Where the East meets West

Bright Start Fellowship International School (B.S.F.I.S) is a Cambridge Board School at August Kranti Maidan, Gowalia Tank in South Mumbai. The school believes in making learning a stimulating experience for children. It also gives a lot of importance to sports, fine arts and social service. Pragnya Mehta, principal, (B.S.F.I.S) talks about global education in India...

Q. What factors do you consider before giving admission to a child?

Though every child has a Right to Education, it’s important that a child truly benefits from the quality of education offered at the institute. Education should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience leading to all-round development of the child.

Q. Do you feel that global schools need to be more cost effective to reach out to more students?

At B.S.F.I.S, we have tried our best to keep the fee structure as affordable as possible. In fact, it’s amongst the most reasonable fee structures within the city. We believe that good quality education must be made accessible to the maximum number of students. Due to the small class size, use of latest technologies in every classroom and importance to hands-on learning, the costs do go up. This needs to managed effectively to reach out to the masses.

Q. The Indian system of education was considered as one of the best. How do you merge its core values in the foreign curriculum?

The ancient Indian education system was used to prepare students with life skills and values. It’s very important that while imparting foreign curriculum, global schools merge our Indian values and culture in the course as well. At B.S.F.I.S, students are actively involved in social work as well as patriotic events. This year, our students visited Srinagar to hand over relief material to flood victims in Kashmir. They sent relief material to Vishakapatnam for Hudhud victims and enthusiastically participated in the Unity March.

Q. What challenges should students be prepared to face while making a transition from national curriculum to foreign course?

The global curriculum’s general emphasis on hands-on learning, child-centered approach and thought provoking examination pattern makes learning fun for the students as well as teachers. Experiential learning and ‘learning by doing’ promotes better understanding of the concepts. So, students should be prepared to move away from the system of learning by heart while transitioning from state or national curriculum. There’s less spoon-feeding in global schools.

Q. When a parent takes admission in a global school, what should he verify?

It’s very important that the parents keep the end result in mind while opting for a global school. For example, Cambridge Board IGCSE followed by A-levels for Grades XI and XII is not only recognized worldwide but a student gets credits for good A-Level scores from even Ivy League and other reputed universities. A-Levels is beneficial for studies in India as well as it has subjects as per the Indian system and conducts the board examination in March, which coincides with the state exams. Apart from this, having a degree that’s accepted worldwide gives an edge while applying for further studies in foreign universities as well as for future employment.