

# Go Global.. Go IB

A thinker, an inquirer, a communicator, a risk-taker, knowledgeable, principled, caring, open-minded, well-balanced and reflective. These are the attributes that are encouraged when your child undertakes an International Baccalaureate (IB) education.

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There are over 2,500 schools in 132 countries that have been authorized by the International Baccalaureate (IB) to teach International Baccalaureate programs and that number is growing all the time. Do a quick search on the internet and you'll find schools everywhere that are taking the system on board. Why? Because as the world becomes smaller through international communication and mobility more and more families are convinced by an education that is not linked to any one National curriculum but is molded from the best of a selection of curricula and offers their children a broader, international spectrum that breeds life-long learners with skills and tools to equip them for today's international lifestyle.

### Three Programmes

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland, founded in 1968. It has developed three programmes: the Primary Years Programme for students aged



3 to 11 years; the Middle Years Programme for students in the 11-16 age range and the Diploma Programme for students in the final two years of school aged 16 to 19. Their mission statement is "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 IB 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. IB World schools promote intercultural understanding and respect, not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century.

### Rigorous Assessment

In order to become an IB World School, the applicant school is required to develop a curriculum and take on the principles of the IB programmes. The IB undertakes rigorous assessment of the school's curriculum and integration of the programmes

before giving their authorization. One of the beauties of the system is that the school faculty is able to cherry-pick the best and most appropriate parts of curricula from around the world and amalgamate these into their own curriculum which is then run following the IB framework. This also means that students educated in an IB school can transfer back into National curriculum if required (for example, due to an overseas relocation, although with more and more schools around the world converting to IB programmes the need for this will diminish). For students who come into an IB school from a National Curriculum school, there is an assessment test to see that they are suitable for the appropriate grade and are likely to be able to cope with the IB principles of learning.

### Life long learning

Probably one of the main differences between an IB World School and a National Curriculum school is the approach to learning itself. Look around at friends and colleagues and cast your mind back to when you were at school and you'll recognize that people differ in the way they solve problems. We call this their intellectual, or cognitive, ability. We may differ from our friends not only in overall ability, but also in the pattern of our abilities. One person may be especially good at problems involving words,



whereas another may be better at dealing with problems relating to real-world objects. The IB programmes cater expertly to these differences by encouraging students to acquire knowledge through different and



varied learning principles and creating a level playing field for all. Surely one of the most significant elements of the IB World School is the commitment to engendering their students to be "life-long learners".

Perhaps Albert Einstein had an IB education in mind when he said "The most important thing is to never stop questioning". Most kids enjoy learning under the IB system. It is driven by the students' inquiry and allows students to take responsibility

for their own learning. The programme is exciting, vibrant, caring and fun... and hard work too.

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