

## **The New Arrivals' cultural experience**

Some newly - arrived, beginner pupils:

- 1 Come from an exam - oriented educational system and they may be uneasy at the more liberal approach to classroom activities in our schools
- 2 May appear tired or uninterested, due to environmental adjustments, stress or limited English skills. They sometimes need undemanding tasks.
- 3 May be very quiet and co-operative in the classroom. This does not mean they understand or that they do not need help from the teacher
- 4 Will say nothing unless they know the answer. A guess, may mean 'losing face'
- 5 May nod their heads to acknowledge that you are talking to them, but this may not necessarily mean that they have understood you
- 6 Will avoid eye contact with teachers. In some cultures it is rude for a child to look an adult in the eye
- 7 Will smile even when they are being told off since in their culture a smile is mark of respect
- 8 May not want to eat with other pupils, because they are unfamiliar with our food and our school meal system
- 9 May seem aggressive in the playground. This may not be their normal personality but an indication of how they are feeling