

Students from HK

Getting to Know and Help Them



Why they are in the UK

UK Schools are likely to see an increase in the number of students from Hong Kong due to a visa scheme launched this year. This leaflet will help you prepare for their arrival.

Many Hongkongers have migrated here because in 2020, China imposed a law in their hometown that effectively outlaws dissent and significantly restricts rights and freedoms. The UK is allowing Hongkongers with British National (Overseas) status and their dependants to settle here.

1

TRAUMA

Many have been exposed to tear gas and street violence

2

UPROOTED

Left in a haste with little or no proper farewell

3

LANGUAGE

>60% are not fluent in English to classroom level

How to support them?

Provide specific explanations and step-by-step instructions on open-ended tasks.

Reassure them that asking questions or expressing opinions is welcome.

Frequently acknowledge their progress, as students/parent are more used to ranking and assessments.

Assign "buddies" from diverse backgrounds.

Be alert to signs of distress or mental ill-health.

Arrange career counselling for students in secondary schools.

Be aware of potential anti-East Asian racism exacerbated by COVID-19.

Their emotional condition

Some of these students may come with emotional challenges.

This is because young people were the key participants in a 2019 mass social movement to oppose a law amendment many feared would threaten the city's freedom.

For more than six months they witnessed a violent crackdown on the streets either in person or via social media. This is followed by political suppression which extended to classrooms.

Surveys have found around 20% of Hong Kong youths suffer from severe or extreme depression because of the political unrest.

There are also trust issues as 87% of secondary school students said they don't trust the government and 70% don't trust people they don't know.



Political crackdown, arrests and seeming impunity for officials and police have caused some students to doubt the value of justice and learning.

“Some may have trauma, trust issues or loss of drive.”

Young children have been affected as well. Some were uprooted “overnight” as people decided to leave in a hurry and in secret due to safety concerns, allowing no proper farewell with friends.

For reference and more information, visit wellhk.wordpress.com
For enquiry, email wearehkwell@gmail.com

MAINSTREAM SCHOOLING IN HONG KONG

Adapting to a new life in the UK may be challenging. While about 40% of 12-years-olds are fluent in English to classroom level, others may struggle initially.

Mainstream schools in Hong Kong tend to be more intense academically than the UK. Students are used to competition-centred teaching and learning that ranks them from a young age. Their experience of discussion and in note-taking are also limited.

