Inclusion at The British School

“The inclusion of children who require learning support enhances the education of all children”
Taken from http://www.nextfrontierinclusion.org/

For a number of years TBS has been including students with a wide range of learning styles ranging from Specific Learning Difficulties such as Dyslexia and Dyspraxia, to Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Cerebral Palsy. Central to our philosophy is the belief that every student should have access to high quality learning opportunities - simply put, this is what is meant by inclusion.

Often a significant barrier to inclusion is our understanding of the different challenges the students with Special Educational Needs face in their daily lives. It is important to remember that they still want to play, are curious, enthusiastic and most importantly, they want access to the same opportunities other students have. At TBS we aim to remove the barriers to those opportunities.

One family of a lovely boy with Cerebral Palsy (CP) with Ataxia who has recently joined us, says that he, “...is quite aware of his disability, but if you meet him you will soon realise he doesn't let it stop him.” Although, he sometimes has a hard time with his balance and his pencil grip is not so strong, he continues to participate fully in all activities. Occasionally, he needs a little encouragement to participate as he may be a little anxious, unless its football of course, pretty much like any other child.

Another child who has been with us for a while is on the Autistic Spectrum. He is high functioning, which means that he is verbally able as well as being intellectually able. You may have seen him on the playground running and playing. Sometimes he will be on his own, but often he is with other children; he is very imaginative!

Much of his behaviour, as with the child with CP, is similar to his friends, however at times he may become anxious so may cover his ears and close his eyes. This is typical behaviour for children with Autism. Follow this link to a recent video clip to get an idea of how people with Autism can feel: Autism Speaks.

There are many websites now available to us to find out about the different challenges that students can face and the one mentioned above can be just a starting point. TBS also has its own fabulous resources; the teaching staff, the support staff, as well as the numerous materials in the Learning Support Department, that are available to the school community should they wish to know more.

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