

## **Life in Britain – The Social, Emotional, Spiritual and Culturally Aware Child**

Children are increasingly faced with complex challenges and choices within their lives. A key aspect of their education is the opportunity to prepare for life in Britain as well as global citizens. At Hall Meadow, we integrate this preparation into all aspects of the children's learning experiences. Through their time with us, the children encounter discrete as well as explicit teaching experiences which help them to acquire the social, emotional, cognitive skills so that they can make informed choices. We also help them to develop the mental resilience that they will require for life in a rapidly changing modern world.

As part of the children's everyday curriculum they have the opportunity to experience the following:

- ✓ Our pedagogy is based on the principles of people demonstrating respect for themselves and others and their environment, responsibility for all aspects of their behaviour and reflection on all actions. These values underpin the entire work of the school.
- ✓ Hall Meadow operates an inquiry curriculum which integrates the skills and attitudes of learning into children's general curriculum experience. This teaches the children to question information and situations based on evidence and reason. Children are taught and encouraged to ask questions about real life situations that pertain to them and to justify the decision that they make.
- ✓ We teach the children to practice mindfulness which helps them to develop an accepting, kind and compassionate mind-set toward themselves and others and encourages the children to pay close attention and self- manage their behaviours.
- ✓ The children engage in philosophy for children sessions which develops their capacity to question deeply and to learn to tolerate difference. Philosophy also helps the children to question beliefs so that they can develop their own views and opinions.
- ✓ The children have the opportunity to engage in specific programmes focused on developing their social skills such a 'Social Detectives' and 'Zippy's Friends'.
- ✓ Our Wellbeing and Education Link Leader (WELL) devises specific programmes and works closely alongside individual children who have experienced traumatic events. Children that, without support, may be encouraged to develop negative a thinking style or inappropriate behaviour towards others.
- ✓ Through our E-safety teaching, the children are taught to be vigilant about the kind of information that they may encounter through web or social networking sites and encouraged to consider the value and validity of the information that they encounter.
- ✓ We have leaders for International schools, and currently hold outstanding status for the International Schools Award, and developing the global curriculum. The children engage in projects which enable them to share experiences with children in other parts of the world.

- ✓ We operate safeguarding procedures which ensure that visitors to school are not given any opportunity to inappropriately influence children's beliefs or encourage dogmatic thinking that is extreme or intolerant of others.
- ✓ Integrated into the curriculum are opportunities for the children to learn about life decisions and the right of individuals to make lifestyle choices pertaining to their selection of partner, cultural practices, religious beliefs and political stance.
- ✓ Through Religious Education, the children learn about the cultural rituals and traditions of world religions. They are encouraged to spiritually reflect and develop an understanding of different faith systems.
- ✓ Specific days are devoted to learning experiences related to different cultures. Recent examples include a day of workshops linked to life in Britain; International Sports Day and preparation for our summer show which explores dance traditions across the world.
- ✓ Each year we run a business week. This week promotes children's economic awareness as they set up mini-business projects for the week and sell good to others. Our most recent business week required the children to develop and cost facilities for the development of our outdoor area for learning. This is a project running in collaboration with PACT our parent association.
- ✓ The children learn about demographic processes by engaging activities that require them to vote. Recent examples of this include voting to decide on the designation of play areas for outdoor learning and for Lead Learners who will monitor the learning and progress of their class and feed this information the school's leadership team.
- ✓ At Hall Meadow, we no longer elect particular children as school councillors as this proved to be an ineffective way of gathering the views of the children. This has been replaced by a Class Voice Forum where each term the children engage in group discussions about a range of issues. This information is then fed back into school development so that the views of the children are reflected in the activities planned for the school.
- ✓ The children learn to eat healthily and the benefits of exercise through our 'Healthy Schools' programme.