

Personal and Social Education (PSE)

PSE identifies some of the central ideas considered significant in the PYP. PSE is included throughout the curriculum wherever applicable, in addition to opportunities found in units of the programme of inquiry. Here, the content is arranged into four main strands: self-concept, health and safety, interaction with others, organisation for learning.

In self-concept, students develop an awareness of their feelings, beliefs and behaviour. They learn to recognise their own strengths and weaknesses. In health and safety, positive lifestyle choices to promote and maintain health are encouraged, and the development of safe behaviour practices at home, school and in the community are considered. In interaction with others, social norms and values are considered, including strategies for the management of conflict as well as the study and acceptance of cultural, racial and religious similarities and differences. In organisation for learning, strategies and choices in relation to becoming a successful learner are developed.

Although these strands are considered separately, in practice they are inextricably linked. Students develop aspects of PSE continually, across the strands, through different disciplines and at their own pace.

PSE provides the models, processes and values for handling social and personal issues and ensuring health and wellbeing. Through PSE, students will develop their self-identity, use appropriate social skills when interacting with others in a range of situations, and learn to communicate and manage their feelings, emotions and opinions. The expectations of PSE emphasise attitudes, behaviours and skills that are closely aligned with the PYP student profile. Students are given guidance to help develop positive attitudes and behaviours in order to meet challenges, make healthy lifestyle choices and serve as responsible, respectful members of society. This guidance is specific, explicit and continuous.

Through exposure to new and difficult issues in a non-threatening environment that students are able to develop their own positive values and prepare for their role as international citizens. The PSE curriculum encourages personal and social education to be a way of thinking that permeates the School. The values, attitudes and concepts advocated within the PSE curriculum are reflected in all areas of School life via the relationships that exist within and beyond the School. They are the founding principles of policies that direct decision making at the School.