

International-Mindedness in Education

(adapted from *What is an IB Education?*, 2017)

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet. Central to this aim is international-mindedness.

International-mindedness is a multi-faceted and complex concept that captures a way of thinking, being and acting that is characterized by an openness to the world and a recognition of our deep interconnectedness to others. To be open to the world, we need to understand it.

IB programmes therefore provide students with opportunities for...

- sustained **inquiry into a range of local and global issues and ideas.**
- **developing a willingness to see beyond immediate situations and boundaries** which is essential as globalization and emerging technologies continue to blur traditional distinctions between the local, national and international.
- helping students **reflect on their own perspective, culture and identities, and then on those of others.**
- **learning to appreciate different beliefs, values and experiences**, and to **think and collaborate across cultures and disciplines**, enables IB learners to gain the understanding necessary to make progress toward a more peaceful and sustainable world.
- enhance the development of international-mindedness through **multilingualism**. All IB programmes require the students to study, or study in, more than one language because we believe that communicating in more than one language provides excellent opportunities to develop intercultural understanding and respect. It helps the students to appreciate that his or her own language, culture and worldview is just one of many.
- encouraging international-mindedness through a focus on **global engagement and meaningful service with the community**. These elements challenge the student to critically consider power and privilege, and to recognize that he or she holds this planet and its resources in trust for future generations. There is a focus on moving beyond awareness and understanding to engagement, action and bringing about meaningful change.