

Norland College,
UK: Where the
top Nannies are
trained



The most important responsibilities lie in wait for the little princes and princesses of today, who need to be prepared to perform their duties in an environment that is becoming more and more global. They must therefore learn the English language right from birth; hence why we are witnessing an unchanging appetite for British Nannies... *By Fanny del Volta*

Even if the mothers of these little princes declare their desire to take matters of their child's education into their own hands, a nanny still plays an indispensable part in a life full of official duties. Those who preside with families at the heart of the royal courts must accept they will lead structured lives, following essential timetables and travelling frequently; but it's all worth the effort. Child carers at the service of young princes are liberated thanks to their job, and the ties they develop with their clients are so close that they practically become 'part of the family'. Remember Prince William, his eyes red with sadness on entering Harlow crematorium in October 2012 for the funeral of Olga Powell, the nanny who looked after Lady Diana's two boys for 15 years. William was only six months old when she was hired, and their bond was never broken. Olga Powell treated the two

boys as if they were her own grandchildren, and the nanny even attended the wedding of William to Kate Middleton. She did everything possible to ensure the princes had a life 'as normal as possible' and had become an emotional rock for them.

An example confirming the 'myth' of the English nanny is the exceptional character whose praises are sung in both literature and film (Julie Andrews as Mary Poppins, Emma Thompson as Nanny Mac Phee, etc.) But for Annie Martin, a Frenchwoman who founded the nanny placement agency 'Nannies Incorporated.' 27 years ago in London, the British Nanny is legendary for a much more simple reason: Great Britain has always been less equipped with nurseries than a number of western countries. For mothers wishing to preserve their professional activities, employing a nanny was key. "This doesn't necessarily show snobbery," says Annie Martin "Nannies were also hired in the lower

classes." Nowadays, if English nannies are exported out to Western and Middle-Eastern courts, valued by Russian oligarchs, international stars and Chinese billionaires, it is for one practical reason: the domination of the English language. If the famous Norland College, established in 1892 provides the most prestigious education in childcare, the training of child carers in the UK is, on the whole, according to Annie Martin, 'excellent'. Nearly 500 establishments train more than 6000 professionals a year. France is also a reputed recruiting ground for nannies.

According to Eliza Elbaz, director of the Governess Academy founded in Paris in 2009, "the good manners of the French are a strongly sought-after criteria, especially in Middle-Eastern courts." The establishment offers a diploma in classical State welfare, and adorns its governess teaching with



1.Prince William receives a telling-off from Olga Powell (1987) 2.Prince Harry, graduating from Sandhurst, is congratulated by his governess Tiggy Pettifer (2006) 3. The future Elizabeth II and her nurse on the day of her birth (1926) 4.Caroline and Albert of Monaco in the good care of Miss King (1959) 5.Elisabeth Zimmerman, in charge of caring for Estelle of Sweden 6.Eveline Van den Bent escorts the little Princesses of the Netherlands (2013)



specific modules based on 'the art of living'. These extremely qualified professionals evidently come at a price. In order to find the rare jewel who will care for little Estelle, Princess Victoria and her spouse contacted the renowned agency Eden, in London, whose services Mary Crown Princess of Denmark, mother of four children, and also Mette-Marit Crown Princess of Norway, mother of three, had already used. The Royal Swedish couple's announcement featured briefly on the agency's website. It stated that the nanny would be paid 26,000 Swedish krona a month, that being a little over 3,000 euros, and would have the use of a car and staff flat. The immediate attention of the press forced the agency to remove the advert and employ a more discreet method of recruitment. As for the nanny hired by Mary, their salary was around 60,000 Danish krone per month, that being around 8,000 euros. Treating themselves to a 'nanny of gold' is essential for the future sovereigns who must acquire perfect English from a very young age. This is only the beginning of a long road: Royal families evidently expect their offspring to fit in at the best English-speaking schools, from the likes of Sandhurst and Harvard, to Oxford.

© ELEANOR BENTALL/CORBIS, REDUXIPA, JONES IANVALLPIX, NEWSPIX INTERNATIONAL, KEYSTONE, WERF 1ST VIEWS, MIKAEL SOBERG / XP / SCANPIX/SIPA