

# International Baccalaureate Information



*McKinnon Primary School*

International World School

# IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB Programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

## Inquirers

They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

## Knowledgeable

They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

## Thinkers

They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

## Communicators

They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

## Principled

They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

## Open-minded

They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from experience.

## Caring

They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

## Risk-takers

They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

## Balanced

They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

## Reflective

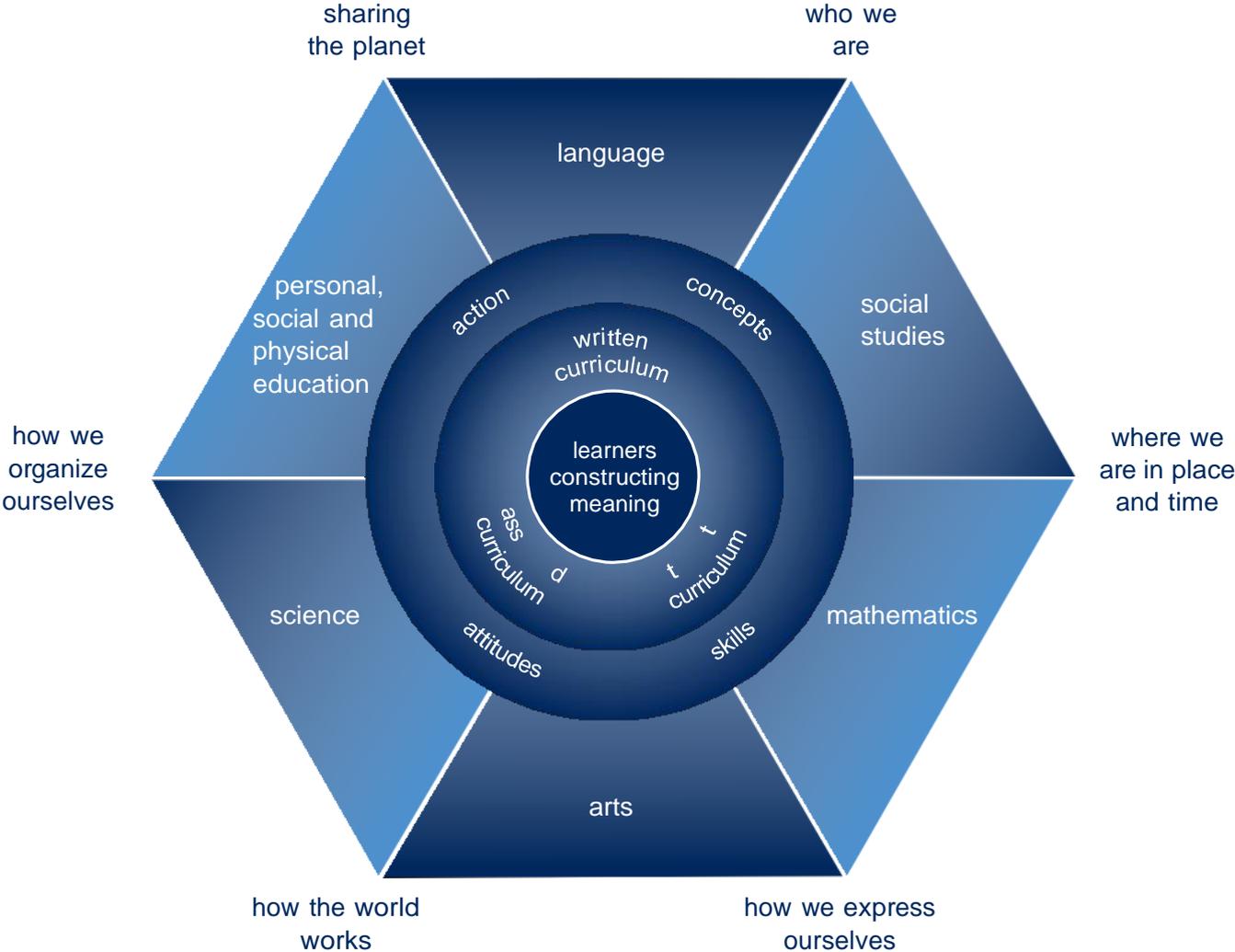
They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

# What is so special about the IB Programmes?

- IB Programmes are recognized around the world and ensure an increased adaptability and mobility for IB students.
- The curriculum and pedagogy of IB Programmes focus on international perspectives of learning and teaching, while insisting that students fully explore their home culture and language.
- IB World Schools must undergo an exhaustive authorization followed by regular evaluation process in order to offer one or more of the programmes, which includes a study of the school's resources and commitment to the IB mission and philosophy.
- IB teachers participate in a wide variety of professional development opportunities to constantly update their knowledge and share their expertise with colleagues around the world.
- Many students graduating from the Diploma Programme find that it enhances their opportunities at tertiary institutions. The IB works closely with universities around the world to gain recognition for IB Programmes.
- The core components of IB programmes encourage students to participate in creative and service-oriented activities, while at the same time emphasizing the importance of reflection on a personal and academic level.

*For more general information about the PYP or the IBO, visit their website at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)*

# The Curriculum Model



# Curriculum Information

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme is embedded within the Australian National Curriculum.

It is:

- Child Focused
- Inquiry Based
- International

The students are engaged in learning experiences that promote the continuous development of their social, cognitive, emotional, physical and creative strengths. Children are offered a range of opportunities to explore values, broaden communication skills, collaborate, make personal choices, group problem solve, develop ideas and explore information. The following curriculum areas are linked to the IB educational philosophy.

They are:

- Language and Literacy (including second languages)
- Mathematical Awareness
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Creative Awareness
- Physical Development
- Personal and Social Development

The PYP is an international, transdisciplinary programme designed to foster the holistic development of the child. Through the Units of inquiry, students study and investigate their world.

The curriculum focuses on the following learning areas that are taught through a transdisciplinary integrated curriculum:

- English
- Mathematics
- Social Studies and Science and Technology
- Personal and Social Education
- The Arts (Music and Art)
- Second Languages

Parents will be provided with a curriculum overview, which details the specific outcomes to be addressed for that period and the knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes addressed through the Unit of Inquiry.

## International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Students in the 21st Century are faced with the challenge of learning about an interconnected world where knowledge is constantly developing. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) prepares students to be active participants in a lifelong journey of learning.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, McKinnon Primary School has worked hard to become authorized and is extremely proud to offer the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) from Foundation to Year 6. The PYP guides our curriculum, the theory behind, and the application of sound classroom practice and effective assessment.

# International Baccalaureate Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## What is the IB Primary Years Programme?

The PYP provides a curriculum framework of 5 Essential elements - Knowledge, Concepts, Skills, Attitudes, Action. These elements are further detailed below.

### KNOWLEDGE: “What do we want the students to know about?”

The PYP curriculum model acknowledges the importance of the traditional subject area; Language, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Personal, Social and Physical Education and the Arts are all specified as components. The overall expectations for each subject area are defined for each year of the programme in specific Scope and Sequence documents. All subjects are integrated within the programme of inquiry through the inquiry lines, the transdisciplinary theme and/or the concepts.

Students inquire into, and learn about globally significant issues which are engaging and challenging, and have the potential to actively involve students in their own learning.

There are six transdisciplinary themes that are considered essential, globally significant, common to all human experience and contribute to the common ground that unifies the curriculum of all PYP schools world wide. They create a transdisciplinary framework that allows students to “step up” beyond the confines of learning within subject areas.

These are:

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

## CONCEPTS: “What do we want the students to understand?”

Eight broad concepts act as the powerful ideas and provocations to drive this Units of Inquiry.

- Form - What is it like?
- Function - How does it work?
- Causation - Why is it like this?
- Change - How is it changing?
- Connection - How is it connected to other things?
- Perspective - What are the points of view?
- Responsibility - What are our responsibilities?
- Reflection - How do we know?

## SKILLS: “What do we want students to be able to do?”

There are five sets of transdisciplinary skills which are valuable for all teaching and learning within the classroom and in life outside the school.

- Thinking Skills
- Social Skills
- Communication Skills
- Self-Management Skills
- Research Skills

## ATTITUDES: “What do we want students to value?”

These are dispositions that are expressions of basic values, beliefs and feelings about learning, the environment and people. PVP schools encourage students to demonstrate:

- Appreciation
- Commitment
- Confidence
- Co-operation
- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Empathy
- Enthusiasm
- Independence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Tolerance

## ACTION: “How do we want students to act?”

An explicit expectation of the PYP is that successful inquiry will lead to responsible action, initiated by the student as a result of the learning process. Action should be seen as a voluntary demonstration of a student’s empowerment. At McKinnon Primary School we teach our students to reflect, choose and act responsibly. We are proud of the many worthwhile actions that have resulted from McKinnon Primary School student vision and follow through. Some of these actions have been school based, some local or community based and some have been international.

The IB Primary Years Programme for students aged 5 to 12, focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in classroom and in the world outside.

The Programme:

- Encourages international-mindedness in IB students
- Encourages a positive attitude to learning by engaging students in inquiries and developing their awareness of the process of learning so that they become lifelong learners
- Reflects real life by encouraging learning beyond traditional subjects with meaningful, in-depth inquiries into real issues
- Emphasizes, through the learner profile, the development of the whole student-physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.

*The IB Primary Years Programme frames the learning activities of the school community.*

Developing internationally minded learners  
Inquire • Think • Learn



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