

As part of our commitment to the PYP our children learn Chinese. Children learn not only to communicate in this language but they also gain an understanding of the culture in which the language is spoken.

The Primary Years Programme places an emphasis on children's understanding of the world around them and encourages the values and attitudes required to become caring and valued citizens of society.

Through the PYP, Willow Park School aims to foster the following attributes in our students:

The Learner Profile

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Inquirers | Thinkers |
| Communicators | Risk-Takers |
| Knowledgeable | Principled |
| Caring | Open-Minded |
| Balanced | Reflective |

The programme also promotes and fosters a set of attitudes that we want students to feel, value and demonstrate:

Attitudes

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

The attributes and attitudes of the PYP are reflected in our school's visual charter



If you would like to know more about the Primary Years Programme, information can be found on the IBO website www.ibo.org

Further information about the Willow Park School Primary Years Programme can be found on our school website www.willowpark.school.nz or by contacting our PYP Co-ordinator at school.

Willow Park School

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Willow Park School

Inquire together, inspire forever!

An introductory guide to the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme



We are life-long learners who strive to develop the attitudes, understanding, knowledge, attributes and skills to thrive in our ever-changing world.

Willow Park School International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

What is the Primary Years Programme?

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed for students between the ages of 3 and 12 years. It is an international, transdisciplinary programme designed to foster the development of the whole child.

The PYP focuses on the total growth of the developing child, touching hearts as well as minds and encompassing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic welfare.

The Primary Years Programme offers a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning. It provides a complete curriculum model, which incorporates guidelines on what students should learn, as well as guidelines on teaching methodologies and assessment strategies.

The PYP combines the best research and practice from a range of national systems with a wealth of knowledge and experience from international schools to create a relevant and engaging educational framework for all children.

The International Baccalaureate Organisation aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

The Curriculum Model

At the heart of the Primary Years Programme's philosophy is a commitment to structured inquiry as the leading vehicle for learning.

Six transdisciplinary themes as shown on the outside of the diagram below, provide the framework for the exploration of knowledge. Teachers and students are guided by these themes as they design curricular units for exploration and study.

Students explore subject areas through these themes, often in ways that transcend conventional subject boundaries. In the process, they develop an understanding of important concepts, acquire essential skills and knowledge, develop particular attitudes and learn to take socially responsible action.



What does this mean for teaching and learning at Willow Park School?

Willow Park School became a fully approved PYP school following an authorisation visit at the end of 2010. This was the culmination of three years of hard work by staff to meet the necessary criteria to be an IB World School. This means our children continue to benefit from being taught through an internationally proven inquiry approach to learning.

The programme supports our school vision to "Inquire together, inspire forever!" and our mission that "We are life-long learners who strive to develop the attitudes, understanding, knowledge, attributes and skills to thrive in our ever-changing world".

The school has developed a whole school programme of inquiry which provides units of work and focused resourcing for each year level. While the programme is transdisciplinary (involving multiple curriculum areas) the school continues its focus on literacy and numeracy both within and beyond the units of inquiry.

The Primary Years Programme promotes good teaching practice including focused professional development for teachers. The PYP also provides encouragement for our students to become actively involved in their learning and to become life long learners.