



BRITISH VIETNAMESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
HANOI

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



# EARLY YEARS PARENT HANDBOOK 2024 - 2025

## EYFS PARENT HANDBOOK 2024 – 2025

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## WELCOME

### **A very warm welcome to the British Vietnamese International School, Hanoi.**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide essential information about school routines and expectations. Please take some time to read through the information so that you can be better prepared to support your child at school. If, after reading the booklet, you still have unanswered questions, feel free to approach me or my colleagues directly and we will do all that we can to clarify things for you.

Learning is a collaborative activity with children receiving help from a variety of places. The best results are achieved when parents, children, and the school work in harmony together. Your continued interest, involvement and support are essential for the on-going development of our child and will be very much welcomed and appreciated by the school. We understand that starting at a new school can be daunting for many children. Please be assured that we will do all that we can to help your child feel comfortable at school and to help them settle in quickly.

British Vietnamese International School Hanoi is a part of the Nord Anglia Family of schools, and you can be confident in the choice you have made. We feel very proud of the educational opportunities available to our students, and we are sure your child's time with us will be happy and successful.

We look forward to meeting you in due course.

Principal

Head of Primary

## BVIS MISSION STATEMENT

The British Vietnamese International School seeks to provide an outstanding education through dual language instruction in English and Vietnamese. Students become independent learners by means of enquiry, reflection, and perseverance. At BVIS, we act with integrity, treat one another with care and respect, and learn together as responsible global and Vietnamese citizens.

BVIS achieves its mission by:

- Nurturing language proficiency, ensuring secure acquisition of Vietnamese and English for all students, achieving true bilingual proficiency upon graduation.
- Protecting and celebrating Vietnamese cultural customs, place and history and traditions for Vietnamese nationals, whilst providing a meaningful context for those of other nationalities.
- Fostering universal values such as personal integrity, respect for others and care for community and global issues.
- Nurturing independent learners who are: enquirers, proactive, responsive, creative, collaborative, reflective, flexible, enterprising, and able to preserve.



## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

As part of the global family of Nord Anglia Schools, the school reserves the right to update the term and conditions for parents, as and when required. Please find below the school Terms and Conditions in place at The British Vietnamese International School Hanoi. Download the documents to find out more: <http://bit.ly/BVISHanoi-terms-and-conditions>.

Starting school is one of the most important times in your child's life, as well as yours. We strive to develop your child's confidence and independence as quickly as possible, but it does vary from child to child. It is important that we communicate as much as possible to make the early transition to school life as smooth and successful as possible.

On enrolment, the placement of a child in a specific class is normally dependent on their date of birth. An informal interview with your child at this early age is conducted to assess their suitability for a full-time place at the school. Ordinarily, we do not accept into the school a child under 24-months old.

All children are catered for through a differentiated curriculum which uses the Early Years Foundation Stage as a means of personalising learning. Activities are matched to the child's interests and abilities; all children are encouraged to meet challenges with confidence.

Class sizes are intentionally small. In Early Years', maximum class sizes are 20 in F1, 22 in F2 and 25 in F3 (Reception), but they are often smaller than that. Teaching assistants work alongside the teacher in the classrooms to help the children to receive the individual attention they require.

Early Years			
Year	F1	F2	F3
Age	2 – 3	3 – 4	4 - 5

## **1. School Structures and Timings**

### **1.1 The school year**

The school year is divided into three terms: Term 1 from August to December, Term 2 from January to April, and Term 3 from May to June. On occasions, these termly divisions may vary.

For further details, please refer to the school calendar on the BVIS website:

[www.bvishanoi.com](http://www.bvishanoi.com) > **parent-essentials** > **term dates**

### **1.2 The beginning of the school day**

School starts at 08:30 for all students. Children are expected to attend every day and to be in school for the beginning of the session.

Parents and drivers need to be aware of the traffic on the streets outside the school. They must minimize congestion by dropping children in the designated area only. No vehicle should park or wait for an extended period of time near to the school gates, nor should it block the pavements. All parents, carers, and drivers must follow and respect the instructions of the guards on duty who are acting in the interests of all the children. For children of this age, it is expected that, unless in F3 and travelling by bus, an adult will accompany the child to the class door and pass responsibility for that child to an adult working in Early Years.

There are staff on duty at the school gate from 08:00 onwards to welcome your children and take them to the classroom. Any child who arrives before 08:00 remains the responsibility of the parents or another designated adult. All children should be in class by 08:30 when their school day begins.

It is extremely important for young children to establish routines and be on time for school as this helps them settle in well. Please do try your best to be punctual for school.

### **1.3 End of school**

The school day finishes at 15:05 (non ECA days) and at 16:05 (ECA days). ECA (or extra-curricular activities) is available for F3 and F2 from Term 2. No ECA for F1 all year.

At the end of the school day parents, drivers, and carers should collect their child from their classroom. Anyone collecting a child must have the Parent Card.

If a parent, driver, or carer collecting the child has forgotten the card, that person should sign in as a visitor according to Section 7 – Security Procedures. Then,

before leaving the premises, a 'Permission to Leave' note from the School Reception must be collected from the Reception and given to the guard at the gate.

Your child's safety is our main concern. We want your children to remain as safe as possible at this time. They will only be permitted to leave the premises with an authorised adult who has the Parent Card.

A child will not be allowed to go home with another parent unless the school has been informed in advance and in writing and authorisation has been granted.

If you have more than one child in school, then younger siblings should be collected first before collecting the older ones.

## **2. Communications**

The school believes that good communication between parents and school is essential. We need to have up-to-date details of your emails, postal addresses, and telephone numbers, including emergency contacts.

We will check your details at the beginning of each academic year; but if there are changes during the year, please inform the school office. Parents should comply with the school's request for contact details (and any medical information on your child) in a timely fashion so that we can care for your child in the appropriate way.

The following list is a sample of the ways in which the school tries to keep in close contact with parents.

### **2.1 Weekly updates**

To keep you informed with the weekly events in school, a link to the weekly updates will be emailed to you. Weekly Updates contributions are regularly made by the Principal, the Head of Primary, the Head of Secondary and staff. These updates provide information not only about class activities and learning, but also about the wider school.

### **2.2 ClassDojo**

ClassDojo is the main two-way channel of communication between teachers and parents. Your class teacher will regularly add pictures/ videos or make comments about areas of learning in which your child is involved within the classroom. It is a great way for you to see what activities are happening over the term. Parents can add their own comments on ClassDojo and upload photo evidence of your child doing activities at home. Parents will receive guidance on how to access ClassDojo

during the first week of term. Parents will be asked to check ClassDojo on a regular basis. We encourage you to participate on this with your child.

## **2.3 School Yearbook**

This will be sent home at the end of Term 3 and will provide a colourful souvenir of the year.

## **2.4 Reports and Parent/Teacher Meetings**

There will be a number of Parent/Teacher Information Meetings scheduled during the year. The dates of these meetings will be given when the school calendar for the academic year is issued. Parents will receive 03 written reports each year:

**End of Term 1** - An interim, settling in report detailing effort and achievement for that term and identifying ways in which you can help your child's future learning.

**End of Term 2** – A progress report.

**End of Term 3** - A full written report, summarising the progress that your child made over the year.

At the end of Term 1, the interim report will form the basis for discussions at the first Parents/Teacher Meetings. Further Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held towards the end of Term 2. At the end of Term 3, the school sets time aside for parents should they wish for an optional Parent/Teacher meeting at that time.

You may, of course, request additional meetings with the teachers, Head of Primary or the Principal at any time by prior arrangement with the school office.

## **2.5 Questions, concerns, or complaints**

The first point of contact for any parent who needs more information is your child's class teachers. If they cannot resolve the problem for you, then please contact:

- The Early Years' Leader: [cerys.shanley@bvishanoi.com](mailto:cerys.shanley@bvishanoi.com)

For rapid communication, please email to:

- PA to Head of Primary: [giang.pham@bvishanoi.com](mailto:giang.pham@bvishanoi.com)
- Or call **024 6266 880 (EXT 131)**

If further resolution is needed, then please contact the

- Assistant Head's email: [trang.hoang@bvishanoi.com](mailto:trang.hoang@bvishanoi.com)
- Deputy Head's email: [james.mcmeekin@bvishanoi.com](mailto:james.mcmeekin@bvishanoi.com)
- And finally the Head of Primary: [malcolm.wood@bvishanoi.com](mailto:malcolm.wood@bvishanoi.com)

All staff will do their best to solve any issues that you may have.

### 3. Absence and Lateness

#### 3.1 Absence procedure

On the day of an absence: Before 08:30, please inform the receptionist either by phone or email **huyen.vu@bvishanoi.com**, that your child(ren) will not be attending school. A suitable reason must be given to the staff member. If your child is sick or unwell, brief details of the symptoms need to be supplied.

If no reason is given for your child(ren)'s absence, then they will receive an unauthorised absence mark in the register for the days that they do not attend school, until we receive notification from home. Office staff will contact you on the first day of absence. Thereafter, the school will use the same absence code until your child returns to school, unless otherwise informed by parents or carers.

Where possible, it would be helpful to indicate for how long you expect your child(ren) to be absent.

#### 3.2 On returning from an absence

All children must only return to school if they are fully well or have been deemed fit to return to school by a doctor. An email should be sent to the Receptionist: **huyen.vu@bvishanoi.com**.

Children who return to school with a medical certificate should bring it to the nurse. The office staff will take a photocopy of it and file it in the child's personal folder.

Any child returning from illness, but still showing clear symptoms, will be immediately sent to the nurse. If a child has been suffering from diarrhoea or vomiting, then the school requires a period of 48 hours without symptoms before the child may return to school. This is for health and safety reasons to ensure no cross-contamination with other students.

#### 3.3 Lateness

The register is taken before classes start at the beginning of the morning and afternoon sessions. A note is made on the register to indicate absent students and late comers. Any child arriving late to school needs to report immediately to the building Reception phone: **(024)6266 8800 (EXT 333)** to register late. Parents will be informed in Termly Reports (absences, lates) of the attendance record for their child.

The Early Years' Leader, Assistant Head, Deputy Head, or Head of Primary will become involved with those who are frequently late to school.

If you know in advance that your child is going to be late or needs to leave school early on a particular day, then a message should be sent to the class teacher the day before.

### **3.4 Keeping the school informed**

Whenever possible, medical, and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours so as not to disrupt the children's learning. If this is not possible, please advise the class teacher of any appointments made.

If parents need to take their children out of school during term time, they must seek written permission, in advance and in writing, from the Head of Primary (or if they have a sibling in Secondary, the Principal). The Absence Request Form is available from the Primary Receptionist [huyen.vu@bvishanoi.com](mailto:huyen.vu@bvishanoi.com). Holidays are generous, so permission will not automatically be given for holidays during term time.

### **3.5 Contacting the School in case of out-of-hours emergency**

The school has in loco parentis responsibility for students whilst they are in school or on a school-approved activity. If, for any reason, parents need to contact the school for a school-related emergency, they should contact the relevant Heads of Section, through their PA.

Early Years' and Primary PA:

Ms. Giang Pham

Telephone: **0942209165**

## **4. Dress Code**

### **4.1 School uniform**

The uniform is a means of showing our identity and pride in our school to the wider community as well as being practical school wear. All students are expected to wear the specified school uniform every day in the appropriate manner.

During colder weather, children should wear the BVIS sweater or windbreaker, which can be worn both inside and outside of the classroom. No visible undershirt of any kind under short-sleeve T-shirt is permitted.

EYFS children should wear black training shoes, as these will aid the growth and development of small feet. For safety reasons, we do not allow novelty shoes with flashing lights, squeaking noises or shoes which have the roller-ball facility.

All children with long hair should have it tied back with a plain, soft hair band. No colourful bandana-style head bands or hair accessories which include hard bobbles are to be worn. Hard Alice bands should not be worn. Parents should encourage children to use hair accessories which are based on school colours. If in doubt, please see your child's class teacher. Children may only wear earrings that will not get caught in clothing or long hair, as this could injure themselves or others. Children should always wear school hats when they are outside to protect them from the sun.



## 4.2 PE Kit

Sports kit should be worn for PE lessons, house events, sports clubs and ECAs as well as sporting fixtures and events. Sports kits for students consist of a house T-shirt and black shorts. Sports shoes should be non-marking and have either laces or Velcro fasteners. Students can wear their PE uniform and sports shoes to school on days when they have PE lessons. The class teachers will inform you of the PE timetable.



Áo khoác  
Fleece



Áo len chui đầu  
Pullover Sweater



Áo phong Đội Nhà\*  
House T-shirts\*



Quần thể dục đen\*  
Black PE shorts\*



Mũ lưỡi trai  
Cap



Quần bơi  
Swimshorts

NAM  
Boy

NỮ  
Girl



Đồ bơi  
Swimsuits



Mũ bơi  
Swimming cap

\*Đồng phục thể dục chỉ dành cho F3 / PE Uniforms only for F3



## 5. Food and Catering

### 5.1 Catering company

Food is prepared for the students by our catering company: The Caterer. Further details of the company, their policies and practices can be found at: <https://thecaterers.vn/en/school-canteen/>. Strict protocols for food hygiene, preparation, menu choices and presentation are applied to ensure that students are provided with a healthy meal each day.

### 5.2 Snacks

We recognize that having a healthy and balanced diet helps to develop a healthy lifestyle and promote well-being throughout your child's life. We carefully monitor the food your children eat during the day and ensure it is nutritious to help them grow and develop normally.

We provide regular snacks in the morning and afternoon to supplement their diet. All students should come to school having had a healthy breakfast.

### 5.3 Lunch

BVIS Hanoi provides a set lunch for all EYFS students, as part of the fee structure. Menus are published in advance. To access the lunch menus please go to: [Home > Our Students > Student Life > School Meals](#).

Early Years children eat their lunch in the dining hall. There are staff on duty during both snack and lunchtimes. Children learn to be independent at these times, but staff also encourage all children to try the food available and to eat their whole meal. Parents and families can support this at home by encouraging children to feed themselves.

### 5.4 Birthdays

Providing arrangements have been made with the class teachers in advance, we are happy for the children to bring in and share a cake with their classmates to celebrate their birthday. Please note that, for health and safety reasons, we can only share a 'nut free' cake; we cannot share other food or distribute party bags to other children within the school.



## 6. Medical Information

### 6.1 Medical emergencies

If an accident or sudden serious illness occurs at school, we will make every effort to contact parents. Please keep the office informed of any change in home, business, or emergency phone numbers.

When a medical emergency situation arises, we will transport the child to the hospital designated by their compulsory medical insurance, unless parents have specified a different clinic or hospital. A responsible adult from the school will accompany the child to the clinic and await the arrival of the parents. An Accident Report Form will be completed and kept as a record. The parent/carer needs to bring the student's ID card and medical card to the hospital for processing and payment.

### 6.2 Medical procedures

A completed medical form for each child enrolled must be submitted before entry to the school. This form must be updated annually by parents so that the school has accurate records of all medical issues. Parents must provide any information relating to their child's allergies.

Asthmatic children should always have their medication with them. The school should be notified if your child is asthmatic so all staff can identify them and know the medical procedures to help them if they have an attack in school.

The school nurse will attend to children who become ill or injure themselves during the school day. The school will contact parents to take their child home if she/he becomes ill during the day and is unable to stay at school. Any child who has been seen by the nurse and has received medical attention will be issued with a note informing parents of the actions taken.

If, by prior agreement, the school nurse is going to administer prescription medicines to a child, then the parents must hand the medicines to the nurse along with the prescription given from the doctor detailing dosages.

### 6.3 Communicable diseases

A student with an infectious condition or illness **MUST** be kept at home and present a medical certificate upon returning to school. Children who have had a temperature above 37.7°C (or 99.8°F) must stay at home for at least 24 hours. As a guide, students are considered contagious during the following periods:

1. **Chicken pox:** 5 days from the onset of the rash, or until all the blisters have dried. Symptoms: fever, headache, rash/ vesicles that start on the trunk, and spread on the face and limbs.
2. **German measles (Rubella):** 6 days from the appearance of the rash. Symptoms: brief red rash, enlarged glands in the neck.
3. **Measles:** 4 days from the onset of the rash. Symptoms: fever, cold, headache, generalised rash.
4. **Mumps:** 5 days after the onset of the swelling, or until the swelling has gone down. Symptoms: fever, swelling and tenderness of glands at angle of the jaw.
5. **Infectious hepatitis:** 7 days from the onset of jaundice, or 7 days from the onset of symptoms if there is no jaundice. Symptoms: headaches, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, usually fever. Skin and eyes may or may not turn yellow.
6. **Scarlet fever or strep throat:** 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment. Symptoms: sore throat, fever, rough red rash for scarlet fever, usually behind the ear, on the armpits and chest.
7. **Conjunctivitis:** the student **SHOULD NOT** attend school until treatment is effective, or until discharge from the eye has ceased. It is highly infectious and should be treated right away. Symptoms: itching of the eyes, watering, redness, and discharge from eyes.
8. **Head lice:** if a child is found to have head lice or nits or eggs the parents will be contacted and the child will be sent home. The whole class will be checked for head lice and a letter will be sent out. Once affected children have been treated and there are no more lice or nits present, they may return to school.

9. **Hand, foot and mouth:** 5 - 7 days or until fully recovered. Symptoms: fever, headache, sore throat, ulcers or blisters inside or around the mouth, sores or rashes on the palms of the hand and soles of the feet.
10. **Impetigo:** Until the lesions have crusted or healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment. Symptoms: fluid or pus-filled blisters or sores on the legs or feet that eventually turn into deep ulcers.
11. **Scabies:** The child may return to school after the first treatment. Symptoms: intense itching and rash.
12. **COVID:** The child may return to school once symptoms have passed.

When a student has a bad cough or cold, or other common but highly contagious illness, parents are asked to keep the child at home so that the illness is not spread to other children.

**Children who have had episode/s of vomiting or diarrhoea should remain at home for a further 48 hours after the last incident of this illness.**

## 7. Security Procedures

### 7.1 Security procedures on entering and leaving school

During a normal working week, the purpose of gate control is to ensure the safety of children and staff at school, as well as the protection of school buildings and property. Guards should be entirely satisfied that each person who is seeking to enter or leave the school ground has a valid reason for doing so.

### 7.2 Entrance and exit procedures

Students: Only children in school uniform will be allowed access unchallenged.

Parents/carers/drivers: All parents are issued with a Parent Card with a photograph of the child and barcode on it, for access to school. Use of the bar-coded swipe cards is required, or else parents/carers that do not have a valid card must sign in as a visitor. Cards must be swiped on the way in and on the way out. Please help guards to check that photographs match the children .

All visitors (including parents without swipe cards) will be asked to exchange a personal ID card (such as driving licence) for a Visitor's Pass at the gate. All visitors wear a visitors' badge on a lanyard while they are in school, for easy identification.

All teaching and non-teaching staff wear an identification badge on a lanyard so that they can easily be identified.

### 7.3 Weekend

School is closed to visitors, children and parents throughout the weekend.

Gate control may be relaxed for approved activities, like social events. During events out of school hours, the duty of care for the children lies with the parents who are attending the event, and not with the school.

Gate control can only be relaxed with the advance written approval of the Head of Primary or the Principal.

## **7.4 School Buses**

For Early Years', we do not recommend that F1 or F2 students travel by bus.

Our bus service is managed internally by our own Bus Coordinator, who is a member of the Facilities Department. Through a contractual arrangement with a 3rd party company, the school provides bus services to and from many districts within Hanoi. BVIS takes its responsibilities to parents and students extremely seriously. We conduct rigorous random checking procedures for driver/bus monitor performance, and vehicle quality, the registering of all students using this service on and off the bus, and frequent and regular meetings with the management of the contractor and BVIS staff to review and maintain a high level of service, safety, and comfort.

Arrival and departure from school is a carefully managed process that ensures no buses are moving until all vehicles have their required passengers. All buses are fitted with seat belts, first aid kits, and emergency evacuation equipment (hammer, fire extinguisher) to ensure student well-being. Bus monitors are equipped with mobile phones to communicate effectively with school management staff, parents, and carers who may be collecting their child(ren) at drop off points. Our Bus Coordinators communicate closely with parents.

All students are required to follow essential safety standards of being seated, wearing belts throughout the duration of the journey, and are required to behave well and respect all staff and other users of the bus service. The bus monitors are acting in lieu of BVIS staff and therefore are to be respected and their instructions are followed by all students using this service. Failure to follow these instructions may lead to students being asked to find alternative transport to school. In this eventuality, there will be no refund of bus fees.

## **7.5 Classrooms**

Children are not allowed in any of the classrooms or learning spaces without an adult being present.

Children are taught how to use classroom equipment, like scissors and staplers, safely.

No hazardous liquids are stored in the classrooms, and all cleaning materials are stored in lockable areas that are out of bounds to children.

No medicines are stored in the classroom except for asthma inhalers (and always with the knowledge of the class teachers and the school nurse).

Children are not allowed in the swimming pool area, Sports' Hall, STEAM Room, Library, or Dining Hall, unless accompanied by a supervisor adult.

## **7.6 Pastoral Care**

Young children need support in developing emotionally and socially so that they are most appropriately able to use their thoughts and feelings to guide their behaviour and develop personal awareness, emotional resilience, and other social skills. This will enable them to enjoy and manage their lives now and, in the future, to become effective learners and active citizens. Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSED) activities are planned into the Early Years' curriculum to enable this development.

Essential to this process are the Class Teachers who have both regular contact with the students and maintain academic and behavioural overview of the students in their groups. They are assisted by the Assistant Head, Deputy Head and Head of Primary.

As a rule, we recognise that children learn through experimentation. This may result in minor accidents and bumps, which are a normal part of social interaction. We always record accidents and incidents on a database to ensure we can regulate this. We monitor, but we do not follow children around seeking to catch them if they look like falling. We do, however, always seek to create and maintain a safe environment for children.

## **7.7 Fire drills, Lockdown and Emergency Evacuation**

In the event of an emergency, an alarm will sound. The building should then be evacuated in a speedy but orderly fashion. No one should stop to retrieve possessions.

Details of evacuation routes and routines are displayed in every room, and everyone concerned with the school is familiar with these. Class teachers instruct the children in their classes accordingly.

After leaving the building, children and adults assemble in the designated areas in class lines. Children and teaching staff are then checked against the register to ensure they have all vacated the building, and visitors' names are checked against the signing-in book and swipe card information.

## **Fire Drill**

There is at least one fire drill each term to practice the evacuation procedure.

## **Lock down**

To prepare children in the event of an unlikely major incident (intruder, gas leak etc.), we regularly practice lockdown, so the children know how to react sensibly and calmly in the face of potential danger. The Early Years' Centre is locked down on the sound of an alarm, and children practice how to remain quiet and orderly until the procedure is over.

## **7.8 Lightning and Air Quality Policies**

### **Lightning policy**

BVIS uses a lightning detector for all outdoor activities. If a storm is approaching, the detector warns the teacher, and the area is cleared. The detector also indicates when it is safe to go back outside. Given our location surrounded by high buildings each with their own conductor, this scenario is unlikely.

### **Air Quality**

We monitor air quality daily and keep comparative data for our site, as well as other air quality monitoring stations in Hanoi. If the ratings are deemed to be too high, such that the respiration of young people may be affected, then we reserve the right to keep the children indoors until the air quality has improved. The AQI Policy is available on the website for parents to read. It is in line with international standards for air quality.

All classrooms, dining halls, libraries and meeting rooms are now equipped with air purifying units.

## **7.9 Smoking/ Alcohol**

BVIS operates a no-smoking, alcohol-free policy on campus. This is to be observed equally by students, parents, visitors, and staff.

## **7.10 Insurance**

All students are expected to be insured through their parents' own health plan. The school is therefore not liable for medical bills resulting from an accident at school unless negligence is proven against the school as indicated in the Admission Terms and Conditions. School trips carry basic insurance to cover accidents but not illness.

It is strongly recommended to take out year-round family travel insurance.



## 8. Valuables

We strongly recommend that children do not bring jewellery, money, or items of value to school. If students do bring in any items of value, they should be named clearly, and the class teacher should be informed.

Every effort will be made to teach all children to value their own and other people's belongings. The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss or breakage of any of the children's personal items.

## 9. Contact

Parents are welcome to make contact with senior teachers or their child's class teacher or subject teacher, using the correct communication channel outlined in Section 2.8.

Please remember that an email may not by itself be an effective method of dealing with an issue. Face to face dialogue may serve better to provide clarity and resolution. It is better to think of it more as a way of conveying information or as a memo to set up a meeting or phone call.

We aim to respond promptly to emails and Dojo messages, during working hours from Monday to Friday.



## II. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Parents should also refer to the Primary Parent Handbook if they have children in that section of the school.

A variety of methods are used in teaching students. We provide stage-appropriate material and tasks, focusing on developing independent learning skills and a passion for learning.

Learning may take place in one-to-one sessions, in class, on day trips, in extra-curricular activities, through lecture-style delivery or online. This list is not exhaustive, but it provides an indication of the breadth of opportunity available to both students and teachers to deliver our rich and varied educational experience. All modes of delivery of teaching and learning are of equal value.

## **1. Virtual School Policy**

Should schools be forced to close or suspend the provision of on-campus education for any reason, including a Force Majeure Event for one week (or more), the affected school will implement the Nord Anglia Virtual School Experience. Virtual Schooling shall form part of the one-off exceptional support that the school may provide to parents and students in such circumstances.

Further details about our Virtual School Experience and Policy are available on the Nord Anglia Education website at <http://bit.ly/NAE-VSE>.

## **2. Early Years' Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

### **2.1 Learning in the Early Years' - Settling into the Early Years'**

When children join or continue within the EYFS at the start of the school year, there are many new experiences, environments, routines, adults, and other children for them to get to know. At BVIS, we believe that these early days are vital in helping children to develop positive attitudes towards learning.

"All new children have a staggered start when they do not attend full days. This is to get them used to the new environment because starting school is a very significant change for a young child.

### **2.2 Rest times in the Early Years' Foundation Stage**

There is a regular short sleep time in the afternoon, but we would urge you to establish early bed-time routines with your child(ren). The children have named mats with a blanket and pillow and sleep for up to 90 minutes. Blankets and pillows are washed every week. Children can bring a teddy or blanket if it helps to settle them at sleep time.

Children in F3 are encouraged to phase out day time sleep as they get older in preparation for moving to Year 1.

## **2.3 Our Principles**

The EYFS framework sets the UK standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five. The curriculum is built around four principles:

### **A Unique Child**

At BVIS Hanoi, we focus on how children develop; we recognise they are all different, but that they should be treated equally. Positive relationships and good communication are vital. Children need to learn about risks and safety, how to make good choices and how to respect boundaries. We make every attempt to provide full opportunities for each child to do their best and we achieve this by ensuring their physical and emotional needs are met during their time in our Early Years' setting.

### **Positive Relationships**

This theme is about children learning to manage their feelings and build relationships. We respect all kinds of families and aim to develop a positive two-way relationship with parents and carers. We will support, listen, and work with the children at BVIS Hanoi to help them learn. Each child will have a nominated key person to ensure everyone has the opportunity of building a close relationship and is well monitored during their time with us.

### **Enabling Environments**

We plan and check each child's progress and make every attempt to involve parents and the local community. We ensure that inside and outside spaces at BVIS Hanoi are safe, interesting, challenging and engaging. We support children working as a team to help them succeed.

### **Learning and Development**

At BVIS Hanoi we focus on ensuring young children learn through play and exploration, with support for each individual. We encourage children to develop imagination, to get actively involved in learning and to make decisions. We make every attempt to develop children's creative and critical thinking, balancing the need for both the children and adults to lead the learning.

## **2.4 How will my child learn?**

Through the Early Years' Development Matters Framework, your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge, and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children focus on developing the 3 prime areas as they are considered to be the most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. These are:

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

Alongside the prime areas they will go on to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

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

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. It is a curriculum suitable for very young children and designed to be really flexible so that we can follow your child's unique needs and interests. Every child learns through playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

## **2.5 Working together**

At BVIS Hanoi, we recognise that you are the most important person in your child's life, and they in yours. Therefore, we work closely with you and invite you to take part in various activities including information mornings, celebrations, picnics, activity days and much more.

## **2.6 What to put in my child's bag**

- A spare labelled uniform - Sometimes learning and having fun can be messy, so, a spare uniform may be needed
- Hat
- Water bottle
- Library folder on library days

## **2.7 Our expectations**

Both the school and the individuals have expectations of each other:

- Students have the right to expect that the school is safe, secure and friendly. It is the school's responsibility to provide this;
- The school expects students to behave in a way that will contribute to a happy environment and will discourage the kind of behaviour that undermines this;

- Children should do all they can to ensure a positive learning environment for themselves and for all other children;
- Children must respect the feelings, needs and rights of others and will receive the same in return;
- Children should wear the correct uniform and should take pride in their appearance.

## **2.8 Rewards**

As a school, we delight in celebrating the achievements of our students, both inside and outside of school. We are very happy to hear from parents about their child's achievements outside of school time.

A child from each class will be awarded the class 'Star of the Week' certificate. This certificate will be given as a reward for extra effort, consideration for others or any other achievements and will be awarded at an assembly each week. This can serve as an example to other children.

Throughout each day, teachers have the opportunity to award Class Dojo points to children who have demonstrated excellence against one of our personal goals.

## **2.9 Extra-Curricular Activities**

F3 children have after-school clubs on a Monday and Thursday from 3:00pm to 4:00pm all year round. F2 ECA begins in Term 2. F1 does not have ECA.

## **2.10 Library Books**

Every child in the school can borrow library books. These will be checked out by the librarian and the borrower is responsible for their return in good condition. There will be a replacement charge on lost or damaged books. There are weekly library sessions, and all children are requested to change their books during these sessions or during break times and after school, if necessary. Children may, of course, keep the books for a longer period, by checking them out again on or before the due date.

## **2.11 How can I support my child at home?**

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development and have a long-lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. If you make time every day to do some of the things detailed below with your child, it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.

We encourage you to read books together at home, talk to your child about their day, sing songs, visit museums, go to the park, and get involved in physical activities such as swimming. In F1 and F2, it is particularly helpful for the English teachers if your child can say 'toilet' or 'water' in English. More specifically with writing, you can ask your child to make marks or copy signs or logos they see when they are out and about. Writing their name is always empowering for your child so try to encourage them to recognise and write it. For Maths, tell your child to look out for shapes or numbers in the environment. At dinner time, maybe they could lay the table and get them to count how many family members they have and how many spoons or cups they will need.

There are great number of Parent Information Sessions held during the year to assist you to help support the development of your child. Every piece of modern research into Early Years' development stresses the importance of parental engagement with your young child. These sessions help you to bond further with and nurture your child's confidence and personal growth. We do commend the sessions to you and look forward to welcoming you to them.

If you have any queries following the reading this handbook, please do not hesitate to contact the Early Years' Lead or Head of Primary.

We would be happy to hear from you. We are working together with you, engaged in supporting and developing your child.



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INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
HANOI**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL