



Curriculum Policy

Mission Statement

'At Green Valley School we provide a challenging and inspiring education. We encourage students to develop their positive talents and qualities and aim for both academic and human excellence. We believe that Education in Human Values is the very foundation of learning. Becoming global citizens, students can contribute to transforming the world, through intercultural understanding and reinforced positive human attributes. We aim to empower our students to be successful by leading them to become lifelong, inquiring, principled and caring critical thinkers.'

Green Valley School reflects and honours the Mission Statement of the IB, which states:

'The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.'

Background

The Green Valley School (GVS) community is comprised of a combination of Spanish and international families from a range of nationalities. Most of the families are permanently based in Mallorca. The families require the school to offer a high quality and flexible curriculum which enables their children to move to another school if required in the future, with minimum disruption to their education. They also require programmes of study with high academic standards. For this reason students at GVS follow the British curriculum, incorporating some features of international curricula in years 7-11. Students prepare for the International Cambridge IGCSE exams in years 10-11 and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) in years 12-13. Both the IGCSEs and the IBDP fully fit these international requirements and it leads to university entry worldwide.

The IB Diploma also counts with a 'transfer' modality and students can do the second year of their IB Diploma at a different IB school (if this is required due to unexpected circumstances which may arise for our international families).



The GVS Curriculum

Green Valley School has developed a whole school curriculum which aims to:

- draw out the unique potential of all learners of all ages in our community
- foster contextualised learning, to offer opportunities to create, collaborate and construct individual meaning and understanding of the world
- consider learning as an open-ended process that takes hold over time
- be internationally-minded and holistic
- foster inquiry, action and reflection
- develop the personal attributes of the IB Learner Profile

Green Valley School currently offers the British National Curriculum up to Year 11 and students sit IGCSE exams at the end of Year 11. Due to the international nature of the families, students and teachers, Green Valley School took the decision to implement the IB Diploma programme in Years 12 and 13. The school is also implementing some IB related curriculum practices up to Year 11, such as conceptual learning, assessment for learning and criterion based assessment.

The projected curriculum for Year 12 and Year 13 meets all the requirements of the IB with regard to the curriculum structure, the pedagogical methods and the assessment procedures. Green Valley School is committed to ensuring that the DP curriculum on offer will be as broad and balanced as possible, bearing in mind the students' interests and profiles. In order that the needs of all students are provided for, whatever their gifts and talents, we will make provision for academic achievement and spiritual, social, moral, cultural, physical and creative development for our students, allowing them to become lifelong learners.

All students will follow the IB Diploma Programme courses at the start of Year 12 and this will include the possibility of achievement of a bilingual diploma at the end of Y13 for native speakers of languages other than English. It is possible that Diploma Programme students will be given the choice of taking one of their six main subjects as an online course.

Green Valley School has a very experienced DP Programme Coordinator who will oversee the day-to-day development and implementation of the IB DP programme. The Coordinator will ensure that the school is aware of programme changes. He is an experienced workshop leader and is compliant with staff training expectations.

In order to be accepted to the IB DP program at GVS, students will need to gain appropriate results in their IGCSE exams. The student's IGCSE subjects must relate to the ones studied in their DP program. For more information please refer to the GVS admissions policy document.



The school is planning to develop a program for Year 7 - Year 11 students aimed at developing the IB Approaches to Learning and the IB Learner attributes during assemblies and during designated times in the school timetable. The school has also implemented a 'Service as action' program of activities to take place in one of the weekly slots that used to be called 'Workshops' and they are now called 'experiences'. These initiatives and practices are aimed at enriching the school program and preparing students to be able to cope well with the requirements of the IB Diploma Programme.

DP Overview

Students complete six courses, one from each of Groups 1 - 5 (Studies in Language and Literature; Language Acquisition; Individuals & Societies; Experimental Sciences; and Mathematics) plus an additional course either taken from Group 6 (the Arts) or an additional course from groups 1 - 4.

The Environmental Systems and Societies course fulfills the requirements for both Groups 3 and 4, thus allowing for a wider combination of subjects..

In addition to the six subjects, students must successfully complete the three elements of the core: an Extended Essay (EE) of approximately 4000 words, a course in Theory of Knowledge (ToK), and a programme of activities entitled Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS).

Grades are awarded for each of the six subjects on the IB scale of 1(lowest) to 7 (highest) and up to three further points can be awarded for the combined results of ToK and EE.

Documentation of curriculum

At Green Valley School we use digital platforms to document the curriculum (written curriculum). With a changing faculty and student body, this allows for transparency, consistency and continuity. These platforms are chosen such that they support innovation in teaching and learning, are accessible, are structured for consistency while allowing creativity, and are collaborative.

The IB DP written unit planners are recorded and published in our digital platform. Vertical articulation of the curriculum will be recorded in a vertical planner which provides an overview of the curriculum in each subject group. All IB learning materials and lesson outlines (taught curriculum) are also recorded in Google Classroom for student access. Teaching resources for each subject group are organised in a shared subject team Google Drive folder.

The written curriculum will be reviewed at the beginning of each academic year and will include changes suggested from the previous year.



The taught curriculum enables students to follow the flow of lesson outlines throughout a unit. This appears through Google Classroom and Google sites, as relevant to the stage of learning, and following a consistent naming convention as set by the school.

The lesson posts should include:

- Lesson objectives and/or conceptual guiding questions
 - Outline of learning activities
 - All curriculum materials
 - Information about assessment tasks including assessment criteria and task specific rubrics.
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Bibliography

- Further guidance for developing MYP assessed curriculum (May 2014)
- MYP: From Principles into Practice (May 2014)
- Handbook of procedures for the MYP: moderation and monitoring of assessment (2015)
- Guidelines for developing an Assessment Policy - IB Diploma Programme (2010)
- Approaches to Teaching and Learning across the Diploma Programme (August 2014)
- Handbook of Procedures of the Diploma Programme (2016)
- Diploma Programme: From Principle into Practice (January 2014)
- The Diploma Programme: A basis for Practice (January 2009)

Revision of the Policy

The policy was first developed in November 2019 by the DP Coordinator as a draft, followed by the collaborative work of a committee and finalised with the contributions and amendments made by the teaching staff during PD days and over a significant period of time via google comments, between December 2019 and January 2020. The policy was approved by the school management on January 2020.