

How can I support my child's learning?

You can help your child daily by:

- Maintaining regular contact with the classroom teacher.
- Sharing books, knowledge and personal experiences with your child.
- Attending parent information sessions, celebrations of learning, conferences and exhibitions.
- Showing a keenness and interest in what they are learning by asking questions.



How can I find out more?

At Waikerie Lutheran Primary School we have a commitment to work with parents/carers in a partnership in our students learning process. We are here to help you with any questions you may have about the PYP and how it relates to your child.

If you do have any questions about the PYP program, please contact our PYP Coordinator or speak to your child's classroom teacher.

You can also visit www.ibo.org for further information.

IBO Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate Organisation aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end, the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



Waikerie Lutheran Primary School

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Waikerie Lutheran Primary School

*Is a supportive Christian community,
equipping each student for life.*

Understanding the Primary Years Programme

A guide for parents



Lutheran
EDUCATION
Australia 
Serving Australian Communities through CHRIST
Centered Education.

What is the International Baccalaureate?

The International Baccalaureate is a non-profit, Swiss educational foundation that was established in 1968. They have developed a curriculum for authorized schools to implement for students from pre-school to university matriculation. The Primary Years Program (PYP) is being implemented here at Waikerie Lutheran Primary School. The process of registration with the International Baccalaureate Organisation is rigorous. It requires specialized teacher training and candidate schools are required to undergo rigorous assessment before they are authorized to be called an IB World School.

The Primary Years Program (PYP) focuses on the development of the whole child, addressing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs. At the same time it gives children a strong foundation in all major areas of knowledge; Mathematics, Social Studies, Drama, Language, Music, Visual Arts, Science, Personal and Social Education, and Physical Education. At Waikerie Lutheran Primary School, we have expanded this to include a Christian Education. The PYP strives to help children develop an international perspective - to become aware of, and sensitive to the points of view of people in other parts of the world.

Curriculum in the PYP is organised around 6 themes:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organise ourselves
- Sharing the planet

These themes are intended to help children make sense of themselves, of other people, and of the physical environment, and to give them different ways of looking at the world.

Many South Australian schools have begun using the PYP as a curriculum model for their students.

How does the Primary Years Program (PYP) Work?

Each of the six themes work particularly well with one or two subject areas. For example, “Where we are in Place and Time” lends itself to the study of history.

However, the six themes are also transdisciplinary. That is, they go beyond any one of the subject areas. “How the world works”, for example, can serve as a theme for learning about electricity and how it is produced, how it affects our daily lives, how people lived (and continue to live) without electricity, and how to use electricity safely. The purpose of the themes is to encourage students to think broadly and deeply.

In addition, by focusing on experiences and challenges shared by people around the world, students develop a sense of responsibility towards others.

“Any curriculum aiming for student understanding requires uncoverage of the material. Inquiry into, around and underneath content, instead of simply covering it.” Wiggins/McTighe

Students in the PYP explore each theme by looking at a “Unit of Inquiry”. In each unit, the teacher poses a series of open-ended questions that encourage students to explore all aspects. The questions include:

Form: *What is it like?*

Function: *How does it work?*

Causation: *Why is it like this?*

Change: *How is it changing?*

Connection: *How is it connected to other things?*

Perspective: *What are the points of view?*

Responsibility: *What is our responsibility?*

Reflection: *How do we know?*

Students look for answers to these questions in a variety of ways also asking their own questions. They conduct surveys, collect data, observe and measure, and develop and test hypotheses.

PYP Learner Profiles

Through using the PYP, we aim to develop the following traits and characteristics of students attending Waikerie Lutheran Primary School:

Inquirer: Children’s natural curiosity is nurtured. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct purposeful, constructive research. They actively enjoy learning and their love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Thinker: Children exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to make sound decisions and to solve complex problems.

Communicator: Children receive and express ideas and information confidently.

Risk-Taker: Children approach unfamiliar situations without anxiety and have the confidence and independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are courteous and articulate in defending those things in which they believe.

Knowledgeable: Children acquire a critical mass of significant knowledge through the exploration of themes which have a global relevance and importance.

Principled: Children have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning. They have integrity, honesty and a sense of fairness and justice.

Caring: Children show sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a commitment to action and service.

Open-Minded: Children respect the views, values and traditions of other individuals and cultures and are accustomed to seeking and considering a range of points of view.

Balanced: Children understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective: Children give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and analyse their personal strengths and weaknesses in a constructive manner.