

## The International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Cayman Islands National Curriculum review for schools

The curriculum review started with the development of an [overview document](#). This document set out the aims and principles that govern the rest of the curriculum review process. The stakeholders were invited to feed back on the document during 2006 and the final version was accepted after this consultation phase.

The overview document clearly states that it is important to consider not only what is taught, but also how it is taught within a curriculum. Therefore, alongside the writing of the learning outcomes of the Cayman Islands curriculum, consideration was given to the development of a framework by which the curriculum might be delivered.

There is considerable interest in the IB because it appears to provide a framework that conforms to the requirements of the overview document.

IB students are encouraged to become:

**Inquirers** - Who acquire the skills necessary to conduct purposeful, constructive research.

**Thinkers** - Who exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to make sound decisions and to solve complex problems.

**Communicators** - Who receive and express ideas and information confidently in more than one language, including the language of mathematical symbols.

**Risk Takers** - Who approach unfamiliar situations without anxiety. They have confidence and independence. They are courageous and articulate in defending things in which they believe.

**Knowledgeable** - Who have spent time in school exploring themes with global relevance and importance. They have also acquired a critical mass of significant knowledge

**Principled** - Who have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning, integrity, honesty and a sense of fairness and justice.

**Caring** - Who show sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others and have a personal commitment to action and service.

**Open-minded** - Who respect the views, values and traditions of other individuals and cultures and are accustomed to seeking and considering a range of points of view.

**Well-balanced** - Who understand the importance of physical and mental balance and personal well-being.

**Reflective** - Who give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and analyse their personal strengths and weaknesses in a constructive manner.

These characteristics are in exact accordance with the profile of the 'Educated Caymanian' – which formed the central theme of the overview document, and is the main aspiration for the outcome of this review.



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# The International Baccalaureate (IB)

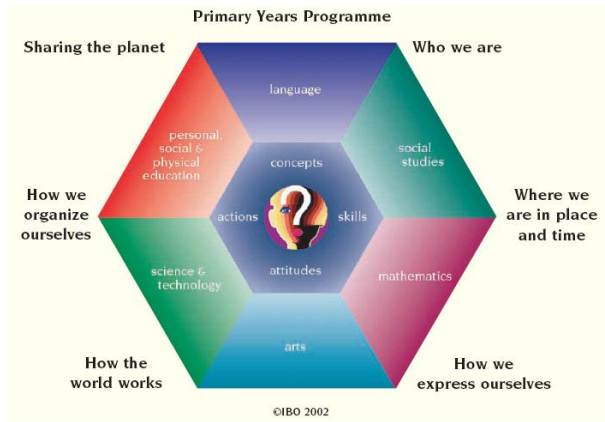
## What is the IB?

IB is the abbreviation for [International Baccalaureate](#).

The IB programme was founded in 1968 by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO), a non-profit educational organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland. Despite having its headquarters in Switzerland, the IBO is an international organisation, not associated with any particular country and free of national political educational agendas.

The IB provides an internationally-recognised learning framework made up of three educational programmes:

### PYP: The Primary Years Programme (Year 1 to Year 6).



The Primary Years Programme (PYP) focuses on the academic, social, physical, emotional and cultural development of the whole child. At the heart of the PYP is a commitment to structured inquiry as a vehicle to learning.

[Frequently asked questions](#)

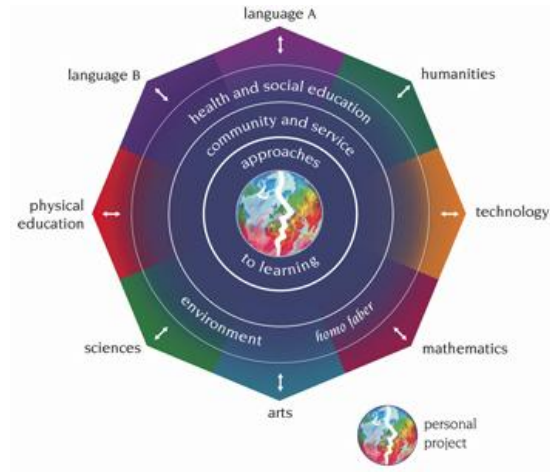
[Information for schools](#)

[Aims and principles](#)



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## MYP: The Middle Years Programme (Year 7 to Year 11)



The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) is designed for students aged 11 to 16.

This period, encompassing early puberty and mid-adolescence, is a particularly critical phase of personal and intellectual development and requires a programme that helps students participate actively and responsibly in a changing and increasingly interrelated world. Learning how to learn and how to evaluate information critically is as important as learning facts.

[Frequently asked questions](#)

[Information for schools](#)

[Aims and principles of the MYP](#)



## DP: The Diploma Programme (Year 12 to Year 13).

This programme is designed for students who are 17-19 years old and is therefore not offered for study at our 11-16 secondary schools.

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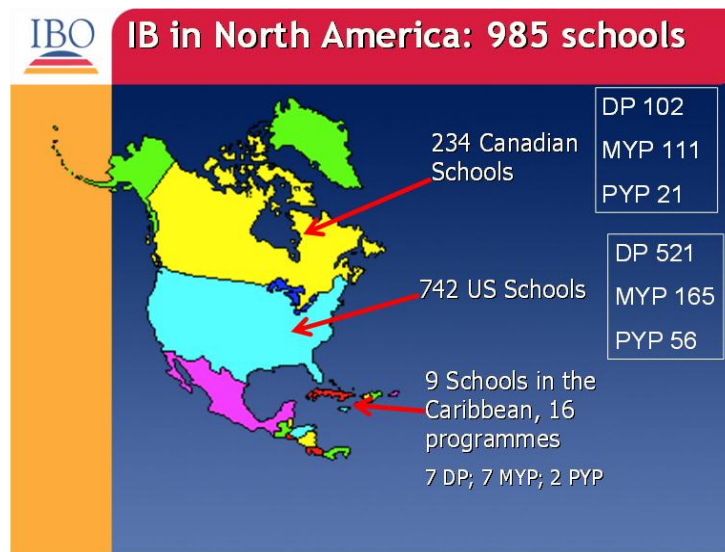
## Why use the IB?

- It promotes high quality teaching, learning and assessment
- It reflects the philosophy of the curriculum overview document for the Cayman Islands
- It requires a whole school approach
- It is student centred- and encourages students to be problem-solvers and thinkers
- It is cross-curricular
- It develops assessment for learning
- We can tie into external assessments at PYP and MYP level
- It develops global awareness and international understanding
- It comes with training and support
- Schools are accountable and externally evaluated
- It has credibility around the world



## Who uses the IB?

- Countries with IB programmes: 114
- US states with IB programmes: 42
- Canadian provinces with IB programmes: 9
- Caribbean countries with IB programmes 3



- [Information for students](#)
- [Information for parents](#)
- [Information for teachers](#)
- [Overview of the three IB programmes](#)

[21 things you should know about the IBO – general information](#)

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