

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is an international framework for curriculum. It is a broad and inclusive curriculum for learners aged from 3 - 12 years. The PYP is based on research about best teaching practices from all over the world and provides a relevant and engaging educational programme. The programme focuses on the total growth of the developing child, affecting hearts as well as minds and addressing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic welfare. The PYP strives to develop a truly international person, one who can confidently approach the challenges of living and working in a constantly evolving, exciting but complex world.

Aims of the IB Programme

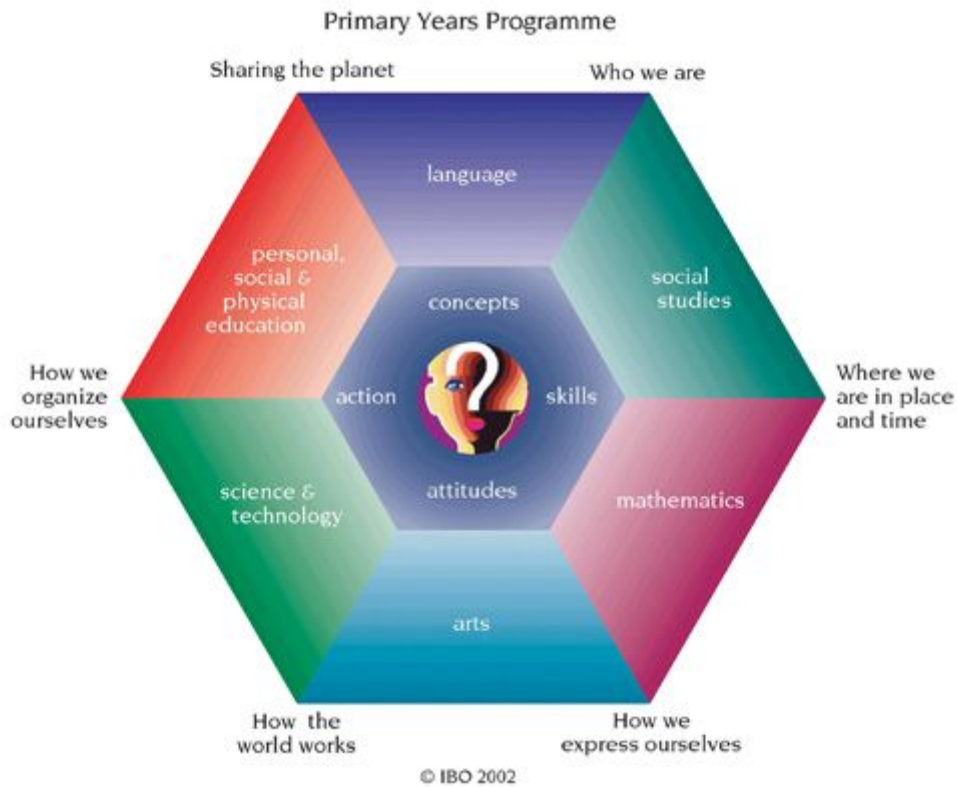
The aim of all IB programmes is to develop globally minded people who can help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The programme encourages students to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

The aims of PYP are expressed as a series of desired attributes and attitudes that characterise successful learners. These globally minded young people are:

Inquirers	Their natural curiosity has been nurtured. They have acquired the skills necessary to conduct purposeful, constructive research. They actively enjoy learning, and the love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.
Thinkers	They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills, critically and creatively to make sound decisions and solve complex problems.
Communicators	They receive and express ideas and information confidently in more than one language, including the language of mathematical symbols.
Risk-takers	They approach unfamiliar situations without anxiety and have the confidence and independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas, and strategies. They are courageous and articulate in defending those things in which they believe.
Knowledgeable	They have spent time in our schools exploring themes that have global relevance and importance. In so doing, they have acquired a sound base of significant knowledge.
Principled	They have a sound grasp of principles of moral reasoning. They have integrity, honesty, and a sense of fairness and justice.
Caring	They show sensitivity toward the needs and feelings of others. They have a sense of personal commitment to action and service.
Open-minded	They respect the views, values, and traditions of other individuals and cultures and are accustomed to seek and consider a range of viewpoints.
Balanced	They understand the importance of physical and mental balance and personal well-being.
Reflective	They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and analyze their personal strengths and weaknesses in a constructive manner.

Characteristics of the PYP

The PYP offers a transdisciplinary approach to learning. Six Organizing themes provide the framework for the exploration of knowledge. In the process, learners develop an understanding of important concepts, acquire essential skills and knowledge, develop particular attitudes and learn to take socially responsible action.



At the heart of the PYP philosophy is a commitment to inquiry as the ideal vehicle for learning. Teachers and students are guided by a series of basic questions as they design curricular units for exploration and study. Throughout the units of study, each child will:

- Develop a deep understanding of important concepts
- Conduct research into knowledge that has local and global significance
- Acquire and practice a range of essential skills
- Develop positive attitudes towards learning, the environment, and other people
- Have the opportunity for involvement in responsible action and social service

The PYP at Japanese International School

Japanese International School (JIS) is a candidate school for PYP authorisation. We are currently working towards becoming a fully authorised IB World School.

Units of Inquiry are planned for each Organizing theme, at each grade level and are often integrated with specialist subject teachers. These Units of Inquiry form the basis of the classroom instructional programme.

The Programme of Inquiry (POI) is an outline of all of the Units of Inquiry that each grade level completes throughout the school year. The POI for our school is located in the first floor central lobby area.

Teachers develop and carry out all assessments of student work, which are designed to give a clear picture of each child's progress. The student's progress throughout the curriculum is documented in a reflective portfolio that outlines student achievement and accomplishments. Students and teachers collaborate on selections for the portfolio. Primary 6 students, as the culmination of their PYP experience at JIS, participate in the PYP Exhibition. Their teachers guide them as they work on inquiry projects that require them to synthesise their learning and have a better understanding for all aspects of the PYP. This also assists in preparing students for the MYP, should they continue their education in the IB system.

If you would like to find out more about the PYP at JIS, please contact our PYP Coordinator Mrs Claire Forbes c-forbes@jis.edu.hk

If you want to learn more about the IBO and its programmes, please visit <http://www.ibo.org> .