

# ESF Primary Curriculum Years 1 to 6

Our mission is to inspire creativity and nurture global citizens and leaders of the future.

We do this by creating joyful learning environments, led by a community of exceptional teachers who bring out the best in every child through a personalised approach to learning and by inspiring curious minds.

ESF primary schools cater for students in Year 1 to Year 6. Students engage in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP), an inquiry-based approach to learning. Through this approach, students become active, caring, lifelong learners who demonstrate respect for themselves and others and have the capacity to participate in the world around them. Learning focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer and nurtures their curiosity.



## ESF primary schools

Beacon Hill School  
Bradbury School  
Clearwater Bay School  
Glenealy School  
Kennedy School  
Kowloon Junior School  
Peak School  
Quarry Bay School  
Sha Tin Junior School

## ESF all-through schools

Discovery College  
Renaissance College  
Jockey Club Sarah Roe School



# Learning in the primary school

Through the PYP:

- students' learning, social and emotional well-being needs are effectively met,
- students develop independence and take responsibility for their own learning,
- students gain understanding of the world and learn how to function effectively within it,
- students develop personal values on which international-mindedness will flourish.



## The curriculum

The PYP provides schools with a curriculum framework of five essential elements that students need to equip them for successful lives, both now and in the future:

- knowledge
- concepts
- skills
- attitudes
- action

Schools work with the five elements to construct a rigorous and challenging primary curriculum that is engaging, relevant and significant for learners in the 3–12 age range. The curriculum organises learning across subject areas.



## How does learning take place?

The PYP provides structured, purposeful inquiry which engages students actively in their own learning.

The programme supports students' efforts to construct meaning from the world around them by:

- drawing on their prior knowledge
- providing provocation through new experiences
- providing opportunities for reflection and consolidation.

This approach respects students' developing ideas about how the world works. It encourages them to question, consider and refine their understanding of the social and natural world.

Students learn how to learn, helping them to interact effectively with the learning environments they encounter and encouraging them to value learning as an essential and integral part of their everyday lives.

# How are students assessed in primary school?

Learning is viewed as a continuous journey. Teachers use assessment to identify students' needs and use assessment data to plan the next stage of their learning. They identify what students know, understand, can do and value at different stages in the teaching and learning process and then use this evidence to inform next steps in learning.

Teachers use a wide range of assessment strategies to collect information on each of the elements represented in the curriculum: the understanding of concepts, the acquisition of knowledge, the mastering of skills, the development of positive attitudes and the ability to take responsible action.

Year 6 students carry out an extended, in-depth, collaborative project known as the PYP Exhibition. This involves students working collaboratively to conduct an in-depth inquiry into real-life issues or problems. Students share their learning within the five essential elements of the PYP with the whole school community. The PYP Exhibition provides an opportunity for teachers to assess students' learning across the five essential elements.

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

Inquirers	Open-minded
Knowledgeable	Caring
Thinkers	Risk-takers
Communicators	Balanced
Principled	Reflective

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.





# ESF is the largest provider of English-medium international education in Hong Kong

## Who can apply?



ESF schools do not select on the basis of prior attainment or performance in entrance assessments. The main criterion for entry is the readiness of a child to benefit from an English-medium education. Children need to have the language skills and home support to enable them to access the curriculum and thrive in an English medium environment.

## Applying for a place at an ESF primary school

Year groups are formed on the basis of students' ages. Students usually start Year 1 in the August of the year in which they have their 5th birthday. Students entering schools at later years will, where places are available, be placed in the year group appropriate to their age.

Each ESF school has a designated catchment area. Students will be offered a place in their catchment ESF school, determined by their Hong Kong residential address. There are no catchment areas for the two private independent schools or for the kindergartens.

ESF primary and secondary schools operate an all-through system. All Year 6 students enrolled in an ESF primary school by 1 December are guaranteed a place in Year 7 in an ESF secondary school.

## When to apply?

For parents who want their child to enter ESF in Year 1, central application is open from 1 to 30 September of the year before their child starts school.

Dual applications are permitted to ESF and the two private independent schools (PIS). Applications to Discovery College and Renaissance College are through separate application processes, detailed on each of the college's websites.

School zoning ([www.esf.edu.hk/esf-zones/](http://www.esf.edu.hk/esf-zones/)) applies to ESF primary and secondary schools based on residential address at the time of application. ESF International Kindergartens, Discovery College and Renaissance College remain zone free.

Application to enter all other year groups can be made at any time during the year. If there are no vacancies, applicants will be added to our waiting list.

## How do we apply?

We operate an online admissions system. You should use the link below to submit an application:

[www.esf.edu.hk/application-form](http://www.esf.edu.hk/application-form)

Where parents are interested in places in Jockey Club Sarah Roe School or in learning support classes, parents should refer to: [www.esf.edu.hk/SEN/Admissions](http://www.esf.edu.hk/SEN/Admissions)

Individual and Corporate Nomination Rights provide a fast-track route for children into ESF schools, providing they meet the entry requirements. For details, please refer to: [www.esf.edu.hk/esf-nomination-rights](http://www.esf.edu.hk/esf-nomination-rights)

## English Schools Foundation

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