

Meridian International School s.r.o.



– Mission, Values & Vision –

KINDERGARTEN PRE-SCHOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL SECONDARY & HIGH SCHOOL

Review Date: 1st September (2017)

Next Review Date: 20th August (2018)

Approved by: Mr. Ahmet GURSOY (School Director)

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. GURSOY', is written above a horizontal line.

Important Meridian International School Contact Information

| Name | Responsibility | Contact |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mr. Ahmet Gursoy | School Director | Telephone: +420 775 137 777 Email: ahmet.gursoy@meridianedu.cz |
| Mr. Michal Hajek | Head of School – All Sections | Telephone: +420 777 633 474 Email: mhajek@meridianedu.cz |
| Ms. Radka Žáková | Head of Kindergarten & Pre-School | Telephone: +420 775 007 802 Email: radka.zakova@meridianedu.cz |
| Mr. Matthew Alford | Head of Secondary & High School | Telephone: +420 734 461 330 Email: matthew.alford@meridianedu.cz |
| Mr. Richard Jackson | Deputy Head of School – All Sections | Telephone: +420 774 507 577 Email: richard.jackson@meridianedu.cz |

Important Child & General Safety Contact Information

| Name | Contact Number |
|---|-------------------|
| Police Department | 158 |
| Fire Department | 150 |
| Ambulance | 155 |
| International Aid Communication in Foreign Languages | 112 |
| Prague City Police | 156 |
| Department of Social and Legal Protection of Children | + 420 222 805 244 |
| Educational Psychologist (Prague 8) | + 420 286 882 368 |
| Canadian Medical Centre Child Psychiatrist | +420 235 360 133 |

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Meridian International School

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1. About Meridian International School, Prague

Dear reader: welcome to Meridian International School, Prague. Below is information about our school's core values, mission and vision for the future. It outlines our purpose and ambition, as well as some general information about our school and what we currently offer. Though the policy is divided into subsections, all information should be taken as part of our school's mission, values and vision. If you have any questions, please contact The School Director – Mr. Ahmet Gursoy. His contact details can be found in Page 2 of this document. Thank you for reading and we looking forward to hearing from you soon.

1.1 Founding, Location & Diversity

Proud to be located in Prague, Czech Republic, Meridian International School offers a traditional British education in the very heart and centre of Europe.

Utilising the very best of the British and Czech educational practises, our deepest wish is to fulfil the proud virtues/values of both the United Kingdom of Great Britain as well as the Czech lands, in order to encourage an ethos that promotes a passion for learning. Using the National Curriculum of England as our key commitment to ensuring high pedagogical standards, Meridian International School aims to enrich our students and to encourage a lifetime pursuit of both acquiring and sharing knowledge.

Instilling these values through instructing the educators and adults of tomorrow, this is a commitment that everyone in the school – the Director (Mr. Ahmet Gursoy), Head of School (Mr. Michal Hajek), as well as all the remaining teaching and administrative staff – holds dear.

Meridian International School was founded in 2004, after finding a home in the historic and urban area of Kobylisy (the first writing mention in historic record is 1297), found in northern Prague, which is today part of the municipal district of Prague 8. A community driven establishment, the location of the school is important to Meridian, as Prague 8 is an increasingly diverse and multi-ethnic corner of the Czech-capital. In boasting a diverse student and faculty population, representing over 60-different nationalities from around the world, Meridian International School believes that it can be positive influence in a rapidly changing community. We enjoy a positive relationship with both the mayor and local authorities of Prague 8 and, in the years to come, hope to continue this thriving relationship in addition to becoming a central voice in not just the entire city of Prague, yet also the Czech Republic, Europe and beyond.

Meridian International School will endeavour to continue in an active local community role, as well as to expand and contribute to the city of Prague as a whole.

1.2 Importance of Anglo-Czech Cooperation & Heritage

A growing school, both in respect of student numbers and improving our standards, for the past ten years Meridian has worked hard to establish itself as successful, small school, in a very competitive educational market. Following the collapse of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (*Československá socialistická republika*), after the Velvet Revolution in 1989, a democratic Czechslovakia (later, following the Velvet Divorce in 1993, dividing into the two separate sovereign states of the Czech Republic & Slovakia), entered the European market

economy and invited many foreign businesses to establish enterprises in the country. Living in an increasingly globalised world, a number of international schools opened across the Czech Republic – particularly in Prague – with Meridian being one of them (in 2004). Coinciding with the Czech Republic becoming a member of the European Union in the same year, Meridian International School has grown with the increasingly multi-national character of a democratic Czech Republic and continues to do so.

As Meridian grows in both size and influence, it is important to maintain the aforementioned British/Czech values of democracy and ‘liberal’ traditions. Acknowledging the importance of the British democratic tradition, whether it be the milestone of The Bill of Rights in 1689, the establishment of the first Parliament of Great Britain in 1707, to the recognition of women’s suffrage in the Representation of the People Act 1918, the Czech lands have always looked to the best of British traditions as it navigated through the turbulent history of central Europe. Whether it be, also: the liberal values of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the first President of the independent Czechoslovak Republic (First Republic: 1918 – 1938); or, the cooperation wrought during World War II when – following the occupation of the Czech lands by Nazi Germany - the legitimate government of Czechoslovakia operated aboard, in exile from premises in London, with the full-support of the British government; or, the Czech military officers fighting with the British Royal Airforce to protect Europe from the fascist-threat; to the training of two Czecho-Slovak officers – Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík – in the U.K., whom assassinated Reinhard Heydrich as a part of Operation Anthropoid (the location of which occurred in Kobylisy, Prague 8, not far from the location of Meridian); we aim to contribute, if in only a small way, to the tradition of cooperation between Britain and the Czech lands.

Meridian International School commits to increasing its involvement in promoting positive and healthy Anglo-Czech relations.

1.3 Meridian Demographic of Nationalities

Meridian is a proud microcosm of the world. As the most diverse international school in the Czech Republic, we aim to make sure that everyone is comfortable, happy and welcome in our learning environment. Using the British curriculum as our learning navigation, we successfully offer an education that has satisfied students and parents from over 60-different countries.

A sample is listed below:

Czech Republic (half of our students are Czech); United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland; Albania; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belgium; Bosnia & Herzegovina; Brazil; Canada; China; Croatia; Egypt; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; India; Iran; Iraq; Italy; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Lithuania; Mexico; Moldova (Republic of); Mongolia; Nepal; Netherlands; South Korea; Pakistan; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Serbia; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; South Africa; Sudan; Spain; Syria; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; U.S.A; Uzbekistan; Vietnam; and Yemen.

Meridian International School will continue in its commitment to offer those we educate a safe, warm and inclusive schooling that celebrates diversity and the positive learning outcomes that a multi-international setting can offer.

1.4 Language of Instruction

All classes and courses taught at Meridian International School are delivered in the English-language. The only subjects which are not taught in English are of course the modern languages that the school offers (primary the Czech language and the French language). For students that join us with a lower or not equal English-language ability to the rest of our students, we offer an ‘extra-lesson’ programme, to help our students achieve and rapidly expand their ability.

1.5 Curriculum & Examinations

All subjects at Meridian International School, with the exception of the Czech-language schematic of work, are taught within the confines of the National Curriculum of England & Wales. Starting with Pre-School, Meridian students work under the following educational stages as designed by the United Kingdom’s Department of Education. The table below also contains information about the ‘Grade’ and ‘Year’ differences found at Meridian, as whilst we implement the British education system and curriculum, we follow the Czech ‘grade’ system in respect of organisational structure.

| Meridian | U.K. System |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Key Stage 1 | |
| Pre-School | Year 1 |
| Grade 1 | Year 2 |
| Key Stage 2 | |
| Grade 2 | Year 3 |
| Grade 3 | Year 4 |
| Grade 4 | Year 5 |
| Grade 5 | Year 6 |
| Key Stage 3 | |
| Grade 6 | Year 7 |
| Grade 7 | Year 8 |
| Grade 8 | Year 9 |
| Key Stage 4 | |
| Grade 9 | Year 10 |
| Grade 10 | Year 11 |
| Grade 11 | Year 12 |
| Grade 12 | Year 13 |

Following the ‘Key Stages’ of the UK curriculum, our students are taught all of the core subjects – English, Mathematics & Science – as well as the further academic disciplines of geography, history, art, design technology, information technology, music and physical education. These are the subjects which dominate and our students are regularly tested in all areas from Pre-School/Grade 1 to the end of Key Stage 3 in Grade 8.

Students in Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 are tested regularly and internally in all subjects, with these appearing on a *Meridian Report Card*, which is released to students/parents at the end of each and every semester. Furthermore, the core-subjects are tested externally as from Grade 2 to Grade 8 our students annually take both the *Progression Tests* and *Checkpoints Tests* (Grade 5 & Grade 8 only) from Cambridge International Examinations. Meridian is proud to be an accredited CIE centre. In Key Stage 4, our Grade 9 and Grade 10 students study for their IGCSE exams, before moving onto the A/S and A-Level programmes in Grade 11 and Grade 12.

Meridian International School will continuously aim to develop and improve its curriculum. With each new academic year comes improvement and exciting new developments which enhances our ambition to become a leading centre of learning in the Czech Republic.

1.6 Facilities

All of our classrooms in Meridian are fitted with interactive whiteboards. Using these whiteboards to aid the quality of taught lessons, in addition to ensuring a high level of knowledge transferal, they are also used to present a wide-array of educational resources that Meridian is subscribed to.

The resources can be directly linked to the course books we use, the majority of which are dedicated to teaching the National Curriculum of England and are published via the respective University of Cambridge and University of Oxford presses. However, Meridian also uses highly respected online/electronic education tools, such as, to use one example: www.myimaths.com.

With a commitment to small classes (no more than twenty-students), we strive to ensure that all of our students receive the individual care and attention that they need.

Furthermore, our school also has separate I.T./computing and sports facilities, as well as playing space and sitting space for our students to enjoy recreational moments during the course of a busy school day.

Meridian International School will always do what we can to ensure that our students have the finest resources available according to our means and what is available to us. As a commitment to this, our teachers consistently search for and update our learning materials as and when necessary. Towards the end of each academic year there is a review of all our textbook and resources, to ensure that the best and most up-to-date materials are used in our classrooms.

1.7 Extra-Curricular Activities

Meridian International School has established a firm commitment to grow and improve the number of extra-curricular activities available to our students.

In the past two years, Meridian has established a number of notable clubs and societies. Most successful has been the Model United Nations society “MeriMUN”. Model United Nations encourages students to know how to engage in discussion and debate relevant to topical and controversial issues, whether it be contemporary international issues or historical questions. Already, a number of our students have achieved ‘best delegate’ rewards in competitions held across Europe. Furthermore, Meridian has also achieved success at international competitions involving robotics and the Genius-Olympiad. The school now also is home to an active Duke of Edinburgh Award society.

Meridian is also closely affiliated with a number of local sports clubs and languages centres. We actively encourage our students to improve their health by participating in sporting events, and their minds by committing to the study of additional languages.

Meridian commits to expanding its extra-curricular activities programme, in addition to offering more programmes that expands our commitment to offering a more inclusive PSHEE curriculum across all grades.

2. Mission Statement

At Meridian International School we aim to provide a wholesome, quality education, that aims to thoroughly prepare our students for the key hurdles and stages of life. From leaving school, to enrolling at university, before embarking on gainful employment and a successful working career, we are committed to preparing our students for all of life’s challenges.

We aspire to teach our students in a multicultural and international environment, one that will educate them about different cultures, lifestyles, as well as inform about all the unique customs from around the world. In keeping with this model of celebrating diversity, our educational philosophy aims to foster creative thinking, tolerance, and respect for a mosaic of both individual and collective traditions.

We strive to create a curriculum that will not only provide our students with a broad range of knowledge in all essential core subjects but will also create open-minded and ambitious citizens of the world.

Our scheme of work not only encourages determination and how to face challenges, it also teaches our students how to approach problems with a rational and critical mind-set, to ensure that they become the independent leaders of tomorrow.

Our teachers always succeed in creating welcoming lessons that are both exciting and insightful, whilst never forgetting to encourage students to try their best with each critical task that they are faced with.

At our school we promote fairness, equality of opportunity, cultural and religious tolerance, as well as the virtues of respect, empathy, responsibility, teamwork, and honesty.

We provide an education which fosters interest in the surrounding world, striving to ensure and utilise an understanding of current global events, whilst also nurturing an environmental consciousness.

Part of our responsibility is to raise assertive and resilient world citizens that are confident, dedicated, and able to take on progressive occupations in a competitive global job market.

At Meridian, we work hard to ensure that not only our students, but also our teachers, all staff-members, parents, and community friends, are all engaged in our school events, festivals, and traditions. We wish for everyone associated with our school to form a united and collective whole, so that we can move forward and achieve our goals together.

Meridian International School is proud to have such an ambitious goal. Our academic and administrative team ultimately wishes for our students to learn within an atmosphere that does not feel like a rigid, educational environment, yet rather encourages a friendly space where learning can be fun, enjoyable, as well as interesting, and where everyone is part of our diverse community.

3. Values Statement

Meridian International School prides itself on its ambitious programme to create and continue its commitment to offering a diverse learning community, one that represents the very best of British and Czech educational standards, as well as acknowledging its positive role in the local area of Prague. We commit to reviewing this policy annually, both to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements Meridian has attained over the previous academic year, as well as to establish new goals and ambitions for the school year ahead.

4. Vision Statement for the Future

Meridian International School has developed significantly over the past fourteen-years, since its humbler beginnings in 2004, and continues to do so. We are and will be a school where each year there is positive growth and development, whether it be with school facilities or in regard to the quality of education we offer.

We commit to: improving the school buildings and facilities; expanding our student numbers and accommodating; firmer implementation of school policies and procedures; a heightened commitment to incorporating PSHEE into our curriculum; establishing an IB programme for our Grade 11 and Grade 12 students; maintaining our positive relationship and accreditation with the Czech Republic's Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports; and we will succeed in our ambition to become a British School Overseas, accepting all of the responsibility which comes with this.

Within five years, Meridian International School will be a locally and nationally respected school, with an increased international presence. We will endeavour to always advance the standard of education we offer, improving our examination results and the educational outcomes of our students.