

Our Programme of Inquiry

Our students inquire into and learn about globally significant issues in the context of units of inquiry. Students in Early Years 1 study four units of inquiry whilst Early Years 2 classes explore five units. Early Years 3 – Elementary 5 classes complete six units of inquiry each year. Each unit addresses a central idea relevant to a particular transdisciplinary theme. Lines of inquiry are identified to explore the scope of the central idea for each unit.

The grade level units of inquiry collectively constitute our school's programme of inquiry, which provides a balanced programme of concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes and action.

Our transdisciplinary programme of inquiry is a result of collaborative work and it provides students with experiences that are coherent and connected throughout their time in the school. To meet the school's needs, we review our programme on an annual basis.

Early Years 1 (3 - 4 year olds) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Sep	Oct – Dec	Jan – Mar	Mar - Jun
Theme	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Express Ourselves	Who We Are	How the World Works
Title	Home Sweet Home	Let's Play!	Who Am I?	What's the weather?
Subject Focus	Social Studies	PE	Science	Science
Central Idea	Shelter provides protection and can take many forms.	Children play different games to learn and have fun.	Being aware of yourself allows you to understand who you are and your relationship to a group.	Living things adapt to different weather conditions.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different types of houses (people and animal houses) How houses are designed and built How various factors affect what kinds of houses we live in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different kinds of games Purposes of games Responsibilities in playing games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What I look like What I feel, like and dislike What I can do to care for my body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different weather conditions Effects of various weather conditions How people adapt to different weather conditions
Key Concepts	Causation Connection	Perspective Responsibility	Function Responsibility	Connection Reflection
Related Concepts	Creativity Diversity Structure	Discovery Roles Conflict	Identity Behaviour Growth	Climate Seasons
Attitudes	Enthusiasm Creativity Tolerance	Appreciation Cooperation Integrity	Independence Empathy Commitment	Curiosity Confidence
Profiles	Thinker Reflective	Risk-taker Communicator Balanced	Open-minded Balanced Principled	Inquirer Knowledgeable
Skills	Thinking Skills Research Skills	Communication Skills Social Skills	Self-Management Skills Social Skills	Research Skills Thinking Skills

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Early Years 2 (4 - 5 year olds) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr - Jun
Theme	Who We Are	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves	Sharing the Planet	How the World Works
Title	Together, We're One	Making a Difference	Hello Out There!	The Green Around Us	Making Sense of Our Senses
Subject Focus	Social Studies	Social Studies	Language	Science	Science
Central Idea	We all belong to a family and our families are unique to us.	People use a variety of skills and strategies that contribute to a community of learners.	We need to communicate our feelings and thoughts in a positive way.	Plants are a life-sustaining resource for us and for other living things.	Various senses aid humans in acquiring information.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of families Why we need a family Roles and responsibilities of family members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being a part of community learners Skills, strategies, and attitudes Making contributions to a community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal and non-verbal communication Reasons for communicating Responsibilities to communicate effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features of plants (i.e., types & parts) How plants grow (i.e., life cycle & needs) Uses and care for plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human senses and their functions How people cope without senses How do we make effective use of our senses
Key Concepts	Connection Responsibility	Function Responsibility	Causation Responsibility	Change Responsibility	Function Reflection

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Early Years 2 (4 - 5 year olds) Units of Inquiry (cont'd)

Schedule	Jul – Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr - Jun
Theme	Who We Are	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves	Sharing the Planet	How the World Works
Title	Together, We're One	Making a Difference	Hello Out There!	The Green Around Us	Making Sense of Our Senses
Related Concepts	Family Identity Interdependence	Citizenship Independence Cooperation	Communication Language Responsibility	Interdependence Systems Conservation	Biology Health Fitness
Attitudes	Respect Tolerance	Cooperation Independence Enthusiasm	Confidence Integrity Creativity	Appreciation Commitment	Curiosity Empathy
Profiles	Caring Principled	Open-Minded Balanced	Communicator Risk-taker	Knowledgeable Reflective	Inquirer Thinker
Skills	Communication Skills Self-management Skills	Thinking Skills Research Skills	Communication Skills Social Skills	Research Skills Thinking Skills	Research Skills Self-Management Skills

Early Years 3 (5 – 6) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr - Jun
Theme	Who We Are	How We Share the Planet	How the World Works	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves
Title	Friends Forever	Circle of Life	Splish, Splash!	Going Places	Helping Hands	Rippity, Tippity, Rap
Subject Focus	Social Studies	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies	Language
Central Idea	Making and keeping friends are important skills which people learn throughout their lives.	We share our world with animals.	Water is important to us and we need to conserve it.	People use different kinds of transportation that have changed over the years.	People have different jobs and responsibilities.	Children's rhymes and songs reflect one's culture and are passed on from one generation to another.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why we need friends Ways to establish friendships What makes a good friend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification of animals Life cycle of animals Protecting animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sources of water around the world The usefulness of water Ways to conserve water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why people use different kinds of transportation How transportation evolved Efficient use of transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs in various workplaces Tools and skills needed in a job Purposes and responsibilities of each job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Famous children's rhymes and songs around the world How one's culture is represented in rhymes and songs Ways of presenting rhymes and songs
Key Concepts	Reflection Responsibility	Change Responsibility	Function Responsibility	Causation Change	Function Responsibility	Perspective Connection

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Early Years 3 (5 – 6) Units of Inquiry (cont'd)

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – Jun
Theme	Who We Are	How We Share the Planet	How the World Works	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves
Title	Friends Forever	Circle of Life	Splish, Splash!	Going Places	Helping Hands	Rippity, Tippity, Rap
Related Concepts	Conflict Cooperation Interdependence	Classification Conservation Ecology	Conservation Equity	Progress Innovation	Cooperation Employment	Pattern Tradition Self-expression
Attitudes	Empathy Cooperation Integrity	Respect Curiosity Commitment	Curiosity Commitment	Enthusiasm Creativity	Respect Independence	Appreciation Cooperation Confidence
Profiles	Caring Balanced	Caring Inquirer Knowledgeable	Knowledgeable Reflective	Inquirer Thinker	Communicator Principled	Risk-taker Communicator
Skills	Social Skills Self-management Skills	Research Skills Social Skills	Thinking Skills Self-management Skills	Thinking Skills Research Skills	Social Skills Communication Skills	Communication Skills Social Skills

PYP 1 (6 – 7 year olds) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	Who We Are	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves	How We Share the Planet	How the World Works
Title	Me and My Roots	Can we go somewhere?	The Country Mouse and the City Mouse	Happily Ever After	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	Marvellous Machines
Subject Focus	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Language	Science	Science
Central Idea	Family traditions and cultures give people a sense of identity.	Public places serve the needs of the community.	Urbanisation has positive and negative impacts on our lives.	Storytelling is utilized in many cultures and helps our imaginations grow.	Humans can develop practices to sustain and maintain the Earth's resources.	Machines have helped change the world of work and impact our lives.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How family traditions and cultures portray one's identity Changes in family traditions and cultures Ways of preserving family traditions and cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How public places differ from homes The systems that public places have to make them work How are public places used How people can help maintain them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differences between urban and rural lifestyles Impacts of utilized on Interdependence of urban and rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our favourite stories (i.e.. types, elements, feelings) Ways of telling stories in different cultures How storytelling engages imagination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited nature of Earth's resources Personal choices that can help sustain the environment Reusing and recycling different materials Reducing wastes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of machines How machines work Importance of machines to our lives
Key Concepts	Reflection Responsibility	Function Responsibility	Perspective Reflection	Change Connection	Perspective Connection	Responsibility Causation
Related Concepts	Chronology History Tradition	Cooperation Ownership	Communication Culture	Technological advances Efficiency	Migration Population Pollution	Lifestyle Resources
Attitudes	Respect Independence	Appreciation Commitment	Creativity Confidence	Appreciation Curiosity Independence	Tolerance Integrity	Empathy Cooperation
Profiles	Open-minded Reflective	Risk-taker Inquirer	Knowledgeable Communicator	Knowledgeable Inquirer	Balanced Principled	Caring Knowledgeable
Skills	Communication Skills Social Skills	Self-management Skills Social Skills	Communication Skills Thinking Skills	Research Skills Thinking Skills	Social Skills Self-management Skills	Thinking Skills Research Skills

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PYP 2 (7 – 8 year olds) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	How We Express Ourselves	Who We Are	How the World Works	How We Share the Planet	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves
Title	Art Smart!	There's Something About Food	A Whole New World	A Place for Everyone	On the Go	Believe It or Not!
Subject Focus	Visual Art	Science	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies
Central Idea	People create art in many ways and for different reasons.	Humans need a range of nutrients to maintain a well-balanced diet.	The earth, as a part of the vast universe, is constantly changing.	Biodiversity relies on maintaining the interdependent balance of organisms within systems.	Journeys create change and can lead to new opportunities.	Communities have different beliefs and value systems that affect their practices.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How people create art Why people create art Messages conveyed in art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journey of food (digestive, skeletal, & muscular systems) Impact of food on our body How to achieve a well-balanced diet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in the earth's physical features Planetary systems Movement of the earth Effects of the changes in the earth's physical features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interdependence within ecosystems, biomes and environments Ways in which organisms are interconnected in nature How human interaction with the environment can affect the balance of systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of journeys people make Choices and decisions involved in making a journey Changes experienced because of a journey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beliefs and value systems of communities How different beliefs and value systems co-exist with one another How we respect and empathise with people having different beliefs and value systems
Key Concepts	Connection Perspective	Function Responsibility	Change Connection	Connection Responsibility	Causation Change	Perspective Connection

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PYP 2 (7 – 8 year olds) Units of Inquiry (cont'd)

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	How We Express Ourselves	Who We Are	How the World Works	How We Share the Planet	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves
Title	Art Smart!	There's Something About Food	A Whole New World	A Place for Everyone	On the Go	Believe It or Not!
Related Concepts	Design Expression Application	System Nutrition Growth	Geography Systems Space	Balance Biodiversity Interdependence	Migration Choice	Religion Culture Tradition Roles
Attitudes	Creativity Respect	Enthusiasm Commitment	Confidence Cooperation	Commitment Respect Appreciation	Curiosity Independence	Empathy Tolerance
Profiles	Open-minded Risk-taker	Balanced Reflective	Knowledgeable Inquirer	Caring Principled	Knowledgeable Inquirer	Caring Principled
Skills	Communication Skills Social Skills	Thinking Skills Self-management Skills	Thinking Skills Research Skills	Research Skills Thinking Skills	Research Skills Thinking Skills	Research Skills Self-management Skills

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PYP 3 (8 – 9 year olds) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	Where We Are In Place and Time	Who We Are	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves	How the World Works	How We Share the Planet
Title	I Will Survive	Children Are Our Future	Buy and Sell	Signs and Symbols	What's the Matter?	The World We Live In
Subject Focus	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Language and Visual Art	Science	Science
Central Idea	Through the years, humans have various needs to survive.	Children worldwide have different rights and responsibilities and they face a variety of challenges and risks.	Marketplaces rely on the production and distribution of goods and services.	A variety of signs and symbols facilitates communication.	Matter exists in three common states and is subject to change.	Living and non-living things are all around us and affect us.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different human needs • Factors that affect human needs • Changes in human needs from past to future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and responsibilities of children • Challenges and risks that children face • Ways in which individuals, civilized nations and nations work to protect children from risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How goods and services are produced and distributed • Medium of exchange in various marketplaces • How marketplaces depend on the production and distribution of goods and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs and symbols • Reasons for the development of communication systems • Specialised systems of communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States of matter • Properties of matter • How matter changes from one state to another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of living and non-living things • Uses of living and non-living things • Our responsibilities towards living and non-living things
Key Concepts	Responsibility Reflection	Causation Change	Function Connection	Causation Change	Change Connection	Function Responsibility

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PYP 3 (8 – 9 year olds) Units of Inquiry (cont'd)

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	Who We Are	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Express Ourselves	How the World Works	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Share the Planet
Title	I Will Survive	Children Are Our Future	Buy and Sell	Signs and Symbols	What's the Matter?	The World We Live In
Related Concepts	Equality Rights	History Progress	Culture Media Pattern	Properties & uses of materials Changes of state	Interdependence Supply Demand	Classification Living and Non-Living
Attitudes	Confidence Enthusiasm Empathy	Tolerance Cooperation	Curiosity Creativity	Curiosity Enthusiasm	Confidence Independence Integrity	Curiosity Commitment
Profiles	Balanced Risk-taker Caring	Open-minded Reflective	Thinker Communicator	Inquirer Thinker	Communicator Knowledgeable	Knowledgeable Caring
Skills	Social Skills Self-management Skills	Social Skills Thinking Skills	Communication Skills Research Skills	Research Skills Thinking skills	Social Skills Communication Skills	Research Skills Thinking Skills

PYP 4 (9 – 10 year olds) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – may
Theme	Who We Are	How the World Works	How We Share the Planet	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves
Title	Fit for Life	Energise!	Heal the World	A Walk in the Past	I Can Lead	On Stage
Subject Focus	Science	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies	Music, Language
Central Idea	A healthy lifestyle helps our body to function effectively.	Energy exists in various forms and is changed, stored and used in different ways.	We can make a difference in solving environmental problems.	Many systems of past civilized ones are linked to societies or cultures of today.	Humans have developed complex systems to promote a civilized society.	Plays examine feelings, explore social issues and entertain.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body systems and their functions (circulatory, respiratory, and nervous systems) What constitutes a healthy lifestyle Impacts of choices of lifestyles on our body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms and sources of energy Uses of energy How energy is changed Conservation of energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes of environmental problems Effects of environmental problems Ways of preventing environmental problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient tribes and civilized ones Systems developed by past civilized ones How these influences impact the societies of today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different political systems How and why a government changes or develops Role of citizens in promoting a civilized society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play as a form of literature Different types and purposes of plays The role of the audience in a dramatic performance The differences and similarities between plays and other forms of literature
Key Concepts	Function Responsibility	Function Change	Causation Connection Responsibility	Connection Perspective	Function Responsibility	Function Perspective

Programme of Inquiry

Early Years and Elementary

2009 - 2010

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PYP 4 (9 – 10 year olds) Units of Inquiry (cont'd)

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Nov	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	Who We Are	How the World Works	How We Share the Planet	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves
Title	Fit for Life	Energise!	Heal the World	A Walk in the Past	I Can Lead	On Stage
Related Concepts	Systems Nutrition Balance	Efficiency Transformation	Conservation Resources Sustainability	Progress Civilisation	Citizenship History	Production Audience
Attitudes	Independence Cooperation	Curiosity Confidence	Empathy Commitment	Enthusiasm Respect	Tolerance Integrity	Appreciation Creativity
Profiles	Balanced Knowledgeable	Inquirer Thinker	Inquirer Caring	Reflective Open-minded	Communicator Principled	Risk-taker Communicator
Skills	Thinking Skills Research Skills	Research Skills Thinking skills	Social Skills Thinking Skills	Research Skills Communication Skills	Thinking Skills Self-management Skills	Communication Skills Social Skills

PYP 5 (10 – 11) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Oct	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	How We Express Ourselves	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Share the Planet	Who We Are	How the World Works
Title	I See, I Think, I Wonder	Curiosity Awakens the Cat	Justice League	PYP Exhibition	Go, Grow, Glow	May the Force be with You
Subject Focus	Language	Social Studies	Social Studies	ALL SUBJECTS	Science	Science
Central Idea	The media influence how we think and the choices we make.	Humans' urge to explore the unknown shapes our destiny.	Our attitudes, values, and social structures can promote or deny social justice.	Through collaboration, PYP 5 students will come up with their own central idea and lines of inquiry. The exhibition requires that each student shows engagement with the five essential elements of the PYP knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action.	Reproduction of living things contributes to the continuation of the species.	Everything around me is a result of force in action.
Lines of Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different types of media How the media influence people's way of thinking and the choices they make Responsibilities of the media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of explorations Reasons for explorations Impacts of explorations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principles of human rights and social justice How personal, social and institutional behaviours and attitudes affect social justice The impact of denying or granting social justice on individuals and groups 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cells as the building blocks of life Reproduction as part of a life cycle Genetics and hereditary factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of forces Interaction among forces Use and misuse of forces
Key Concepts	Perspective Responsibility	Causation Perspective	Connection Reflection		Change Connection	Function Connection

PYP 5 (10 – 11) Units of Inquiry

Schedule	Jul – Aug	Sep – Oct	Nov – Dec	Jan – Feb	Feb – Apr	Apr – May
Theme	How We Express Ourselves	Where We Are In Place and Time	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Share the Planet	Who We Are	How the World Works
Title	I See, I Think, I Wonder	Curiosity Awakens the Cat	Justice League	PYP Exhibition	Go, Grow, Glow	May the Force be with You
Related Concepts	Communication Truth	Consequences Discovery Geography	Equality Freedom	Through collaboration, PYP 5 students will come up with their own central idea and lines of inquiry. The exhibition requires that each student shows engagement with the five essential elements of the PYP knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action.	Cycles Growth	Sustainability Physics
Attitudes	Appreciation Creativity	Curiosity Independence	Empathy Respect Integrity		Curiosity Creativity	Curiosity Commitment
Profiles	Communicator Open-minded Risk-taker	Inquirer Communicator	Caring Open-minded Principled		Inquirer Knowledgeable	Knowledgeable Thinker
Skills	Social Skills Communication Skills	Research Skills Communication Skills	Communication Skills Social Skills		Research Skills Communication Skills	Research Skills Thinking skills