



# PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

# Introduction - Primary School Curriculum Overview

Primary School Programme refers to the learning offered from Grade One through to Grade Five. Students typically become seven years old during the academic year they join Grade One and eleven years old during their last year in Primary School. The Primary School provides a nurturing and challenging environment that is student centric with regards to contexts and academic learning.

In Primary, we believe that students learn more from how they are taught than from what they are taught. Our pedagogical belief is that learning is most impactful when it is: **holistic, inquiry-based, real, interconnected, collective, challenging, democratic, interpersonal, iterative, safe and lifelong**. These learning principles are designed to create a sustainable environment in which students can grow and nurture their skills and competencies.

By nurturing '**Green School Skills**' in our students we prepare them for their journey as learners for the rest of their lives and as passionate friends of the environment. Students learn these skills through every part of our program, including projects and lessons that align with the Green School purpose of

**'A Community of Learners Making *Our* World Sustainable'**

# Green School Skills



**Think Creatively**  
Be original. Be imaginative



**Activate**  
Feel empowered & empower others.  
Take Action. Make a difference.



**Adapt**  
Bend like bamboo



**Think Critically**  
Dig deeper. Ask why.  
Make connections.



**Be Aware**  
Look within. Figure yourself out.



**Collaborate**  
Confident alone. Stronger together.  
Find your way.



**Think in Systems**  
Step back and see the whole picture



**Communicate**  
Process, organize, &  
coherently express ideas



**Solve Problems**  
Figure it out. Go for it.

Primary teachers oversee students' learning programs and have responsibility for their pastoral care. They also aim to nurture the all important home-school relationship. Specialist teachers of drama, art, music, health and well being, Indonesian and environmental studies (Green Studies) extend the program and honour our belief in the importance nurturing the multiple intelligences of different minds. A learning support team, counsellor, and English language learning teacher support the students and faculty.

# Three Frames of Learning

The pedagogy used in Green School is the Three Frames of Learning. This defines how we deliver the content of our courses in the classroom. This scaffold is designed to provide a consistent, relevant, well-rounded and comprehensive learning experience. The three frames of learning are:

1. Thematic Frame
2. Proficiency Frame
3. Experiential Frame

## Thematic

This frame is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where units are focused on a particular theme. Thematic units inspire students through relevant concepts and real-world experiences. The purpose is for students to see how the world and its beauty, issues, big questions and more deeply interconnected. Thematic lessons are holistic in that they engage multiple styles of intelligence and learning. Thematics are designed to match teaching practice with human development and growth. These themes also integrate in-depth, development appropriate development in our Green School Skills (see above.)



In Primary, students have thematic lessons three times per week for two hours per lesson. While literacy and numeracy are incorporated into thematic lessons, subjects emphasized are Science, Social Studies, Cultural Awareness and Social/Emotional Growth. Each grade coordinates their thematic lessons to facilitate collaboration. Specialist teachers in music, art, PE, drama, dance and Green Studies make contributions to thematic units in a shared-teaching atmosphere. For example, primary students may examine the theme of the hero through lessons on our everyday community heroes (Ibu Kadek!), traditional hero mythology and science lessons on the velocity of superheroes (complete with kinesthetic experiments!).

## Proficiency

The Proficiency frame focuses on core, discrete intellectual competencies that require repetition to reach proficiency, namely in Literacy and Math. Green School has developed its own curriculum in literacy and math that breaks away from grade groups but still follows the natural sequence of skill development for student success. Students know their skills and how to advance them to the next level. Attention to detail for individual learners maximises success in this frame.

In primary, students have proficiency lessons each day at school. Faculty teams work together to provide engaging proficiency lessons that are student-centered and differentiated to meet student needs. Green School has developed literacy and maths curriculum overviews and a scope and sequence designed to fit with Green School's unique vision, mission and educational philosophy. This scope and sequence can also be matched to other curricula around the world and understood by educators broadly.

## Experiential

Experiential learning at Green School is the “hands-on getting dirty” part of Green School. Whether it means working in the school gardens, creating art, building out of bamboo, learning first aid, or carrying out work experience, you will find students exploring and problem solving around the campus and around Bali. Students in every Learning Neighbourhood engage in real-world practical projects that deepen their understanding of their physical place in the world.

In primary, experiential learning occupies at least two hours each day. Practical subject areas are offered weekly: Green Projects, Physical Education, Drama, Art and Music. Green Studies lessons are combined with Entrepreneurial learning in ‘Green Projects’ time. These sessions link students to school initiatives and real-world enterprises and take advantage of hands-on learning opportunities that arise on or off campus, i.e. the arrival of one of our Indonesian partner schools, an inspiring artistic group or the installation of a power generator. In these practical lessons, students engage real-world workers, technologists, and entrepreneurs with increasing depth as they progress through the Primary Program.

## Dig Deeper & Ask Why

To further emphasize student-guided learning in the primary program, the ‘Dig Deeper’ and ‘Ask Why’ hours have been integrated into the weekly timetable (see below). These times are set aside for students to think creatively about any questions they may have that could guide learning, and to investigate or work more on projects or tasks that interest them. By integrating these times directly into the primary timetable, we ensure that students’ questions and interests are valued, and that students are provided the opportunities to pursue their passions. At specific intervals throughout the year, these times will be used to implement the Jalan Jalan (go walkabout) experiential exploration and outdoor education opportunities that you also see in Middle and High School.

## Sample Primary School Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:15-8:40	Community! Bahasa Indonesia	Community! Bahasa Indonesia	Primary Assembly	Community! Bahasa Indonesia	Community! Bahasa Indonesia
Thematic Frame P1 8:40-9:35 P2 9:35-10:30	Thematic programme	Physical Education  Visual Art	Thematic programme	Green Studies Project  Indonesian Language & Culture	Thematic programme
Break 10:30-10:45					
Proficiency Frame P3 10:45- 11:40 P4 11:40- 12:35	English Literacy	English Literacy	English Literacy	English Literacy	English Literacy
	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy
Lunch 12:35-1:15					
Experiential Frame P5 1:15-2:10 P6 2:10-3:05	Music	Ask Why? Student lead the way	Drama	Sport	Dig Deeper
	Reading (Dig Deeper)	Resource Labs (Library and ICT)	Green Studies Projects	Wellbeing	Clean Up  Assembly
3:05-3:15	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up	
3:15 Pick Up Time					



## Primary School Community

We believe in the importance of students not only having a sense of belonging in their class community, but also belonging to a wider community of learners. This sense of belonging is nurtured in many ways. Our weekly primary assembly allows students from across the grade levels to share their learning experiences, to welcome newcomers and say farewell to those who are leaving, and to join together in song and dance. Our whole Primary School also unites for celebration days and sports events. Individual classes from the different grade-levels join together for learning and peer-teaching experiences. In addition to the Primary School curriculum, Green School offers important events, celebrations, festivals, and style that contribute to our community. Here are some of the elements:

### Cultural Festivals

Each year every grade in the Primary School actively participates in cultural celebrations from around the globe with a special focus on Balinese festivals including a monthly full-moon ceremony. Also included are Chinese New Year, Nyepi (Balinese New Year), Galungan, rice harvest festivals, Halloween, Saraswati Day (celebration of books, arts and learning), and other festivals specific to nationalities attending the school.

## Environmental Action

Environmental Action In Green School education deeply penetrates the entire operation; it is part of the air we breathe and the ground we walk on, at every turn. In short, 'sustainability' components attach to thematic teaching in all subject areas. At the primary level, Green Studies and all education for sustainability is designed to foster 'ecophilia' or a deep love and respect for the environment.

Our environmental educators are viewed as researchers and teacher educators who have the important role of increasing the green wisdom of the entire staff. Environmental sustainability, deep respect for the earth, and intentional eco-harmony are not subjects in the Green School curriculum—they are inevitable consequences of the way we live. Each class also has a garden of vegetables and flowers that they tend. Composting, worm farms, water conservation, connections to our campus animals (chickens, pigs, Bali starlings and more), life cycles and other topics relevant to organic gardening and permaculture are discussed and become part of the experiential learning process. In summary, Green School's entire approach is sustainable. The school offers education where environmental responsibility is an inevitable consequence of its humane schooling vision.

## Involvement with Organisations in the Community

All Primary School classes have involvement with charitable organisations, both global and in the local community. Examples of affiliation and support for these charities are: Yayasan Senyum (Smile Shop), Dr. Ating Foundation and Jane Goodall's Root and Shoots, Bali Animal Welfare Association (BAWA), Kul Kul Farm, Kul Kul Connection and Kembali.

## Mindfulness

The social, emotional and behavioural skills of mindfulness play an integral role in self development. Mindfulness offers strategies for helping students to focus their attention, improve self-regulation skills, build resilience and develop a positive mind-set whilst at school and in life. Mindfulness as a practice in class and school wide is a feature of each day.

## Wellbeing and Physical Education

Kindness toward and taking care of the self, others and the environment around us are key features of our wellbeing and physical education. In Primary, a weekly lesson focuses on key topics areas in well being, which are planned carefully to align with the social development levels of the children which align along grade groups. Students are also able to participate in balance, strength, competitive and cooperative games and activities weekly through the physical education and sports lessons as well as during coordinated lunch and afterschool activities.

# IRESPECT Values

As a school we subscribe to a set of values - I RESPECT. These are the values of Integrity, Responsibility, Equality, Sustainability, Peace, Empathy, Community, and Trust. At all times we should be teaching and modeling these values and supporting our students in doing the same. It is our expectation that all teachers honour and recognize these values in our students at all times with on-going dialogue, discussions, and reinforcement.

**Integrity** – being honest and ethical with thoughts and actions.

**Responsibility** – being accountable for thoughts, actions and deeds.

**Empathy** – understanding and caring for the feelings of others.

**Sustainability** – ensuring that your own body and surroundings are cared for so they are clean and healthy for as long as possible.

**Peace** – contributing to a state of harmony.

**Equality** - respecting everyone as an equal and as an individual.

**Community** – being part of a group seeking common goals and taking care of each other.

**Trust** - building and maintaining strong relationships with each other, the school and the environment.





For more information, please visit us at:  
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Green School Bali

