

SUNSHINE SCHOOL VIETNAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



“

When children are educated, they possess something which cannot be lost or taken away from them and which offers them some protection from exploitation and abuse. They will have more power in the labour market; they will be better equipped to provide for themselves in a way which protects their integrity and their dignity.

- Christina Noble, Founder, CNCF -



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ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
SSS	Sunshine School
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund





OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision: A united world where children are free from suffering, poverty, exploitation, fear, and oppression. Where children are aware of their fundamental human rights.

Mission: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational, and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect, and freedom from all forms of exploitation. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

Values: Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are love, compassion, respect, honesty, and integrity.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1991

LOCATION

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

OBJECTIVES

To promote literacy and well-rounded development through the provision of free, holistic primary education and extracurricular activities such as sports, music, arts and excursions to disadvantaged children, ultimately empowering children and their families to break the cycle of poverty; to support in obtaining legal identification papers for children

BENEFICIARIES

Children (ages 6 – 16 years) from disadvantaged backgrounds or living on the streets, facing a high risk of exploitation, trafficking and violence; children who are unable to attend mainstream primary schools due to financial hardships, lack of legal documents and being over the maximum school age

LOCAL PARTNERS

Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fully responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring, and evaluation

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Daily monitoring visits are conducted by Programme Manager where information and updates on children are collected. Meetings with teachers and social workers are held for project updates and issue discussions. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff for project planning. Prior to a student's enrolment and as issues arise, SSS Programme Manager and social worker conduct home visits. Timely support is provided where necessary. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are sent to the Board of Management and an Annual Report of the programme is sent to all stakeholders

ACTUAL COST 2019

USD \$63,440.62

REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2019

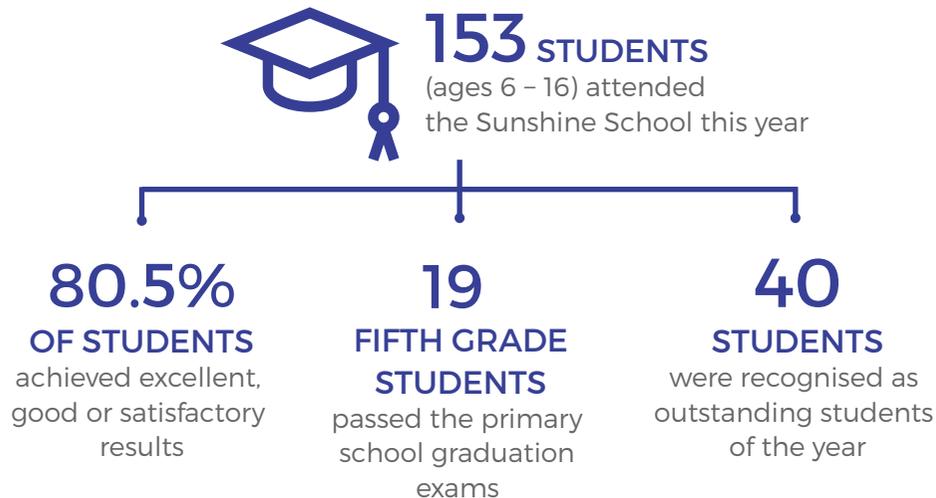
2020 OBJECTIVES

- To provide education for 140-160 students for the school year
- To organise library activities empowering children's participation and engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Sunshine School (SSS) in Vietnam continued to provide free, holistic, primary education to children from impoverished backgrounds who are unable to attend mainstream primary schools as they do not possess the required identification documents, their family's under significant financial hardship or they are over the maximum age allowed to enrol in public primary schools. All children come from families living in poverty. In addition to schooling, students in grades one through five participated in art, music, sports and yoga classes and received social support and healthcare through the Sunshine School and affiliated CNCF programmes.

Since inception CNCF has provided education support to 6,905 children



In 2020, we will continue to provide primary education to 140-160 students and additional support through other CNCF programmes. In addition, we work to improve the school's social work services by offering more counselling, group work and psychotherapy, increasing awareness among parents by offering training and communication seminars and reinforcing the quality of teaching by providing additional training courses for teachers and staff.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Despite Vietnam's substantial progress in achieving universal primary education, education remains inaccessible to many children. The costs of transportation, uniforms, learning materials and other fees remain a burden for many families living in poverty. Children from poor households are unable to go to school or complete their primary education due to financial difficulties or having to work to support their families.

We believe that basic literacy and education are essential tools for breaking the cycle of poverty, enabling children to seek better employment and lead fulfilling lives despite their disadvantaged early childhood backgrounds.

The Sunshine School (SSS) was established in 1991, providing free and high-quality primary education for street children, children from underprivileged families or migrant families who have moved to HCMC to seek employment or children who are over the maximum school age or excluded from mainstream schools due to the lack of required legal documents.

The Sunshine School follows the national curriculum and provides students with a holistic education enriched by extracurricular activities (music, art, and sports), healthcare, counselling and social and life skills training. To date, the Sunshine School has provided education to **6,905** children and assisted between **140** and **160** children in grades one through five each year.

Academic Education

Our Sunshine School curriculum aligns with the national public educational system. Subjects taught include Mathematics, Vietnamese literature, Science, History, Geography, Ethics, English, Arts and Music. The primary education provided lays a foundation for a transition to higher education.

Barriers to education for children from impoverished families and low-conducive learning environments often lead to low motivation to stay in school. Many children are behind academically and face learning challenges. It is important for us to continue supporting all students at every stage of their educational journey.

When the students successfully graduate from the Sunshine School and wish to pursue higher education, we endeavour to continue assisting these children through other CNCF programmes.

Due to financial hardships, many children have to withdraw from school to work and support their families. Whenever education is taken away from a child, we make every effort to meet and talk to the family to offer support and help the child remain in school.



In 2019

24

CHILDREN

dropped out of the SSS
due to financial hardships

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Tutoring

Tutoring is provided three times each week based upon the children's needs. Lunchtime tutoring and reading sessions for students whose parents are unable to pick their children up on time due to work responsibilities are also offered. These extra lessons support the improvement of academic performance while also increasing the education and graduation rates.

Extracurricular Activities

The Sunshine School provides extracurricular classes including music, arts and sports to facilitate physical development and to nurture social and creative skills, self-expression and self-confidence of our students.

The School also houses a library with hundreds of books and magazines where students come to read after class and borrow books and magazines to read at home. Through extracurricular programmes, our staff can quickly identify children potentially at risk and in need of help as indicated by changes in their behaviour or decreased class attendance. When necessary, we provide timely interventions such as home visits and comprehensive counselling.

Social Work Services

CNCF believes that a holistic approach facilitates physical, emotional and intellectual aspects of a child's development. Many Sunshine children come from disadvantaged backgrounds that put them at risks of school dropouts, exploitation, abuse and trafficking. School social work services were established to identify and support students with academic, social or emotional challenges to support healing and development.

Home visits and counselling sessions are conducted by our social worker with an in-depth understanding of the family background of each student. We assess the risks of the living situation, social environment and economic conditions of children and their families and provide consulting, counselling and referral services where necessary to support the students.

We introduce school social work activities to parents at annual parent-teacher meetings and during home visits and encourage them to contact us for assistance when in need.





PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Healthcare

Medical care and good nutrition are crucial to a child's wellbeing and concentration. Enabling them to continue their education and address their healthcare needs. We provide all of our Sunshine School students with comprehensive healthcare including annual health check-ups, eye examinations, dental care, deworming and daily milk supplements and multivitamins for potential maximisation.

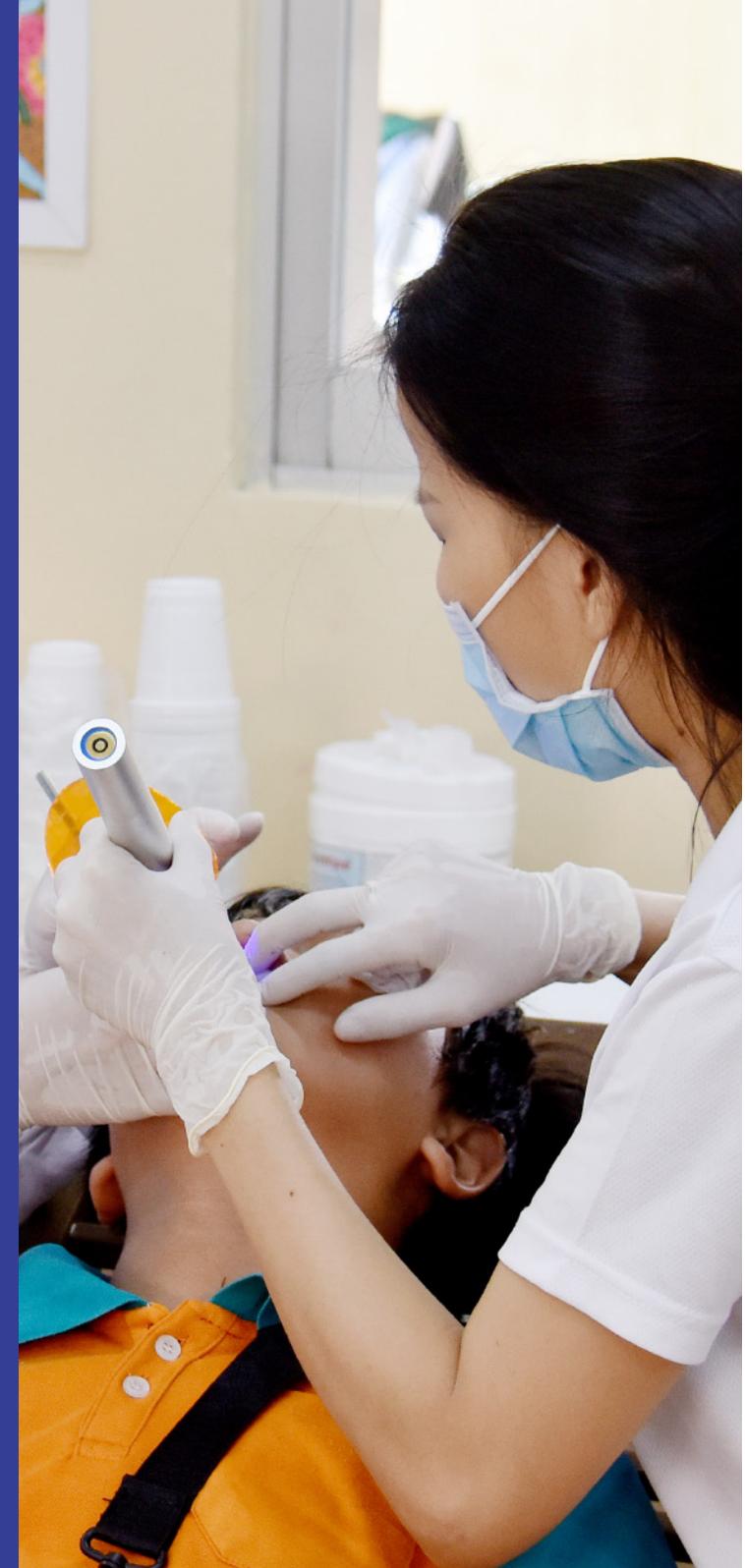
Personal and Social Development

We seek out opportunities that allow our children to interact socially. Students are encouraged to join in social activities with CNCF staff, volunteers, visitors and donors, as well as students from international schools from Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia for self-confidence and development. Sunshine School children also participated in annual Mid-Autumn Festival, Vietnamese Teacher's Day, Children's Day and Christmas Celebrations.

CNCF organises regular excursions to the Saigon Zoo, Vietopia and Dam Sen park to help children learn more outside the classroom and become more engaged in their education.

We also monitor and encourage personal and academic growth of every child through the "Star of the month" programme, recognising those having a great contribution in class or display acts of kindness to teachers and friends. Birthday celebrations are hosted for our Sunshine children to enjoy the birthday happiness.

Life skills training and workshops are organised every Saturday morning to develop social and interpersonal skills of the students. In 2019 children developed a greater understanding of the notions of respect, responsibility and what brings true happiness.





REPORT 2019

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Training and Workshops for Staff

In 2019, our Sunshine School teachers and staff attended 2 workshops focusing on teaching methods and children's rights. The teachers also took part in 11 training sessions provided by the Education Department of District 3. This has allowed a greater understanding of their responsibilities in order to ensure teaching improvements and child support.

There were also 5 sharing sessions on understanding and prevention of bacterial and viral infections, school safety and nutrition that were organised for parents and guardians of Sunshine students. The talks equipped the families with up-to-date knowledge and necessary skills to support their child's health and wellbeing.



GLOBAL EDUCATION STATISTICS

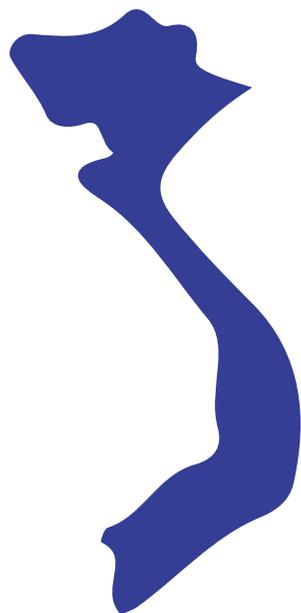
While significant progress in the provision of quality education has been made, educational opportunities remain inaccessible for many children from underprivileged backgrounds as a result of social, cultural and economic factors.



58% of primary and lower secondary school-age children are not achieving basic numeracy and literacy outcome ^[1]

1 out of 5 children and adolescents are out of school ^[2]

In developing countries, **1 in 4 girls** are not in school ^[3]



- **616,200 Children** (ages 6-14) were out-of-school ^[4]
- **16% Children** (ages 5-17) are subjected to child labour ^[5]
- **68% Children** are subjected to violent punishment at home ^[6]



OUR YEAR

CNCF believes education is a fundamental human right, that all children, despite their disadvantages, are entitled to learn and thrive. Through our education programmes, every child is provided with an empowering tool to lift themselves out of poverty. The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. It is vital to limiting the risk of exploitation, violence and abuse, ensuring that a child is given access to free quality education.



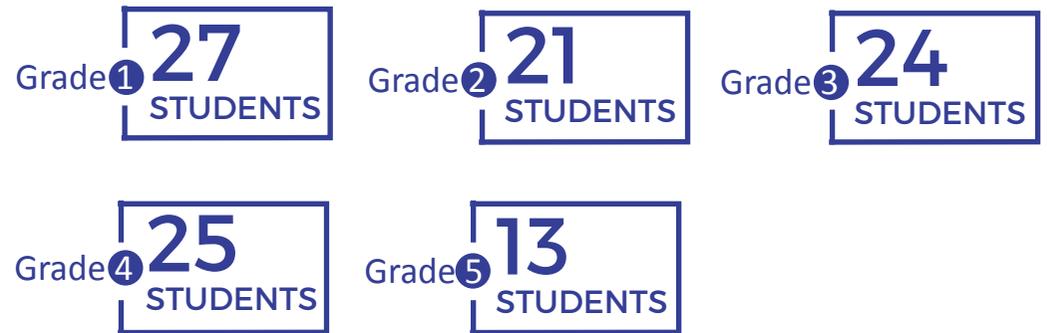
90% OF CHILDREN live in slums with their families

61% OF CHILDREN live with a single parent

14% OF CHILDREN live in child shelters

10% OF CHILDREN sell goods on the streets to support their families

Education



85% Students achieved good academic results





REPORT 2019

OUR YEAR

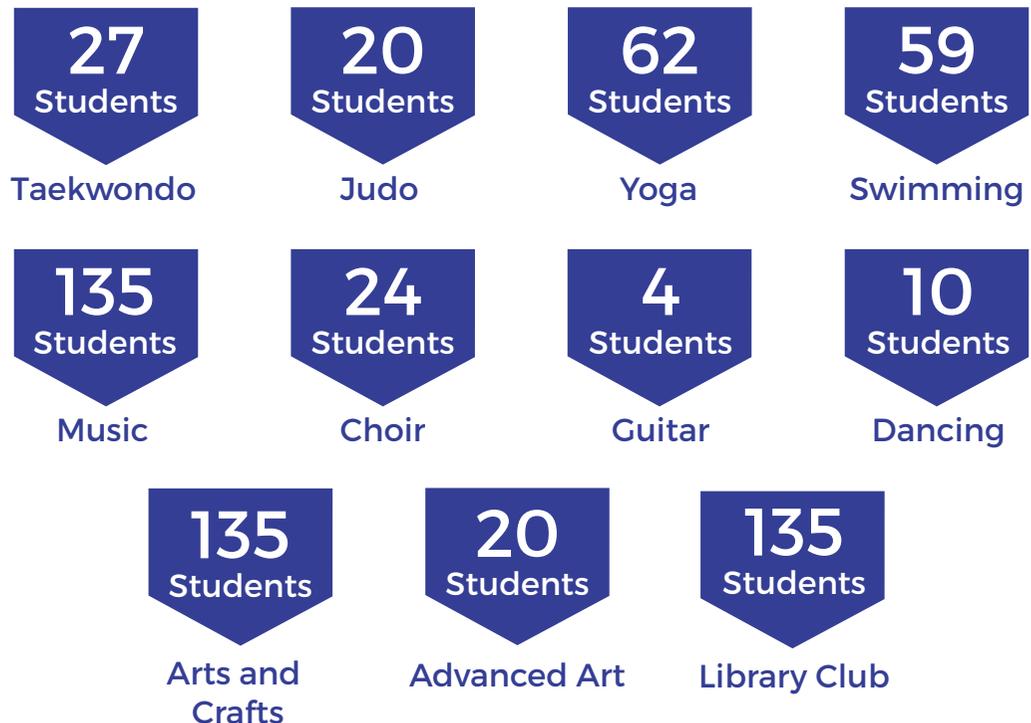
SSS children impacted by other CNCF programmes

50 **CHILDREN**
children received support
from CNCF Sponsorship
Programme

10 **CHILDREN**
received support
from CNCF Bicycle
Support Programme

Extracurricular Activities

Attended by Sunshine School Students



OUR YEAR

Healthcare

 **153** Students
were dewormed

 **6** Students
were provided lunch
every school day

 **23** Students
received daily milk supplement

Social Work

 **248**
Home visits were
conducted

 **374**
Counselling sessions
were conducted

Training & Workshops

 **4** Life skills training
topics were taught
to students

 **5** Sharing sessions were
conducted for parents

 **5** Workshops were
organised for teachers
and staff

 **4** Excursions were organised
(Sai Gon Zoo, Vietopia,
Dam Sen Park and British
International School)





REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

A Graduate Says “Thank You”

“I would like to send my sincerest thanks to all the teachers and staff at the Sunshine School. Though I studied here for only one year, I know there is no school quite like it. I was able to share my thoughts, my difficulties, my joys, and my sorrows with my teachers. They understood and helped me more than my parents could. When my parents got divorced, I acted out to get attention. Despite all the bad things I did at school, the school social worker and teachers always showed me kindness and understanding. One day, when I was sitting on the stairs, the social worker came and sat next to me. She told me a story about herself and I realised I could share my story with her. Ever since that day, my relationship with my parents has improved. The support the Sunshine School provided has changed my life in more ways than I can count.”

*Identities changed to protect privacy

REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

Taking Pride in the Sunshine School

"My name is Thanh*. I am a third grader at the Sunshine School. In my three years here, I have been provided not only all the school supplies for my studies, but also chances to interact with international students. We went to the Sai Gon Zoo together. There, we visited many kinds of animals and we played games and enjoyed food together. We had a joyful time. Moreover, at the Sunshine School, I get to participate in many exciting activities such as Children's Day, Mid-Autumn festival, birthday parties and the Christmas choir. We all love the activities, gifts, and food. I believe there is no other primary school like the Sunshine School. I wish our school could grow and have more classrooms so more children like me could go to school here."

*Name and Identities changed to protect privacy





OUR STORIES

More than Just a School

“When I think of the Sunshine School, I think of the place where I first had a birthday party. The gifts were wrapped nicely and carefully. I felt the love of the ones who prepared the gifts for me and the other students. We all had so much fun at our birthdays. We played games together and enjoyed food and drink. Because of the love, care and devotion of our teachers and the CNCF staff, we all feel that we are living in the same home. When I grow up, I want to come back to the Sunshine School to help more children to have a wonderful experience like I have had.”

A Parent Says “Thank You”

“My daughter Thu* is in fifth grade at the Sunshine School. On behalf of my family and Thu, I would like to say thank you to the CNCF staff and all the Sunshine School teachers who provide Thu with not only a good place to study but also with school supplies and additional support for my family. My family has struggled with financial difficulties for many years and we continue to struggle every day. But, at CNCF, Thu receives opportunities to learn, to play with other students and to be respected. CNCF always provides the students opportunities to participate in indoor and outdoor activities and to interact with international students and guests. Thanks to these opportunities, Thu’s English skills continue to improve. Thu loves to learn about other countries’ cultures. All these memories remain in Thu’s mind and her heart. Thu shared with me that she will try her best to study hard and learn English so she can find a good job in the future.”

*Name and Identities changed to protect privacy

REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

Testimonial from Angela Hsu - Furniture Industry For Education (FIFE)

"We decided to partner with CNCF because of the outstanding work they have done in Vietnam and Mongolia for 30 years and because they have name recognition, something our customers back home feel comfortable knowing is the CNCF name. It really takes a strong drive and passion to establish such a Foundation and we are just providing funds to support a Foundation that is already doing such an amazing job."

- Angela Hsu, Co-Founder FIFE -



REPORT 2019

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Sunshine School in 2019 was:

USD \$63,440.62

Heartfelt thanks to our kind donors who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to those who generously support with gift and time in-kind which enables us to keep our costs down.

Our audits are available online
www.cncf.org/finance-policies/



SUNSHINE SCHOOL EXPENDITURES IN 2019

Description	Dec YTD 2019
Medical care	365.02
Food Items	2,500.63
Birthday parties and gifts for children	2,556.29
Events for children (X'mas, Children Day, School year end, Teacher Day)	717.04
Book, bags, uniform & Shoes for students	7,847.56
Life skill training	1,255.81
Team building activities	201.01
5 Head Teachers, 2 Tutors, 1 school Accountant, 1 Vice Principle & 1 Janitor salary	20,137.04
3 English Teachers salary	1,345.90
Staff training	968.53
Health check for staff	159.93
Staff uniforms	172.13
Repair & maintenance	104.41
Rental costs	38.79
Office supplies & expenses	1,837.36
Travel (Family visits)	200.64
3 CNCF staff salary	23,056.39
Others	(23.86)
TOTAL COST	63,440.62

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CNCF is greatly appreciative of your essential donations. Only with your support, we are enabled to provide our children at the Sunshine School who are living on the streets or come from disadvantaged backgrounds with access to high-quality primary education and well-rounded development through the provision of extracurricular activities. The knowledge and skills learnt from school are the most crucial tools to support them in becoming self-sufficient and breaking the cycle of poverty.

We also take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our local partner Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) for making it possible for us to implement this programme successfully.

Heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to our primary project donor **Furniture Industry for Education (USA/VN)** for funding the annual operation costs of this project and providing education and holistic support for our Sunshine Students. Special thank you to **Angela Hsu** and **Robert Kimbrell**.

Thank you also to the following and the many kind individuals not mentioned for their additional support in ensuring our children receive the holistic childhood that they so deserve and thus remaining true to our Founder's philosophy;

Mahrberg Library Project (CH), **Linklaters** (HK), **CNCF Italy**(ITL), **British International School Ho Chi Minh City** (VN), **Dragon Capital** (VN), **Pupils Exchange Programme** (FR), **Team Lotus/John May** (IE) ,**Marie Nolan** (IE), **Caroline Horan** (IE)





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Info Graphic: flaticon.com