

## Secondary School

Mrs Toni Altug : Head of Special Needs Department

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Dear Parents,

### Special Educational Needs Department

My name is Toni Altuğ, and I am Head of Special Needs at the BISI. This is my sixth year at BISI and my seventeenth year in Turkey.

I graduated from Eastern Washington University with a BA in Education (K-8) and Special Education (K-12) and also have a Certificate in Instructional Techniques in Language Disabilities from Seattle Pacific University. I have taught the spectrum of Special Needs across all age groups, as well as thirteen years experience as a Year 1 teacher. I have also taught Years 2, 3, English as an Additional Language and done educational consulting. In total, I have been teaching for 26 years.

The BISI SEN (Special Educational Needs) Department would like to welcome two new staff members. Yunus Tural has joined the SEN Department and will be working with students in Primary and Secondary in the Zekeriya köy Campus. Most of you will recognise him, as he has been working at BISI for the past 3 ½ years with the Year 5/6 classes. Kayleigh Hardy, who is new to Istanbul, will be working in the SEN Department half time in the city campuses. The SEN Department said good-bye to Louise Brown and Merrie Hacıevliyagil, whose hard work, dedication and sense of humour have been greatly appreciated.

The SEN Department helps to identify students that may require support services or accommodation to access the curriculum to their full potential. The department helps with identifying possible needs, locating appropriate professionals in the community to provide diagnostic evaluations, and working with the student/teacher/parent team to design Individualized Education Programs upon qualifying for services.

The first week of school seems to have passed very smoothly. While the students are transitioning into their new year groups and becoming accustomed to their new teachers and their teaching styles, our department will be speaking with students, parents, and teachers to decide the appropriate programs for identified students. SEN will begin providing some support services the third week of school.

The SEN department is located in the top floor of the administration building. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 202-7027 ext.187.

Yours faithfully,  
Toni Altuğ

