

# Bishkek International School

## LEARNING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & COUNSELING TEAM 2024/25

Inclusive education is a core commitment of BIS, with all staff involved in supporting the diverse needs of individual students, and several staff with specific skills and experience in meeting different needs. Leading this approach, we have a dedicated Learning Diversity, Inclusion and Counselling (LDIC) team to ensure that needs are met.

### Learning Diversity, Inclusion & Counselling Coordinator



#### **Kyzjibek Tekenova**

**Ms Kyzjibek** graduated from the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University and has a Diploma in Theory and Practice of Translation. She taught English before joining BIS as a teacher in summer 2017. In summer 2018 Ms Kyzjibek joined the LDIC team, where her outstanding commitment to all areas of LDIC led to her appointment as Deputy LDIC Coordinator in 2022, and as LDIC Coordinator in summer 2023. Ms Kyzjibek is also currently studying a Masters of Education in Special Education Needs and Disability with Middlesex University London.

### LDIC Specialist; PYP Math Lead Specialist & MYP Math Teacher



#### **Branka Kovacevic**

**Ms Branka** graduated from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy in Belgrade and has over 17 years of teaching experience, including at the Business Technical College, a STEM-oriented high school in Serbia, and the Anglo-American School in Moscow. There, she worked closely with the Special Educational Needs Department, supporting various IB PYP students with unique needs. She got ECIS Certificate in 2020, SEND Diploma and UDL in 2023, and Understanding Dyslexia Diploma and Supporting Students with Dyscalculia in 2024. Ms Branka joined the BIS Team in January 2023.

### Speech, Language and Communications Specialist



#### **Leanne Bowler**

**Ms Leanne** graduated from University College London with a degree in Speech Sciences. She worked as a Speech and Language Therapist in London for 4 years before living in Kyrgyzstan, Jerusalem and Ukraine, where she continued to work as a Speech and Language Therapist in schools, preschools, clinics, hospitals and in family homes. Leanne is excited to be back in Kyrgyzstan and to continue to help children to reach their full potential by supporting their communication skills.

## Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist

### Mira Satarova



**Ms Mira** has a Bachelor's degree in Communications with a minor degree Public Relations and Advertising from Kyrgyz-Turkish “Manas” University (KTMU). She worked as a coordinator for the children with disabilities in a Kyrgyz-Korean charitable foundation and also took part in the first taekwondo trainings for children with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. Ms Mira volunteered in the Child Protection Centre for families with low income and also with women and children who were suffering from violence. Her hobbies are reading and music (playing drums, flute, and ukulele) Ms Mira joined the BIS team in autumn 2023.

## Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist

### Marc Garreta



**Mr Marc** graduated as a psychologist in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain and also holds a master degree in Learning Difficulties and Disorders from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. He has teaching experience in Spain, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan. Mr Marc loves teaching his own language as well as supporting diverse students to include them in the learning environment. He joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

## Learning Diversity and Inclusion Specialist

### Syeda Nayna Ahmed



**Ms Nayna** has over 15 years of experience working in the Education sector, working with children from a range of backgrounds, ages, and abilities. Ms Nayna has taught in the Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1, delivering the British National curriculum. Additionally, she has extensive experience in teaching phonics, early mathematics, literacy, and science, and has developed strong abilities to teach in an enthusiastic and creative manner. Ms Nayna gained her Newly Qualified Teacher status while teaching at a Specialist School in London, UK, for children aged 5-7 with varying needs including Autism, global development delay, and ADHD.

## Neuro-Psychologist & Behavioral Specialist, DP Theory of Knowledge Teacher



### Andrey Badalov

**Mr Andrey** graduated from Osh State University with a degree in general medicine, as well as a residency in Psychiatry at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. To gain the opportunity to fully and comprehensively work with children, he received additional education in such specialties as Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology, Defectology and Speech Therapy. For 10 years he has been engaged in research in the field of normal and pathological psychophysiology. He considers the individual examination of each child to be a priority in her work in order to clarify all the possibilities and risks of development. Mr. Andrey joined BIS in summer 2024.

## High School Counselor & University Counselor



### Valeria Totolina

**Ms Valeria** graduated from the American University in Central Asia with a Master Degree in Applied Psychology with a special focus on adolescents and adult counselling. Her work experience includes individual and group counselling sessions with adolescents and adults under the Psychological Health Institution, and providing individual career counselling and leading career-oriented lectures and events for adolescents. Ms Valeria joined BIS in June 2020.

## Middle School Counselor



### Asmana Matraimova

**Ms Asmana** graduated from Goldsmiths University of London with a BSc in Psychology and Clinical Psychology. After graduating she worked as an English as a Second Language teacher in South Korea for two years, before completing a MSc in Mental Health Studies at King's College University of London. Since 2022 she has been living in Bishkek and completed a counselling internship at AUCA in 2023, and continued to work with adult clients there, while also working as a school counsellor. Ms Asmana is happy to be back in her home country and hopes to spread awareness and improve mental health care. Ms Asmana joined the BIS team in summer '24

## Primary School Counselor



### Meerim Ryskulova

**Ms Meerim** graduated from the American University in Central Asia in 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Immediately after graduation, Ms. Meerim went to work in private schools in Bishkek as a school psychologist. She also completed advanced training courses in Eastern European Gestalt Institute on "Child Gestalt therapy". In her free time Ms. Meerim likes reading, rollerblading and hiking. Ms Meerim joined the BIS team in August 2024.

### One-to-one Support Assistant



#### **Gulkair Ismailova**

**Ms Gulkair** graduated from Bishkek Humanities University in 1998, her major was English Language and Literature. She worked in the Representative Office of British Company Alex Stewart (Assayers) in Bishkek for 6 years as Office Manager and later as a Traffic Operator. She has also worked at numerous International Organizations as GIZ, and at projects funded by the World Bank. Also, she worked at AUCA as an OSI Scholarship Program Coordinator. Ms Gulkair joined the BIS team in spring 2024.

### One-to-one Support Assistant



#### **Azim Musabaev**

**Mr Azim** graduated from the International University of Kyrgyzstan with a degree in Translation and Translation Studies. Since 2019, he has been working at the Public Association of Parents of Children with Autism "Hand in Hand" as a specialist in applied behavior analysis. He began to be interested in psychology at the end of 2014, while working at "Sky Mobile" LLC in the customer service department. Mr Azim joined the BIS team from September 2024.