



## Frequently asked questions about the Primary Years Programme

### What is the Primary Years Programme?

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is a curriculum framework for young learners aged 3–12 designed by the International Baccalaureate (IB). Founded on a philosophy that recognizes a child's natural curiosity, creativity and ability to reflect, the PYP generates a stimulating, challenging learning environment to nurture those assets and foster a lifelong love of learning in every child. The PYP, like all IB programmes, is transdisciplinary, meaning students learn across subject areas while investigating big ideas.

### Does the PYP have a specific set of standards?

In the PYP, students learn about significant concepts through units of inquiry. The six transdisciplinary themes that guide units of inquiry and compose a year of study are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet.

The school outlines its specific knowledge content and academic curriculum, guided by the following five essential elements:

- The **knowledge** content is organized under the transdisciplinary themes. Each school decides which specific topics to study under each theme.
- The learning **skills** aim to help students become independent, well-functioning, self-motivated learners.
- The learning **attitudes** aim to develop a lifelong love of learning and nurture a child's curiosity and confidence.
- The **action** component emphasizes the need to connect the student with his or her own potential and responsibility for using what was learned.
- The rigorous guidelines for **classroom practices** to match the educational philosophy and values of the IB are communicated through professional development and a school's internal reflection process.



## What are the advantages of an IB education?

- IB World Schools (the only schools authorized to offer IB programmes) are subject to a strict accreditation process monitored by the IB, ensuring that schools provide a high-quality education.
- IB teaching methods and curriculums are research-based and draw from the best educational practices from systems around the world.
- IB teachers are required to participate in many professional development opportunities to continually promote their awareness of current educational practices and new thinking.
- IB students develop a sense of the world around them and their responsibility to it. (See “What is an IB Education?”)
- IB programmes are recognized internationally and ease the educational transitions of mobile students so that their education is not adversely affected if their families relocate.

## Do IB teachers receive special training?

All PYP teachers receive professional development in IB’s approaches to teaching and approaches to learning from certified IB workshop leaders. This is a requirement for IB World Schools implementing the PYP.

## What happens when the new principal starts?

As a school we have committed to the PYP framework. We have invested significant resources into this program and we will continue to move forward developing our staff, community and students’ knowledge and understanding of this framework.

## What about the Victorian Curriculum?

The IB framework is committed to making sure the IB program meets and exceeds the local curriculum standards. With the implementation of IB we are required to examine our curriculum carefully and to ensure that there is an alignment with the Victorian Curriculum.

## Have studies been done on the impact of the PYP?

The IB places great value on external validation of its programmes, curriculums and professional development. A recent Global International Schools’ Assessment study found that PYP students outperformed non-IB students in mathematics, reading and writing. Additional studies on programme impact, quality assurance, programme development and assessment research are available at [www.ibo.org/research](http://www.ibo.org/research).

## How can I learn more about the IB and PYP?

Speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Speak to the PYP coordinators (Sally Marsh & Andrew Wood)

Visit the IB website at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

## What will the difference be on my child’s school report?

As a school we are mandated by the Department of Education to report twice a year on the Victorian Curriculum and this will not change. However, you will start to see more references to the **Learner Profile, Skills, Attitudes and Concepts** within your child’s end of semester report and ongoing learning task comments.

