7
Drop-Off and Pick-Up Points	Page 7
SchoolsBuddy	Page 8
Early and After care	Page 8
School Uniform	Page 8
What to Bring to School	Page 9
Lunch and Snacks	Page 10
Behavior	Page 11
Absences and Lateness	Page 12
Illness	Page 12
Appointments	Page 13
Health Forms and Procedures	Page 13
Trip Medical Form	Page 13
Covid Policy	Page 13
Medication at School	Page 14
Security, Emergencies and Drills (Termly)	Page 14
Photographs	Page 14
Student Safety	Page 15
Safeguarding	Page 16
The UK National Curriculum	Page 17
The International Primary Curriculum (IPC)	Page 17
Specialist Lessons	Page 18
Enrichment	Page 18
Homework	Page 18
Role of the Parent	Page 18
Contact Us	Page 19

# Welcome from the Head of School

Welcome to the new academic year 2024-2025 at BISB! We have an exciting year ahead, and I am very happy to welcome everyone back to school.

I am thrilled to join the BISB team and begin this journey with all of you. We are entering the school year with many positives to build upon and new initiatives to enhance the BISB experience for students and families.

Lower School students will enjoy many more opportunities to engage with each other in learning, enrichment, house games, student council, performances, assemblies, sports and many more.

We look forward to welcoming parents and families into school even more, sharing and celebrating the children's learning through IPC projects and curriculum topics each term.

As a community of students, parents, and staff, we will continue to work together, accomplish more as a team, and celebrate the children's achievements, offering support in all their academic and personal needs.

I am excited to embark on this journey with all of you, and I am confident we will have an amazing year in Lower School at BISB.

Liam Strachan Head of Lower School

#### **VISION, MISSION AND VALUES**

At the British International School of Boston (BISB), we're preparing our students to be global citizens, who are equipped with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to be successful in a diverse, globally connected community. As members of the BISB community, the school values of Individual, Inspirational, International should guide our day-to-day interactions, promoting a kind, caring, ethical and inclusive community for all.

#### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Under federal and state law, all students have the right to an education that is free from discrimination. BISB expects all members of its community to understand and embrace the importance of equality and diversity and stand against discrimination in any form. Maintaining a safe, secure, orderly, and purposeful environment is among our highest priorities at our school.

#### EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

We are committed to providing all students, faculty and staff with the most positive school experience supported by the very best working relationships possible. We are committed to fair and equal treatment with an expectation that all members of our school community understand and embrace diversity and inclusion in all aspects of school life. We commit to treating students and their families, faculty, and staff as individuals regardless of their race, religion and/or belief, age, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation. BISB does not tolerate any form of retaliation, or bias-based intimidation, threat or harassment that demeans individuals' dignity or interferes with their ability to learn or work.

NB: The EDIB Committee are developing further guidelines and policy relating to EDIB. These will be published in due course.

#### **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE**

At BISB, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for all members of our community. We believe that the words we choose to use matter and play a significant role in creating a welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels valued and respected.

Inclusive language is a fundamental aspect of our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. It is essential in acknowledging and honouring the identities and experiences of our students, families, faculty, and staff. By using language that is inclusive, we aim to:

- Promote Respect: Recognize and respect the diverse backgrounds, cultures, and identities of all individuals within our school community.
- Foster Belonging: Ensure that every member of our community feels seen, heard, and valued for who they are.
- Encourage Empathy: Develop a greater understanding and empathy for the experiences and perspectives of others.
- Eliminate Bias: Work to eliminate bias, stereotypes, and discriminatory language from our communication.

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024-2025

Fall Term 2024-2025		
Staff Induction	Monday, August 12 – Friday, August 23	
Start of Fall Term	Monday, August 26	
Labor Day – No School	Monday, September 2	
Mid-term break and Columbus Day – No School	Monday, October 14 – Friday, October 18	
Veteran's Day – No School	Monday, November 11	
Parent Teacher Conferences – No School for Students	Tuesday, November 19	
Thanksgiving Holiday – No School	Wednesday, November 27 – Friday, November 29	
End of Fall Term	Friday, December 20	

Winter Term 2024-2025		
Start of Winter Term	Monday, January 6, 2025	
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School	Monday, January 20	
Mid-term break and Presidents' Day – No School	Friday, February 14 – Monday, February 17	
Spring Break – No School	Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 21	
End of Winter Term	Friday, March 7	

Spring Term 2024-2025		
Start of Spring Term	Monday, March 24	
Parent Teacher Conferences – No School for Students	Tuesday, April 8	
Patriots' Day – No School	Monday, April 21	
Mid-term break and Memorial Day – No School	Monday, May 26 – Friday, May 30	
Juneteenth Federal Holiday - No School	Thursday, June 19	
End of Spring Term	Friday, June 27	

## SCHOOL HOURS

The school day runs from 8:20 am – 3:30 pm. Students can be dropped off into the Lower School playground from 8am where they will be greeted by teaching staff and Senior Leadership Team. All students are expected to be in school at 8:20 am, ready to begin their day of learning.

Students can be dropped off in their classrooms from 8 am where they will be greeted by a member of the teaching team. All students are expected to be in school at 8:20 am. It is essential students arrive at their classrooms on time for the beginning of the school day so that they can be properly registered and begin the day with their classmates and teachers.

Any students arriving after 8:30 am should be taken to directly to the main office. They will then be escorted to their classrooms.

After School clubs will be available to children in Lower School and above. They will take place at the end of each day from 3:30 – 4:30pm. Sign-ups for these will be available to families using SchoolsBuddy.

Aftercare is available for Lower School students and runs from 3:30 until 6pm. Toddlers - Year 2 will take place in the Nursery classroom and Years 3 - 6 will be in room 215. You can sign your child up to aftercare through SchoolsBuddy.

Children in Lower School can ride the bus to and from school. We have 5 different bus routes available. Our bus provider is Local Motion, which is clearly marked on both sides of the buses. Please note that you must sign up for the morning and afternoon routes separately in SchoolsBuddy.

If there are any changes to your child's afternoon bus schedule, it is <u>essential</u> you request a schedule change in SchoolsBuddy or contact the main office by phone or email by 1pm to inform us of these changes and to ensure the bus system runs smoothly.

Routes:

- The Wellesley/Needham Bus: Serving Needham, Wellesley, Natick.
- The Newton Bus: Serving Newton, Chestnut Hill.
- The Brookline/Cambridge Bus: Brookline (Brookline Village & Washington Square), Brighton, and Cambridge.
- The Boston Bus: Jamaica Plain, Boston (Back Bay & Beacon Hill).
- The Milton/Dedham Bus: Serving Milton, Dedham, and Walpole.



#### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

It is essential that our students are always supervised, for their own security and safety. Therefore, we request that students wait until 8am before entering the campus, when staff will be on hand for morning supervision. Students should arrive by 8:20am at the latest.

If, for any reason, you have been delayed at pick-up time, please telephone the school so we are aware. Please also notify your class teacher or the main office, if any other adult will be collecting your child. For security reasons, children will only be released to an authorized adult.

#### **DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP POINTS**

Lower School parents can park in the lower school parking area. Once you enter the campus, follow signs for 'BISB drop off'. You will be able to bypass the drop-off line in front of the main building and park in the lower parking lot. Once parked, you will be able to walk your child to the school gate, where they will be greeted by Lower School staff and the Senior Leadership Team.

At pick-up time, if children in Lower School have siblings in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will go downstairs to the lower playground where you can pick them up with their siblings.

If children have siblings in Toddlers, Middle or High School they will go upstairs to meet you in either the car line or main office area.

Children who are being picked up in the car line will go upstairs and line up outside the main school building.

Children in aftercare will go to the respective location with supervision and children in clubs will go to the club teacher's classroom or location. After clubs, children are collected from the teacher in the lower playground at 4.30pm. If you are late for any reason, please let us know. Children who are collected late from clubs will be taken to aftercare and there may be a charge.

If, for any reason, you have been delayed, please telephone the school so we are aware and can inform your child to avoid any unnecessary anxiety. If you are unable to collect your child, please inform the school at your earliest convenience. For security reasons, staff will not release a child to an unauthorized person.

For families who will be walking to school, there is a designated pathway from Pond Street which extends to our school building.

Please familiarize yourself with the traffic and parking scheme in the areas around school. Our aim is to provide a safe vehicular traffic system for you and your children.

#### SCHOOLSBUDDY

BISB uses a system called SchoolsBuddy for sign-up and payment for field trips, after school clubs, early and after care and school lunch. The main office staff will have sent out an email with your account at the beginning of the school year. Please reach out to the main office if you have any issues with using SchoolsBuddy for sign-ups and payments.

#### EARLY AND AFTER CARE

Early care for students in Toddlers to Year 6 will be available in the library from 7:30 am to 8 am. If you would like your child to attend early care, you will need to sign them up via SchoolsBuddy. Please contact the main office if you have any difficulty with logging into SchoolsBuddy. The daily fee for early care is \$11.

At 8 am students will be taken to their respective classrooms/play areas.

Aftercare takes place from 3:30 to 6 pm. Children in Year 1 and 2 will be in the Nursery classroom and children can be collected from the Nursery classroom door, anytime between 3:30 and 6 pm. Children in Year 3 to 6 will be in room 215 and can be picked up from the main entrance by calling 617-435-9989. Please sign up for aftercare on SchoolsBuddy.

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM

Wearing our school uniform is compulsory for all students attending BISB. We believe that wearing the uniform, in a proud and smart manner, promotes positive self-esteem. Therefore, it is an integral part of our school culture. Please ensure your child arrives at school looking smart and ready for the day ahead. Shirts should be tucked in, and uniform correct for the age group of your child.

A list of uniform requirements can be viewed here on the school website: <u>Parent Essentials | British</u> <sup>8</sup> <u>International School of Boston (nordangliaeducation.com)</u>. All students are expected to wear our physical education (PE) uniform on PE days. You will be informed about these days at the beginning of the academic year.

Visit the Lands' End site to purchase your child's uniform directly. Please contact the main office if you have any questions.

Both indoor and outdoor shoes are required throughout the year and should be suitable for the weather conditions. Children can wear fully black sneakers, or black shoes. All footwear must be fully enclosed. Sandals and other open-toed shoes should not be worn.

We believe that children benefit a great deal from playing outside and enjoying fresh air, even in winter. It is therefore extremely important that your child has clothes suitable for the prevailing weather conditions. Coats, snow pants, hats, and gloves are all encouraged during cold and rainy days, while hats are recommended for bright days.



#### WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Water bottles: Each student is asked to bring their own reusable water bottle to school, clearly labelled with their name on it. The bottle will be returned home daily to be washed. Only water should be contained in the bottles - no juice, tea, carbonated or flavored drinks. Water dispensers will be available at school for refills, whenever required.

<u>Weather appropriate clothing</u>: We encourage our students to play outside in all weather conditions. Therefore it is vital children have weather appropriate clothing in school. We would never encourage children to play outside in extreme or dangerous weather conditions, but we do utilize raining or snowy days to enhance their learning about the natural world.

#### **SCHOOL LUNCH**

Families have the option of either providing their child with a packed lunch from home or signing up for school lunch. Families who wish to pack their child a home lunch are encouraged to send healthy food that their child enjoys. We are unable to heat any food in school, so we recommend using thermos flasks for foods that children would prefer to eat warm.

Parents can sign their child up for school lunch via SchoolsBuddy. Our school lunches are provided by 'SODEXO (through SHOWA Canteen) for Years 1 and 2, and children in Years 3 – 6 will have lunch in the SHOWA Canteen.

#### **SNACKS**

Children in Lower School bring a snack for the morning. This should consist of fresh fruit or a wholesome, nutritious snack. BISB discourages sugar-laden foods for health reasons and because they can have a negative effect on concentration and learning. Under no circumstances should snacks be shared amongst students.

#### Birthdays and Special Treats

We have set up a partnership with Dave Covell, SHOWA's General Catering Manager, who will, with at least one week's notice, be able to create non-allergen treats for your children's class celebrations. From now on, rather than sending in food with your children which may contain food allergies, please email Dave <u>david.covell@sodexo.com</u> to set up your order.

Please note, due to the potential for serious allergic reactions, nuts are strictly prohibited on campus. BISB is a nut-free zone.

#### **BEHAVIOR**

At BISB, we have high expectations of behavior and always encourage children in Lower School, even from a very young age, to make positive choices, start and end every day with kindness, and to always try their best. However, we do understand that, from time to time, children sometimes find this challenging. This will always be dealt with in a sensitive way and the child will be reminded of acceptable behavior and how to make good choices. With Lower School children, we facilitate a restorative approach to conflict resolution, reflecting on actions and their impact on others. If a problem persists, you will be notified, and an appointment will be made for teachers and parents to discuss any issues or concerns. Together we will support your child in making positive choices.

In all Lower School classes, we follow a positive approach to behavior management. We consistently praise the children for their good behavior/efforts and reinforce their motivation to make good choices. This leads to improved learning outcomes. We reward the children for their positive behavior and attitude to learning in a variety of ways, including house points, star of the week awards, and many more.

Children enjoy receiving positive reinforcement from their teachers and head of school, and we celebrate these achievements in weekly, values-based assemblies. All Lower School classrooms celebrate a Star of the Week which is linked to the Personal Goals from the IPC (International Primary Curriculum).

Once your child has been accepted to BISB, they will be allocated a 'house'. Each house has a color associated with it and your child will be able to purchase a gym shirt in this color. We award children with house points for academic or personal achievements. Each week, the house with the most points wins the house trophy. Throughout the year, we have a variety of house events, including Sports Day, in which your child will participate and be given lots of opportunities to earn house points and house point awards. For these events, your child should come to school in their house color t-shirt. You will be notified of your child's house color once your child enters the school. Siblings will be assigned to the same house.



#### HEALTH AND ABSENCES & HEALTH AND SAFETY

We are keen to support all our families so students have the best possible experience at school and reach their full potential. Excellent attendance is strongly correlated with success in school and with high academic outcomes. When parents, students, and school staff share the expectation of excellent regular attendance in school, academic outcomes are enhanced. Of course, students should not attend school if they are unwell. Parents are asked to notify the school before 8.20am if a student will be absent for any reason.

#### ABSENCES AND LATENESS

If a families arrive after 8.20 am, they should sign in at the main office where a member of staff will take their child to their lesson. The main office should be notified of any planned lateness, via email, from parents. Being late to school will result in lost learning time. Please make every effort to be punctual.

#### Option 1: Email main.office@bisboston.org

Please copy the class teacher and clearly indicate the student's name, year group and reason for absence. The email should also indicate if the student rides the bus or has any extra-curricular activities scheduled for that day.

#### Option 2: Call 617-522-2261

Call the main school number. Leave a message, clearly indicating the student's name, year group and reason for absence, adding information where relevant if the student rides the bus or has any extra-curricular activities scheduled for that day.

At 8.30 am our registration closes. At this time, emergency registers are printed, and our system generates a list of 'unexplained absences'. Our administrative team will contact parents of students with an unexplained absence by phone and/or email.

#### **ILLNESS**

If a student is unwell, they should not come to school. Return to school is permitted following a 24-hour period in which the child has been symptom free without the use of medication.

Students should not come to school if they:

- Have a temperature of 100.1°F or above within the last 24 hours
- Have vomited or had diarrhea within 24 hours
- If they have experienced an unexplained rash, suspected conjunctivitis, skin infections or strep throat in such circumstances, a doctor's letter is required before returning to school

During certain times of the year, there are often ticks around the school grounds. The school grounds are treated however, some ticks inevitably remain. In the warmer months, we recommend applying insect and tick repellent to your child each morning.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Whenever possible, we encourage families to make routine appointments, including medical or dental appointments, outside of school hours. If school hours cannot be avoided, parents must notify the school at least 24 hours in advance. Please email notification to main.office@bisboston.org and copy the student's class teachers.

Parents must sign-out their students at the main office prior to departing campus.

#### HEALTH FORMS PROCEDURES

In accordance with Massachusetts State Laws and BISB policies, the following documents are required to be complete prior to a student's first day of school:

- Medical Paperwork
- Physical Examination / Vaccination Record
- Emergency Contact & Health Form
- Consent for Administration of OTC medication
- Prescribed Medication Order (if applicable)
- Asthma Action Plan (if applicable)
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan (if applicable)

If a student has a life-threatening allergy, asthma, diabetes, or any other medical condition, the School Nurse and class teacher should be informed, in order to create a school safety plan. Students are permitted to selfadminister medication, but only with MD and parental permission, the School Nurse is also required to be part of the decision process.

Current physical exam records must be completed by a U.S. healthcare provider and dated no earlier than one year from the student's first day of school at BISB. Physicals must be submitted within 30 days of the student's first day of school, <u>enabling them to participate in sports, physical education and overnight trips.</u>

Please complete all necessary medical paperwork for the school nurse before term starts. Forms are available on the <u>Parents Essentials</u> area of the school website.

#### TRIP MEDICAL FORM

All students must have a completed Trip Medical Form prior to the start of term. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide any updates and submit an amended medical form.

#### **COVID POLICY**

We align our policies with the most recent CDC guidance. As mask-wearing will now be a family choice, students and staff will be respected when wearing masks, if this practice is in support of their comfort and feelings of safety.

#### **MEDICATION AT SCHOOL**

Medication for students with specific medical needs may be administered by the School Nurse providing the licensed prescriber has completed a prescribed medication order for medicine to be given at school. The form also needs to be co-signed by the parent giving the School Nurse authorisation to give the medication at school. If the parent has not signed the form, medication cannot be given by the School Nurse.

Any medication provided to the school must be in its original packaging with a clear expiration date and the student's name clearly indicated. The medication is stored in a locked cabinet and is monitored by the School Nurse.

#### SECURITY, EMERGENCIES AND DRILLS (Termly)

#### Fire Evacuation

When a fire alarm sounds, members of the community should file quietly out of the building via the nearest available exit, students are taught to line up quietly at their assigned muster points. Directions for evacuation are posted in each room.

Any member of the community who is unable to use the stairs, should have a PEEP (personal emergency evaluation plan).

Members of the community are not permitted to re-enter the school buildings until they are deemed safe.

#### Lockdown Procedures

Students are educated to be prepared for lockdown at age-appropriate levels. Students will be made aware of all possible evacuation routes, including window routes if applicable. Where possible, students and members of the community should evacuate. Students are made aware to not wait for friends, and under extreme circumstances may evacuate and make their own choices about safe routes without waiting for a leading teacher. If evacuation is not possible, students and members of the community should barricade and shelter in place.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

<u>Photo Day:</u> An annual event whereby all students and staff are photographed both individually, with siblings, and with their mentor group. A photo 'retake' day is also calendared should a student be absent on the initial photo day.Photos are available for purchase through the vendor.

<u>Heritage Photo Day:</u> Taken annually, this is an opportunity for students to showcase their heritage and join together with other members of the school community. The heritage photos are posted on the noticeboard outside the Admissions Office.

<u>No Photo List:</u> Parents should contact <u>admissions@bisboston.org</u> should they not wish for their child to be photographed for in-school, or external marketing purposes.

#### **STUDENT SAFETY**

All students at BISB have the right to feel safe, free from harassment, free from violence and from abuse both inside and outside of school. As a school we will help all students feel safe and protected.

#### What to do if a student does not feel safe at school:

Whether concerns relate to the behaviour/actions of another student, a teacher or any other individual in school, it's very important that students tell an adult who they trust, this may be their parents, the Student Services Team, any of the teachers and staff. All staff have the same training and will be able to support.

Additionally, students can always tell our School Guidance Counselors or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

#### What to do if a student does not feel safe at home:

Students have the right to be cared for and live in a home where they feel safe. If they are at risk of harm or have been harmed, whether it be physical, emotional, sexual or neglectful they will be supported by school staff. They can tell any teacher/adult in the school, and they will know what to do. If they can't tell somebody in school, they can get help and advice from the following sources:

- National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-Child or 1-800-422-4453 https://www.childhelp.org
- They can report abuse and get help from the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families by contacting the DCF in the area where the child lives https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-children-families/locations
- If a student is in immediate danger, call 911.

#### What to do if there are concerns about another student:

If a student or parent is concerned about the safety or wellbeing of someone in the community, they should always find a trusted adult at school to share their concerns. If a friend confides that they are unsafe, have been hurt, or are in any danger, it is important not to keep this information secret. It must be reported to a trusted adult at school immediately.

Any member of the school community can complete an anonymous reporting form (to alert the Student Services Team) – located

#### Visitors:

During the school day, BISB is open to students, staff or those who have appointments at the school. Visitors to campus should be approved and must sign in at the main office. All visitors must display a visitor's pass for identification purposes.

#### SAFEGUARDING

Nord Anglia Education's unique philosophy is to 'Create Your Future', which is underpinned by our belief and commitment that all our students will be supported to realise ambition by learning and thriving in the safest possible environment.

BISB students are empowered to make decisions for themselves and are supported in this by learning through specific elements of the curriculum, aimed at enabling students to be able to keep themselves safe (e.g. through Personal, Social, and Emotional Development).

BISB recognises that having a safeguarding and child protection policy does not mean that any risk to our students is eliminated. Rather, we expect that all BISB staff, including all staff and volunteers in our school and any contractors or partner agency staff used by schools, recognise where a student is at risk of, or is actually being harmed and do all they can to reduce further risk or further harm.

We recognise that our school is particularly important in protecting our students; we are in the best position to identify concerns early and provide or identify help for students as well as helping to prevent these concerns from escalating. Consequently, BISB accepts and adheres to these basic principles:

- A student's welfare is paramount and each student has the right to be protected from harm and exploitation and to have their welfare safeguarded irrespective of race, religion, ability, gender or culture.
- All students need to be safe and feel safe in school.
- Every student is entitled to a rich and broad curriculum that helps to equip them to keep themselves safe.
- Every adult in school must have a demonstrable commitment to protecting the students with/for whom they work.
- BISB works in partnership with parents/carers and/or other professionals to ensure the protection of students.
- Our guiding principle throughout is 'the best interests of the students'.
- All students have the same equal rights to protection, but we recognise that we need to do more for some students because of their special educational needs, disability, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

#### THE UK NATIONAL CURRICULUM

In Lower School, our taught content is based on the UK National Curriculum. The curriculum provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement. All children in Lower School study core subjects of English (including Spelling and Grammar), Mathematics and Science. In addition to this, children study computing, design technology, art, and personal social and health education in their homerooms with their class teacher. Specialist lessons are detailed below. Children in Year 1 and 2 also have daily phonics lessons to develop the literacy skills of reading and writing.

Children are assessed against age-related national curriculum expectations and are reported as 'working towards', 'working at' or 'working at even greater depth' of year group expected knowledge and skills. As each child is unique, we teach the national curriculum through a personalized learning model which reflects the individual learner and their needs/next steps in development.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CURRICULUM

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) develops children aged 5-11 into informed, globally competent, and future-ready learners. Influenced by progressive pedagogy, metacognition and primary education best practice, the IPC can be tailored to fit the children's needs while developing their knowledge, skills and understanding. Through thematic units, teachers can create fun and engaging learning opportunities that enable learners to make connections between subjects and the world around them. Content relates to the world around us, diversity and equality, intercultural competence and international mindedness, alongside humanities and creativity. Within the IPC, learning is developed in three forms: knowledge, skills and understanding. Each unit of work has a clear set of learning goals with particular emphasis on developing students' skills. Assessment for learning plays a crucial role in supporting and challenging students. The teachers identify students' strengths and areas for development, as well as the opportunity for children to be part of the assessment process with self-reflection time built into the timetable.

Our Personal Goals also stem from the IPC Curriculum and are embedded into the ethos of Lower School through assemblies, weekly focus goals, and celebrating individuals who have demonstrated each character attribute. The Personal Goals are statements for the children to focus on learning dispositions: I am Adaptable, I am a Communicator, I am a Collaborator, I am Empathetic, I am Ethical, I am Resilient, I am Respectful, I am a Thinker.

#### SPECIALIST LESSONS

Children in Lower School have weekly specialist lessons to enhance their educational journey. Each week, the children have physical education, music, dance, and languages with a member of our specialist teaching team. Students in Years 5 - 6 will also have drama as a specialist subject.

#### ENRICHMENT

Each week the children in Years 3 – 6 will have an enrichment lesson which will develop important personal skills such as leadership, debating, community, and developing new interests and skills. We will incorporate the house and school council into the enrichment periods and give children the opportunity to choose a new skill to learn. The goal of enrichment is for children to flourish outside of academic subjects and explore different interests and activities. We also incorporate the Nord Anglia 'Global Campus' platform into enrichment time and explore age-appropriate materials which encourage and enable the children to collaborate with Nord Anglia students across the globe.

#### **ROLE OF THE PARENT**

At BISB, we acknowledge the importance of involving you in your child's education and we encourage active involvement throughout the school. The Parent Association is a fantastic way to become involved in school life. More details of how to join the Parent Association will be distributed once the school year begins. Each class will have a class communication rep. These class representatives are often involved in supporting a school trips or other events. If you are interested in becoming a class rep, then please feel free to contact your child's class teacher.

In addition to your role within school, we encourage your support with your child's learning at home. The enjoyment and knowledge that young children get from books is invaluable at this age and we encourage parents to read with their child as often as possible at home.

Each week your child's class will send out a newsletter discussing upcoming dates and learning that will be taking place the following week. The school will also send out a weekly newsletter, so you can have a wider view of what is happening throughout BISB.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.



# Contact Us

416 Pond Street Jamaica Plain 02130

617 522 2261

main.office@bisboston.org

admissions@bisboston.org

British International School of Boston | Nord Anglia (nordangliaeducation.com)

