

The Primary Years Programme at Cedar International School

Cedar International School is proud to be implementing the International Baccalaureate (IB) *Primary Years Programme* (PYP). This programme works to develop the whole child and builds within students a passion for learning.

In the *Primary Years Programme*, teachers and students generate questions with which to conduct inquiry into significant content. Through this inquiry process, students gain essential knowledge and skills and are encouraged to engage in responsible action. They do all of this in a climate which fosters positive attitudes and develops a concept of internationalism.

Through the PYP at Cedar School, children:

- Develop an understanding of important concepts.
- Conduct research that has local and global significance.
- Acquire and practise a range of essential skills.
- Develop positive attitudes towards learning, the environment and other people.
- Have the opportunity for involvement in responsible action.

Units of Inquiry

The Primary Years Programme at Cedar International School allows students to participate in large, transdisciplinary units each year, called Units of Inquiry (UOI). Each of these units:

- Is a significant, relevant and challenging learning experience.
- Builds on the prior knowledge of the students.
- Involves students in a range of learning activities.
- Requires students to engage in positive action.
- Integrates diverse subject areas whenever meaningful and appropriate.

Through these Units of Inquiry, the classroom becomes a centre of structured inquiry, through which students acquire and practise skills and build new knowledge.

These units are outlined in our Primary School *Programme of Inquiry* (POI) and are carefully designed to build from one year to the next, as a student progresses through the school.

Benefits of the PYP at Cedar International School

- Cedar students are given ownership of the learning process and are encouraged to participate actively in their own education by setting personal goals and performing self-evaluation.
- Cedar students are nurtured so that we create well-rounded individuals with an international outlook. The pastoral care, for which our teachers are known, will continue to be a distinguishing feature of our school.
- While the PYP allows for lateral and vertical extension, creativity and student self-determination, it will still reflect the organisation and structure which has ensured Cedar's success to this point.
- Cedar students are encouraged consistently to take constructive action in their community.
- Cedar students respond to the high standards and high expectations of the PYP.
- The PYP provides opportunities to include parents and other members of the community in the learning process.
- The PYP creates a common framework for schools and students around the world. As a result, families can move easily from Cedar to a PYP school anywhere in the world and know that the learning philosophies and values will remain consistent.
- The PYP is part of the continuum of international education offered by the International Baccalaureate Organization. The approach to teaching and learning in the PYP is ideal preparation for the IB Middle Years Programme and the IB Diploma Programme.