
BISS on the Road

Philosophy Statement

Elementary School



We believe that authentic, experiential learning is at the heart of quality education. From Pre-K to Grade 5, we embrace opportunities to relinquish daily schedules and explore the world as our classroom.

We believe that **BISS on the Road** can be a transformative experience in a child's life, as they have opportunities to develop:

- **skills and understandings** that transcend subject areas. For example, by preparing their own meals, students may apply mathematical, language, fine motor and social skills to achieve success.
- **independence**, as they complete tasks that might otherwise be done for them, such as buying subway tickets, shopping for food, managing their own needs and organising belongings.
- **resilience and self-esteem**. As they face unfamiliar settings, new problems and distance from family, students have an opportunity to conquer fears and overcome physical and psychological challenges.
- **deep friendships, closer bonds** with classmates and a cohesive **class community**, built on the foundation of shared experiences, collaborative endeavours and lasting memories.
- an understanding that **learning is not limited to school**, but occurs every day in the real world, thus developing lifelong habits of inquiry.
- knowledge of the rich culture of our **host city**, by exploring local architecture and natural landmarks in Beijing and its surrounds.
- an appreciation of the **natural environment**, and an understanding of how to be caring, responsible custodians of the Earth.

To this end, each grade identifies an over-arching **conceptual focus** for the week. This is linked to relevant outcomes in the Interactions, Identity and/or Active Living strands of the Personal, Social and Physical Education (**PSPE**) curriculum. If appropriate, grades may also make rich connections to the current and/or upcoming Unit of Inquiry, within the Programme of Inquiry.

These planning decisions are crucial, to ensure that deep, significant learning is the focus, and to avoid superficial or disconnected activities. Driving decisions are made in advance of itinerary creation, and are used to inform all other decisions about the week.