

ISL TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

Mission statement

The International School of London Group is a culturally diverse community which fosters a passion and enthusiasm for learning, through outstanding educational practices. Students' cultural and linguistic identities are valued and nurtured through our international curriculum and Mother Tongue Programme. Our school develops the attitudes, skills and understanding needed for active and responsible contributions to both local and global communities.

At the International School of London, we believe in:

- Empowering students to maximise their learning opportunities and to fulfil their potential.
- Actively integrating cultural diversity in the curriculum.
- Creating inclusive, vibrant and innovative learning communities.
- Offering a diverse and extensive international programme that supports personal, social and professional growth.

Teaching and Learning Philosophy Statement

At ISL, we believe that each child has their own unique identity and understanding of the world. Our aim is to build on their unique experiences through dialogue and questioning to foster curiosity and deeper thinking. At ISL, excellence in teaching and learning is defined by the degree to which we nurture student passion and encourage active engagement with real world problems through thinking, reflection and social and environmental activism. We believe purposeful play fosters curiosity, and curiosity fosters creative thinking. We believe the young are as capable of bringing about meaningful change as adults.

Principles of Teaching and Learning

1. We promote intercultural thinking, which we understand as the deep appreciation of the voice and experiences of others.

1.1 ISL promotes an appreciation of and respect for students, their communities, and the diverse cultures and values of others

1.2 Teachers builds positive relationships through knowing and valuing each student and their unique background and thinking processes

1.3 Teachers, parents and students work together as part of a supportive community

1.4 Learning happens in many environments in and beyond the classroom

1.5 A supportive and intellectually challenging environment promotes both students' self-confidence and willingness to explore new possibilities

1.6 Learning is more effective when contextualised in the real world

2. Effective teachers see students as individuals and personalise learning (see appendix)

2.1 Teachers adapt and personalise their approach to meet the needs of all students

2.2 Teachers scaffold learning so students can develop varied perspectives and different ways of thinking

2.3 Teachers utilize a range of teaching strategies that support students to think and learn in different ways

2.4 Teachers build on students' prior knowledge, experiences, and skills and interests

2.5 Teachers use opportunities to integrate a range of appropriate technologies to enable personalised learning

2.6 Teachers encourage students to take responsibility for their learning, their actions, and their interactions with others

2.7 Teachers collaborate with one another to ensure excellence in teaching and learning

2.8 Teachers advocate on behalf of their students to help them meet their social, emotional, and educational needs

2.9 Teachers continue to grow professionally in both their discipline and general pedagogy so they can better support student learning

2.10 Students provide opportunities to cultivate different strategies to meet their learning needs

2.11 Teachers encourage students to take an active lead in their own learning

3. At ISL we foster curiosity through inquiry

3.1 Teachers emphasise meaning and understanding by encouraging students to explore ideas and concepts

3.2 Teachers encourage students to ask questions and follow their own lines of inquiry

3.3 Teachers use a range of questioning techniques and encourage problem solving

3.4 Students are given extended and flexible periods of time to follow meaningful lines of inquiry

3.5 Students explore different perspectives and develop new ways of thinking

3.6 Students question and reflect

3.7 Students utilise all the resources available within the learning community in and beyond the classroom

3.8 Students apply concepts and skills in and beyond the classroom

3.9 Students are provided with the opportunities to cultivate strategies for learning across the disciplines

3.10 Opportunities are provided for purposeful play where appropriate

3.11 Students are given space and time to explore ideas and think creatively

4. Effective learners are empowered both academically and personally

4.1 Emotional well-being and confidence underpin good learning

4.2 ISL builds and sustains a nurturing culture for students as individuals and members of groups

4.3 At ISL Surrey, personal development is supported through the IPC personal goals while at ISL London it is built around the IB Learner Profile

4.4 At ISL, we develop resilience by recognising that a growth mindset is more important than success or failure in a particular sphere

5. Effective assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning. It is ongoing and used as a tool for students to reflect on and develop their thinking

5.1 Assessment supports a personalised approach to teaching and learning, which involves listening to student feedback and adapting to that feedback

5.2 Assessment enables teachers and students to monitor current learning and plan for the future

5.3 Teachers use appropriate and varied assessment tasks

5.4 Assessment is used as a tool to enter into a dialogue with a student or group of students to enable them to take their learning further

5.5 Assessment provides explicit feedback to the learner so the student can monitor progress

5.6 Self-assessment and reflection are essential to further learning

5.7 Students work with peers to review and reflect on their learning

6. Students engage with real world problems. Social and environmental activism are central to their learning

6.1 The community recognises our responsibility and accountability to the world at large by encouraging students to think and act ethically

6.2 The community nurtures responsibility, creativity, cooperation, respect, independence, and an international perspective in students

6.3 Students are expected to take an active role in the school and community-at-large

6.4 We build local and international partnerships to develop student thinking and support curriculum understanding

6.5 Students recognise the value of and engage in community, social and environmental activism

Monitor and Review:

This policy will be reviewed every two years in order to take into account new initiatives, changes in curriculum, and developments in technology or other changes that impact teaching and learning at ISL.

Appendix

ISL definition of personalised learning:

Our culture of personalised learning expects teaching staff to know our learners as people not just as students. Teachers build individual profiles, observing behaviours and listening to the learner's voice, so they know how he/she best adapts to challenge. Teachers adapt opportunities and the environment to meet the needs of all learners. They understand each learner and this goes beyond knowing and tracking academic achievement. Students' passions and interests shape learning and approaches to learning.