

10 Things Parents Should Know About the IPC

1. The International Primary Curriculum is a curriculum that is being used in over 2000 schools in more than 80 countries around the world. It was launched in 2000 having taken 3 years to create by a group of leading experts in children's learning.

2. The purpose of the IPC is for children to focus on a combination of academic, personal and international learning. We want children to enjoy learning; to develop enquiring minds and the personal qualities they will need to be good citizens of the world, as well as a sense of their own nationality and culture together with a respect for the nationalities and cultures of others. Most of all we want the children to develop all the skills they will need in order to confidently face the world of tomorrow.

3. Children learn through a series of IPC units of work. Each unit is based on a theme that today's children will find interesting and relevant. Each unit lasts around 6 to 8 weeks. Examples of themes currently in use at WIPS include: *The Magic Toymaker, Temples, Tombs and Treasures* and *Mission to Mars*.

4. Each IPC unit is taught through independent yet interdependent subjects. Linking the subjects together enables the children to make lots of connections between what they are learning. We now know that the more connections that the brain can make, the better a child can learn. The subjects included in the IPC are: Art, Geography, History, ICT, International, Music, Physical Education, Science, Society and Technology.

5. The IPC consists of rigorous, staged learning outcomes. The IPC is more than just thematic learning. Progressive learning goals for each of the subjects are organised into 3 stages; Milepost 1 (ages 5 – 7), Milepost 2 (ages 7 – 9) and Milepost 3 (ages 9 to 12). These learning goals ensure that the children are learning exactly what they need to learn at each stage of their development.

6. The IPC focuses on children's learning as a balance between knowledge, skills and understanding. No one can properly predict the nature of work and life opportunities that will be available to today's primary age children by the time they are adults. Many of the jobs they will have don't yet exist, especially in the fields of technology, ICT and science. So the IPC focuses on developing adaptable and resilient, globally minded learners, prepared for the fast-changing world that they will be living and working in.

7. The development of personal competencies is also important. As well as academic learning, the IPC focuses on developing personal skills such as enquiry, thoughtfulness, cooperation and respect to help children to become able and inspired learners.

8. The IPC has been designed for children of all abilities and learning styles. The IPC recognises that children are different and therefore learn in different ways. Learning together with others in a group is encouraged, as well as learning individually, and children will have the opportunity to show what they have learned in many different ways.

9. Teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents regularly about the learning that is taking place in their classrooms. A letter is sent to parents at the beginning of every IPC unit which outlines what learning will be taking place and how parents can help continue the learning at home.

10. The IPC is continually revised and updated in line with the latest research. This ongoing development of the IPC ensures that children always have access to a current and highly relevant curriculum based on the very latest research into the brain and children's learning.

Find out more at:
www.greatlearning.com/ipc