

Parent-Teacher Conference

PT conferences are one on one interaction with parents. The meetings help sharing of thoughts and experiences between the teacher and the parent. The teacher gets a chance here to provide a glimpse of the child's work to the parents, with the individual folder of the learner maintained at the school. It also allows the parents to experience our little environment and appreciate this glimpse into their child's classroom life. The teacher shows the cutting samples, self-portraits, cumulative record and other work samples. It is nice to show how this skill improves over the school year.



Open Houses

Open House Meets are the interactions between parents and teachers to discuss the performance and progress of the children and to explain the significance of the activities undertaken by us. It will also help the parent to be on better footing regarding the learning processes of your children. Simultaneously, the sessions are also platforms for better networking among the parents and these can throw up rich comments and suggestions for the growth of the children as well as the institution.



Parents Club

BenchMark encourages parents to get involved through the Parent's Club, which is an active group of volunteers who come together to benefit our school family. Students benefit from the family atmosphere built when our parents work closely with our professional educators. The mission of BenchMark Parents' Club is to enhance the education of our students through a partnership of students, parents and educators; and to involve parents and students in programmes and activities that result in continuous improvement of the student experience at the school.



Grandparents Council

Setting up a novel and visionary benchmark, we have also set up a grandpaents' council. Given the core relationship the children enjoy with their grandpaents, the role the senior generation can play in grooming the children is indeed invaluable. Moreover, there is an increasing need to nurse values of honoring the elders.



BenchMark Knowledge Centre is a cluster of educational institutions catering to the multiple instructional needs of the state. Our vision is for a high achieving multi-institution educational complex in which all young people achieve their potential through high quality personalised learning that is designed to meet their individual needs.

BenchMark International School, a major component of BenchMark Knowledge Centre, is a stimulating and innovative learning environment in which each child's ability is recognised, developed and rewarded. With us, each student gets the opportunity and freedom for the fullest possible development as a whole person prepared for life. We are situated on a sprawling campus at South Anna, Tirur in Malappuram. BenchMark International School follows CBSE stream. Our future plans include an IGCSE campus.

The school is run by BenchMark Educational Trust (BET), a body of perceptive individuals with solid mooring in educational experiences and a vision for an achieving community of the future generations. It is the creative synthesis of diverse strains of thought among a team of educationally motivated professionals - teachers, teacher trainers, educational administrators, soft skill trainers, IT consultants, ex-military personnel and Finishing school providers. Building on this experience, we have produced specific process manuals setting out a practical approach to each key area of school life. The sum total of over two hundred and fifty years of collective professional experience, at various levels of education-oriented domains, has fermented the concept.

BenchMark Schooling

BenchMark Schooling promotes exploratory, experiential learning in a structured and stimulating environment. For us the development of fundamental skills goes hand in hand with the freedom to explore and create. We combine a strong emphasis on learning with an outstanding range of opportunities beyond the classroom. This simultaneous thrust on academic excellence, life experiences and social responsibility creates a rich learning environment. We are sure that this will provide the best possible foundation for life long education and achievement. In addition to the formal teaching sessions in a day, it includes the 'hidden' curriculum, the relationships and values evident in the ethos of the school.

More than ever our children need to be resilient and flexible. Hence communication skills, a willingness to engage in the exchange of ideas, an awareness and appreciation of cultures, vision and open mindedness, critical thinking skills and adaptability are embedded in our teaching approach.

Our curriculum, based on the CBSE stream, offers challenge, breadth, balance and coherence through a wide range of subjects. It zeroes in on helping children develop the key skills of communication, application of numbers, information technology working with others, problem solving and improving one's own performance. We also give major thrust to developing the following essential thinking skills so that the children develop as independent learners and thoughtful individuals:

Information Processing

to locate and collect information, sort, classify, sequence, compare, contrast and analyse part/whole relationships

Reasoning

to give reasons for opinions, actions, drawing inferences, making deductions, using precise language to explain, make judgments and informed decisions

Enquiry

to ask questions, pose and define problems, plan what to do, how to research, predict outcomes, anticipate consequences and draw conclusions and improve ideas



Assessment

Assessment takes a variety of forms in the school with Performance reported thrice a year through the use of Parent Teacher Conferences, Open House Meets and occasional Home Visits for all parents. Three times a year the school issues Report Cards in written form. Performance Reports are issued at the end of each term and formal parent/teacher meetings take place twice a year. Class-wise PTA Meets too are organised periodically.

Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)

Continuous and comprehensive Evaluation is a path breaking initiative brought in by CBSE to render the process of Evaluation in schools more comprehensive and realistic. BenchMark has put consistent efforts to avail the benefits of this measure. Regular interactions are organized with parents on the one side to educate them on the whys and hows of the CCE procedures while the teachers are equipped with skill to evaluate the learners in the various CCE categories.

Special Educational Needs

BIS offers additional support to both the high achievers and slow performers. Remedial support in the core areas takes place during the school day. We are sensitive towards those with specific learning difficulties. We are able to test and diagnose students who appear to have difficulties and provide support for them. We have a Special Educational Needs Programme (SEN) as well. Many of our students are working in English as an additional language and the school offers special support as required. More able students are challenged through accelerated learning programmes.

Good teaching is the core of good schooling. We ensure a judicious blend of aptitude, attitude, communication skills and learning ability in our teachers. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is taken seriously and we have put in place a mechanism for periodic evaluation and structured training which involves a whole menu of subjects varying between people's skills and Multiple Intelligence.

Teacher Recruitment

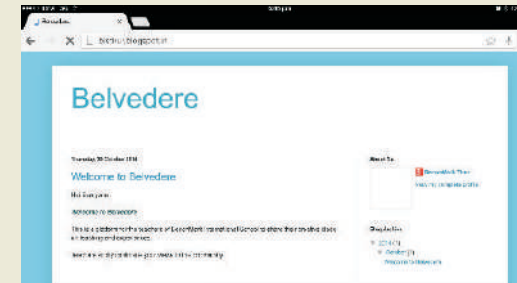
Our meticulous Teacher Selection procedure is necessitated by the drive for quality. Since like all professions, teaching too has to be continuously rediscovered, we look for teachers who are learners. The drive, enthusiasm, connectedness, professionalism, scholarship, attitude - all these are carefully weighed before we let them in.

Teacher Orientation Programme

The teachers who are selected after a series of filters walk into an Orientation Programme which is exhaustive. The training menu of the Orientation Programme is prepared taking into consideration the nature of the curriculum the teachers have to transact, the demands of the world into which the students walk out, the emerging concepts in education.

Staff Development Cell

We have a Staff Development Cell (SDC) which interacts with the teachers and feeds input to the authorities regarding the evolving training requirements. We place huge thrust on upskilling the staff on the technological side in these sessions. Parent-Teacher inputs, teacher observation feedback and CBSE instructions will also determine the training menu.



Teacher Blogs

Since we promote technology integration at all levels, all stakeholders take extra effort to synchronize with the technological passion. The teacher blogs are meant to express their thoughts and ideas whether it be imaginative or practical. More often these entries reflect their teaching experiences and help them learn from each other. Apart from these, the Blogs also help outsource thoughts and concepts from eminent educators from inside and outside the country.

Staff Club

An active Staff Club at the school has a significant role in maintaining the work-life balance of the teachers. The Club provides a meaningful platform for the teachers to share their extracurricular interests. Periodic meetings of the Club make them take a useful break from the academic procedures. The club promotes staff recreation activities like farming and community outreach.

Staff Trips

The staff trips are meant to lend them breaks from the academic grind and to reinforce their professional attitudes with interaction with outer perspectives, scholarly lectures and institutions which can raise the quality of their professional dreams.

Facilities

Plans are now underway in realizing a purpose-built campus equipped for 21st century learning. Our upcoming campus has all modern facilities with up-to-date resources and equipments. As well as colourful and well-equipped classrooms, the school will have spacious Early Years unit, state-of-the-art kitchen, separate dining area and numerous spacious rooms for group or special work.

Library

From reference books to teaching guides, classics & popular fiction, comics to folk tales, learning worksheets, exam help books, weeklies, magazines, dailies, journals and kids' books: our library resources are updated and kept relevant age-wise and subject-wise. We also ensure that the parents can loan books and back issues of the magazines from the library.

Classrooms

Clean, well-lit, airy and spacious rooms are ideal learning spaces for the young children. The environment is stimulating and energizing. BenchMark classrooms are invigorating for the learners in layout, colour, design, furniture and materials. Our classrooms are huge when compared to the space offered by a standard school. What inspires BenchMark classrooms is the need to give students lots of space. Whether the teacher is going for a short spell of chalk and talk or running a group activity or pair work, there has to be enough room. The occasional play or skit can happen conveniently in the classrooms.

Food

Students are provided fresh, hygienic, nutritious food prepared at our premises, complete with vegetables or fruit. This is part of our effort to do away with the growing fast food culture which is detrimental to the children's growth. We also ensure that everyone has access to fresh drinking water. The monthly menu is detailed on our web page and on the school noticeboard. Promoting a healthy lifestyle is one of our school aims and we apply this offering a variety of salads, vegetables, fruit and yogurt, and encouraging the children to make the healthy choice. We emphasize the importance of healthy eating habits and we kindly ask parents not to provide sweets, chocolates, chips, popcorn or highly sugared or caffeinated drinks. BIS is dedicated to the promotion of healthy lifestyles and food choices.



Labs

Our computer facilities are top class. We have a computer lab with Wi-Fi connectivity and systems which are updated to guarantee sufficient screen time for all the learners. Moreover, the school has evolved its own text books and study resources for the students. This ensures that we maintain timely updates of a subject like Technology which changes so quick.

ICT Integration

Our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities are excellent: an ICT suite, interactive whiteboard and high-speed Broadband connection for Internet access. We also have full-time technical backup, to support the children's work and ensure the smooth running of the school network. The Wi-Fi connectivity we provide the teachers help them seamlessly integrate their teaching with technology. The learning experiences in the classrooms are made more invigorating and attention-retaining as a result.

Transportation

Our fleet of vehicles connects the campus to the neighboring towns. Transportation is provided to students on all major routes linking the school to the suburbs in a safe and secure manner to ensure the safety of the students and the comfort level of the parents, we assure the connectivity of the bus to the school monitoring system. The presence of school staff too is ensured in each one of the buses we operate.

Smart Diary

The school ensures 24/7 reach for the parents with the Smart Diary initiative. All the parents are linked to the school via mobile network so that quick information sharing can happen. All vital information regarding Attendance, Open House meets, Transportation Alerts, special instructions could be made available to the parents through the system.





Physical Development

We aim, through physical education, to help children develop physical competence, an appreciation of skilled and creative performances, improved interpersonal skills and enhanced self-esteem. There are three areas of activity which the children experience on a weekly basis. These are exercises, dance and games. In the Summer, the children are introduced to athletic activities and they will be given the chance to follow some carefully selected outdoor pursuits. The children have the opportunity to enjoy a number of sports including football, badminton, table tennis, and cricket. Children also get involved in numerous tournaments, sport festivals, and House matches. A structured development of co-ordination, strength, stamina and skilfulness is followed in Physical Education. This is linked with promoting and understanding the need for healthy bodies. These activities also develop attitudes of co-operation as part of a team.

Games

A student spends a major part of waking time at the school. Hence the school has a big role in shaping not just the knowledge level, but the health quotient too. Our care and concern in providing quality food and exposure to games supplement each other. The games on offer under the guidance of the PET instructors at the school include both indoor and outdoor ones: Chess, Table Tennis, Foot Ball, Cricket, Caroms, Volley Ball are some of them.

Mind Games

A remarkable use of the time and resources we have set apart for developing the mental agility and thinking skills of our students. For grades 1 to 5, we have opened an exclusive mind skill development part called Mind Games. So have we implemented life skill training from grade 6. The goal of this section is to impart game-oriented classroom experiences which catalyze thinking and problem-solving skills through fun-filled activities. Special purpose, custom-made devices are used in this classroom, in addition to devices like Rubik's Cube. A coordinator is put in full charge of these programmes. The Mind Gym opens doors for students to involve in gamified learning with no strains of the conventional curriculum.

Chess for all

An offshoot of the Mind Games is the Chess for All scheme. In all the grades from 1 to 5, we have introduced chess and instructors help them master the moves. The role played by chess in improving the thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills is well attested by the educational researches. Kids love being in the middle of a game and its competitiveness. The gains of the effort will be naturally reflected in the academic performance level of these students.

Abacus

Abacus is a simple device for calculating but one which has tremendous potential to imbibe mathematical skills among the very young and young learners. We have introduced free Abacus coaching in all classes of the lower grades with specially trained faculty. The kids are provided the counting device and for them learning with the device is akin to playing. When students roll their finger to move the beads on abacus, cumulative combination of brain and finger movements creates pictorial memory in their mind. While using abacus, students use both of their hands simultaneously and this movement uses both parts of the brain i.e. the left and the right brain together that nurtures their minds, making them more accurate and quick. The Abacus too is a way of putting fun back into learning and goes well with our 'celebrate learning' approach.



Clubs

Clubs are the corridors which bridge the curricular and extracurricular in schools. In the school clubs which are built on themes, the students across grades gather and provide a camaraderie which cuts across age groups. They gel based on issues and interests. Moreover, these clubs serve ample opportunities for the students to demonstrate their responsibility and initiatives. We have a number of clubs which help bring the students together to involve in interest powered and community oriented programmes. Maths Club, Nature Club, Science Club, Movie Club and Literary Club are the major ones among them. These clubs organize special events apart from the annual schedule they have prepared.

CCA

We believe in developing the full personality of the children through sport, arts and creative work. Benchmark's commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom is reflected in the range of sporting activities we promote. Children have opportunities to involve in variety of games and sports and to experience a range of outdoor and adventurous activities. Children can learn to play an instrument or go to one of the many clubs run after school.

Holistic education demands development of all aspects of individual's personality across various domains. Focusing on excellence in academics alone undoubtedly results in top-sided development of personality. It is thus essential that due importance be given to participation in co-curricular activities like music/dance, art, dramatics and other areas of an individual's interests. This is likely to make life more fulfilling and enjoyable. We provide serious attention and emphasis to the development of interests, hobbies and passions of learners.

Martial arts, Violin, Guitar, Key board, Classical Dance, Art & Craft, Roller skating, Vocal Music, Drawing & Painting are part of the CCA buffet at Benchmark. Enough flexibility is allowed for students in making their choices, though we ensure that each student pursues his/her genuine interest.



Student life

Learning at Benchmark is a 360 degree effort. Rather than groom the young for a life of misbalanced academics, we attempt to expose them to the complexities and challenges which lie ahead of them. While genuine appreciation of their innate capabilities is provided, we encourage them also to think different and think for others. This renders the student life at the school a completely different experience.

The community outreach events and the extension activities of the School have set a challenging benchmark for the institutions of the neighbourhood to follow. Our field trips, visits to institution of community allegiance to conscience building efforts constitute a different experience altogether.

The secular outlook we attempt to foster is a key tool in moulding the young for the true challenges of community living.

Summer camps

Summer could be seen as a period of deserving break for the students. The summer holidays can either be used to supplement the learning which happens during the rest of the year or it could be creatively used to engage the mind and the body to counter the 'summer slump'. At Benchmark, Summer Camps address both of these. Summer Camps are the exquisite events organised to expose the students to various skills and talents which are often pushed to the margins because of the curricular compulsions. Here a wide range of activities are promoted with lots of gaiety and enjoyment. Swimming, cooking, trekking and mind games are but some of these.