

20. Vision, Mission and Core Values

Executive Principal	Head of Education
Karyn Walton	Dr Laura Hillman
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Policy Statement

It is essential for any school to develop and maintain well-understood guiding statements in order to develop a cohesive philosophy on which actions and operations are based. All subsequent policy and procedure put this philosophy into action. These shared and agreed beliefs regarding:

- our vision for the future,
- our mission to achieve this,
- the ethos we wish to instil in our children, and
- our values which underpin day to day practice at the British International School of Tunis (BIST.)

These are the foundation from which all else we do here is derived.

Guiding Statement

Our vision for the School is a short but aspirational statement outlining what we as a community aim to achieve at BIST. This is put simply as the provision of '**an Education without limit.**' This statement places education and learning at the core of School operations, and as such, the following guiding statement was formulated and agreed through discussion with all staff and pupils in September and October 2022. This must be at the heart of all that we do and aspire to be.

'Learning is the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills through wonder, discovery and challenge, leading to sustained adaptability, intellectual development and a genuine thirst for more.'

Our Mission statement describes the essential functions and culture of the School, the standards and aspirations we seek to maintain or improve and what we must do to continue moving towards our vision.

The British International School of Tunis aims to be a leading school in MENA dedicated to educating kind, innovative and brave children and young people to their highest academic and creative potential. This will be achieved through a forward-thinking, challenging and relevant academic curriculum which encourages all pupils to strive for academic excellence and individual personal development for life. This process takes place in a nurturing, safe, fun environment with dedicated staff focused on pupil learning and wellbeing.

Our Ethos

In order to achieve the above, we need to ensure that we teach our children the right approach to their lives. We do this through our ethos:

Our pupils are at the heart of all we do: we are committed to their welfare, happiness and academic success. We want them to gain the skills needed for success in the 21st Century, understand their place in the world, develop their moral compass and prepare them for an exciting future.

Our Core Values

The following four values are simple philosophical points which all colleagues are required to apply to their role, tasks and conduct around the School and pupils are expected to demonstrate in their day to day actions. These 'BIST Values' are our aspirations and targets which, in effect, supports our vision, shapes the culture and reflects our mission moving forward.

- **Bravery**
- **Imagination**
- **Self-discipline**
- **Tolerance**

Keeping these principles in mind in terms of our pedagogy, behaviour and expectations helps us work cohesively to implement the vision and mission.

Our Motto

Underpinning our values and mission is our School motto. It sits at the heart of all we do and was created through discussion with pupils of all ages. It is a simple and easy to remember statement which encapsulates how we wish our pupils to approach their work and their lives:

'Work Hard, Dream Big.'

Our Philosophy

A child's time at school must be a period of growth for each individual to explore their mind's full potential. BIST provides this opportunity to acquire an excellent international education through diverse and in-depth learning experiences. Pupils must be guided to understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others. They will be active participants in a wide range of aspects of School life, as well as focusing on their academic development. As part of this process, pupils will give thoughtful consideration to their own learning journey and experience. They will be able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations to support their development and develop the vision to see solutions rather than barriers.

Education is an on-going nurturing process, and we encourage pupils to embrace the ever-changing global challenges of the future. BIST brings children together from many nations to learn and grow together; tolerance and respect are required both towards the culture and society of Tunisia, and all members of our community regardless of background. Each individual must accept responsibility for his own or her own actions and must relate to others with sensitivity. The School must act in open and honest partnership with families. Effective communication, tolerance and mutual respect are at the heart of this. All members of our community must be able to expect to live and work in a safe and secure environment.

We wish to stand proud as a beacon of academic excellence; but also, a community where students also learn the lessons of lasting impact and true worth: self-discipline, integrity of character, care for others, and a sense of values. We encourage the fullest development of each individual's personality and talents and recognize that not all learning takes place in the classroom. Emphasis is placed on cultural, creative and sporting activity, requiring us to foster a culture of embracing rather than avoiding risk. These elements combine to provide our pupils with the knowledge and skills to thrive in a globally mobile, competitive world. We aim to see all our pupils confident to take their rightful place amongst the best and the brightest, able to work at any level in any part of the world.

Our Strategic Priorities

In order to be able to deliver on the above, we have identified 6 strategic priorities for the year ahead. These were agreed on as the output of an away day with senior leadership and shareholders and represents a summary of the direction of travel.

- **A relentless focus on quality at all levels – high standards, high expectations, high levels of support and staff development;**
- **An innovative learning environment that supports forward thinking pedagogy and enables excellence;**
- **A personalised admissions process to ensure new families have the right information at the right time and feel valued from day one;**
- **Improved communication – both internal and external;**
- **Better involvement of parents in the day to day life of the school;**
- **Links built with the local community – BIST as a ‘community hub.’**