

Internationalism

MIS Guiding Statements

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Appreciation for diversity is one of our core values. It is expressed through our Mission statement (***Celebrate Diversity***) and is of paramount importance in our day-to-day learning. On the surface, we might think that our different nationalities are manifestations of our diversity, and this does indeed enhance our learning, however, diversity goes far beyond cultural diversity including but not limited to gender diversity and neurodiversity.

As a community, we recognize and value the fact that we are all mosaics of identities through which we see the world and interact with others. We are a community of diverse beliefs, cultures, experiences, and perspectives, and this shape our growth and development as global citizens. We believe in the importance of self-determination, humanitarianism, and lifelong learning as ways to achieve internationalism. We recognize that actions guided by the IB learner profile help to create a better and more peaceful world.

We have described our commitment to diversity through the following guiding statements:

- *Become self-aware and reflective in order to appreciate that we often view the world and judge the actions of others through the lens of our identities and biases.*
- *Understand that others may view the same events and behaviours in a very different way and develop an awareness of the difference between a specific cultural perspective and a human commonality.*
- *Appreciate that language is an essential part of culture.*
- *Embrace differences, be open-minded and curious about other cultures and peoples.*
- *Understand that there is often no universal truth and that what may be considered 'right', 'normal' or 'common sense' in one culture may not be in another.*
- *Become aware that the visible differences between people of distinct cultures are just the tip of the iceberg, and that important variances in areas like beliefs, attitudes, expectations, norms, and roles lie beneath the surface and are often 'invisible' at first glance.*
- *Recognize that fundamental rights and human commonality include the respect for human dignity regardless of race, gender, culture, sexuality, neurodiversity and religion and apply universally.*
- *Develop the courage to defend these principles.*
- *Be an upstander, not a bystander, serving as an ally to those who are underrepresented in our communities.*

These beliefs inform our learning experiences (**Inspire Learning**) in concrete ways. We seek to empower learners to be open-minded and take action to contribute positively in a complex world. They do this by inquiring into substantive issues that grapple with issues such as human rights, development, democracy, right to information, environment, sustainability, peace & conflict, and natural & human systems. Considering these topics through a lens of varied perspectives allows us to understand that 'other people, with their differences, can also be right' (IB Mission Statement). As we explore learning through diverse perspectives, we generate shared understandings that are enhanced through language including new languages, shared languages and our home languages. Communication becomes a key tool in understanding our own identity and our role in the community. Responsibility (**Foster Responsibility**) is enhanced by concepts of global citizenship, agency and service. Our learners develop respect for the diversity of beliefs and values, and engage in inquiry and debate within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity and regard.

"IB Mission Statement." Ibo.org, International Baccalaureate Organization, 2 June 2018, ibo.org/about-the-ib/mission/.