

Definition of Teaching

Mahindra International school- Internal Procedure

Updated: Aug 2025

Version: 1.1

Next update: 2028-29

Introduction

"Teaching is both an art and a science. It involves creatively engaging students and effectively applying educational research to enhance learning."

Robert J. Marzano, "The Art and Science of Teaching" (2007)

"Teaching is an interactive process that involves communication and collaboration between the teacher and the learner."

Lev Vygotsky, "Mind in Society" (1978)

Context

At MIS the act of teaching is conducted with a mindset and belief that all students have the potential to learn and to succeed. One of the roles of the teacher is to create opportunities for learners to take ownership of their learning, and we acknowledge that this will look different at different times and ages. At MIS we are aware of and careful about the "deficit model" which consists of invoking external factors for the inability of students to learn. We believe it is our responsibility as teachers to find ways to address the needs of every one of them. This aligns with our commitment to having a growth mindset as educators and to fostering a growth mindset in our learners.

Since learning must be built on prior skills and knowledge (constructivism), teachers at MIS are committed to knowing their students and building an understanding of where each of them is on their learning journey in terms of prior skills and knowledge. Furthermore, constructionism highlights the importance of building tangible objects representing their learning. At MIS, we believe this is a powerful way to connect head, heart and hand.

This Definition of Teaching has been written to ensure that the MIS Definition of Learning is implemented in every classroom and embodied by all.

Definition of Teaching

Updated: Jan 2025

Version: 1.0

Next update: 2028-29

At MIS, teaching is differentiated.

Differentiated teaching is an educational approach that tailors instruction to accommodate the different learning needs of students. In a differentiated learning environment, all learners are guided towards the same academic goals but the journey to get there can differ. Differentiating instruction implies adjusting content, teaching methods, learning environment, and assessment strategies to meet individual student interests, abilities, and learning preferences.

Differentiation is not teaching to different levels within the same classroom.

At MIS, teaching requires continuous assessment.

Assessment informs teaching through an ongoing process of gathering, analyzing, reflecting and acting on evidence. Teachers intentionally plan for active student involvement in the assessment process as students co-construct assessments, self-assess, peer assess and act on feedback and feedforward from peers and teachers. Teachers develop a wide range of assessment tools as we intentionally and explicitly build an assessment capable culture among all members of the learning community; this includes an increasing focus on assessment as learning. Ongoing assessment focuses equally on knowledge, skills and concepts as we regularly monitor, document and measure learning.

At MIS, teaching is Contextual - Skills and knowledge are applied to real world and new situations.

Contextualized learning places an emphasis on students processing new information by connecting it to their own experience and to the world around them. The mind naturally seeks meaning in context—that is, in the environment where the person is located.

To cultivate an authentic and relevant learning environment, teachers infuse real-world contexts into their lessons and emphasize hands-on and experiential learning opportunities that allow students to apply their knowledge in practical situations. Emphasis is put on the transfer of skills and knowledge to new situations. This approach not only enhances retention but also builds critical thinking skills.

At MIS, teaching is Conceptual.

Conceptual teaching is a pedagogical approach that enables teachers to focus on helping learners understand underlying principles, connections, and relationships between concepts, rather than just memorizing facts. It involves teaching concepts or ideas in conjunction with larger schema, encouraging students to think critically and make meaningful connections. This

Definition of Teaching

Updated: Jan 2025

Version: 1.0

Next update: 2028-29

approach can boost students' conceptual thinking by emphasizing real-world applications, using visual models, and providing opportunities for hands-on learning and collaborative problem-solving. Constructionism, or the making of tangible objects demonstrating the learner's conceptual understanding is a powerful way to teach conceptually.

Conceptual understanding **“results from a process in which one consciously organises connections between prior and new knowledge into networks, then further develops or reconfigures those networks.”** (Learning and Teaching, IB)

At MIS, metacognition is explicitly taught.

Teachers equip their students with a variety of learning strategies. This allows students to name, identify and choose the best approaches according to their learning preferences and the nature of the task. Emphasis is put on helping learners develop cognitive self-awareness to enhance learning. At MIS, metacognitive skills are developed through the IB Approaches to Learning (ATL) which enable learners to plan, monitor, and assess their understanding, progress and achievements, to enhance their ability to be self-regulated learners.

At MIS, Teaching is a social-emotional endeavor.

At MIS we recognize the importance of well-being and belonging as pre-requisites for learning. Social and Emotional teaching is the intentional practice of nurturing authentic and positive relationships with learners. It involves creating meaningful interactions with learners to allow them to develop social and collaborative skills.

At MIS, teachers create safe and motivating learning spaces to enhance engagement and exploration. They work to ensure that learners feel valued and empowered to believe that they are capable of growth and success. Teachers focus on attitudes, values, and emotional well-being to strengthen learning outcomes with the understanding that using positive and inclusive language is essential. Play is integrated to provide opportunities for relationship building and a sense of belonging to develop.

Definition of Teaching

Updated: Jan 2025

Version: 1.0

Next update: 2028-29