

Baden-Powell & St. Peters Junior School

Introduction:

The objective of this report is to give an overview of “Baden-Powell & St. Peters Junior School” located in Bournemouth, UK. To prepare for this report, we conducted interviews with Heidi, the sub deputy head teacher, and several pupils including Cooper, Matt, Marks, Tian, Susan and Kayla, from 6th grade.

The building:

It was commented upon by the sub deputy Head teacher that in the main building, which is really large, there are a lot of different areas dedicated to all the activities that take place in the school. The spaces are colorful and comfortable. Each of them is well equipped with materials essential for engaging the pupils in activities and make them feel welcome. As an instance, the Art laboratory is one of the classrooms where children are not only accustomed to having lessons but can also express their own personality and have fun at the same time.

Outdoor facilities:

Talking about the outdoor area, we can say that there are several well-maintained football and hockey pitches, long race tracks and other areas dedicated to other games. In addition to this, the school installed a hut where pupils can go if they don't feel confident due to any problems they may have. The hut aims to help the kids to handle difficult relationships with the advice given by their peers.

Core values:

The School believes in five different values that every pupil has to follow. They are: compassion, friendship, aspiration, resilience and respect. By spreading these values the school wants to educate children since they are very little to an empathic, kind and respectful behaviour. As a result, they will grow up as caring, honest and pleasant human beings. Additionally, wearing uniforms serves as a symbol of school pride and belonging. While students generally take pride in wearing their uniforms, there are occasions when they prefer wearing their own clothes, permitted by the school.

Teaching:

All those who were interviewed believe that there are good teaching methods. Thanks to the help of the sub-deputy teacher, Heidi, and to some pupils, we have found out their way of teaching. The pupils have classes for English and Maths in every grade; in the afternoon they change class for every activity, many of which are manual like arts, technology and music. All the children, in the music class, can sing and play drums, ukulele, samba. The pupils choose one musician per month to study, from different social and cultural contexts like Bob Marley and Coldplay. Another activity is the art class, which serves as a creative outlet where children can breathe out. This month they are making typical masks of South America and Africa and during the year they create small objects with cardboard. The pupils have one lesson a week in the school library where they can choose a book to read and to take away at lunch time. They like it a lot. The pupils have the possibility to improve on their technological skills when they have sessions in the computer lab.

Daily schedule:

School starts at 9 o'clock and finishes at 3.20 p.m. The first lesson is Maths and after that is English. During the day they have their activities; after classes, if they have a problem about homework they can go to a special class where teachers help them. Pupils can have their lunch in two different ways: somebody prefers to bring food from home in a packet, cooked by their parents, somebody else eats meals prepared by the school canteen. They have a lot of homework in grammar, spelling and maths. In this school pupils are not assessed with marks but they receive opinions about their work. In case they don't reach the target, teachers suggest improvement.

The "Houses":

"Baden-Powell & St. Peters Junior School" is organized on a partition in teams, or "Houses", which are different by colors and names: red for Brownsea, blue kids are called Purbeck, the green one is Studland, and finally yellow for Poole. Every "House" has its own captain, who is chosen for his ability and knowledge. In particular, he must be able to write a formal letter thanks to which he obtains power points. The kids we interviewed care a lot for their houses, in fact, they commit themselves to reach extra points as a supplementary help for their teammates.

Transport:

Pupils go to school using different means of transport, for example Cooper walks to school and Matt is driven to school by his parents. They leave school unsupervised: their parents wait for them beyond the park gates.

Trips:

According to the children's statements, they have one day-trip a year: the teachers take them to a place not too far away from the school. The trips can be to museums, parks (for the orienteering training) and to farms.

Relationships:

We asked some pupils about their relationships with other kids and teachers. The common answer to this question was that they want to spend most of their time on a school day with friends and schoolmates. "Baden-Powell & St. Peters Junior School" is fundamental to creating respectful relationships between students and teachers. In fact, they rarely get mad with their pupils because they don't listen or misbehave. Teachers' education tends to focus more on rewards than on punishment. In case of a dispute, the eldest guys have to help the younger kids to calm down, negotiate and make peace.

Conclusion:

The school has a lot of highly positive features. We all agree that the most impressive aspect is that Baden-Powell offers an open-minded and progress-oriented environment focussing on life skills and individual development. The spirit of the school enables pupils to express their freedom while meeting expectations.

