

YEW CHUNG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT POLICY

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

I. Introduction:

Yew Chung International School is committed to the development of an exemplary system-wide curriculum that is student-centered and results in quality and meaningful learning. The curriculum reflects the YCIS Philosophy & Objectives; is international, holistic, and rigorous; and is accessible to all students admitted to the school.

YCIS offers an international bilingual education, based on the frameworks of the National Curriculum in England, the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP), through the following:

- Early Childhood Education Programme: K2-K4
- Primary Education: Years 1-6
- Secondary Education: Years 7-13

The YCIS Curriculum Framework includes specific Learning Outcomes for each subject, designating what students will learn and be able to do (content, skills, understandings, and concepts) at each year level. All YCIS schools shall align their school-based curriculum with the YCIS Curriculum Framework, including unit plans, curriculum maps, lesson plans, assessments, materials and resources.

Instructional strategies and practices supporting alignment of the *written, taught, and learned* curriculum shall be grounded in the YCIS Philosophy & Objectives and current research and best practices in education, and shall provide enhanced learning opportunities for all students. The curriculum design for each subject shall be based on rigorous learning outcomes, and shall include varied and differentiated assessment tasks that measure learning and progress.

II. Belief Statements:

The overarching YCIS Curriculum Framework is grounded in commonly held beliefs about the role of curriculum in the educational process. We believe that:

- Curriculum development is a collaborative process that involves teachers and stakeholders representing all schools and year levels.
- The curriculum consists of common learning outcomes that guide teacher decisions about planning instruction and assessing student learning.
- The curriculum encompasses an evolving knowledge base, thinking processes, concepts and understandings, skills and learning attributes integrated across all disciplines.
- The curriculum affords creative teaching and meaningful learning by being accessible to all students and manageable for all teachers.
- The curriculum shall be responsive to social and technological changes through a systematic and comprehensive curriculum review process.

- Students progress through the curriculum at different rates without meeting artificial barriers to education defined by learning, cultural, language, or gender differences.
- Reports of student progress on learning objectives shall match the philosophical base of the curriculum.
- The school is accountable for providing adequate time and resources for implementing the written curriculum; teachers are responsible for effectively teaching the curriculum; students are responsible for enhanced learning; and parents are responsible for supporting their children's learning.

III. Purpose:

The purpose of the YCIS Curriculum Framework is to ensure that all students are afforded opportunities to fulfill their academic potential, as well as reach their optimal spiritual, social, cultural, physical and creative development. The YCIS curriculum provides opportunities for students to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible global citizens, and caring contributors.

The purpose of this guideline is to:

- Ensure that students in all YCIS schools are provided with high quality learning experiences that lead to consistently high levels of learning.
- Guide what students do, what teachers do, and what YCIS as an organisation does to create a high quality, effective and well-managed learning environment.
- Provide a common language and understanding of quality teaching within a personalised learning framework for all students.

IV. YCIS Curriculum Framework:

The YCIS Curriculum Framework defines the essential skills, concepts, understandings, and knowledge for each subject; and is based on the YCIS Philosophy & Objectives and the frameworks of the National Curriculum in England (Years 1-9), the International General Certificate of International Education (IGCSE Years 10-11), and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP Years 12-13).

The YCIS Curriculum Framework:

- Ensures a continuous and collaborative curriculum review process, based on an established 3-year in-depth review and revision cycle.
- Builds upon the prior learning and educational experiences of students.
- Ensures high quality differentiated teaching and learning that incorporates multiple intelligences, student needs, strengths, weaknesses, and learning styles.
- Provides relevant and appropriate breadth and depth across all curricular areas, based on research and best practice.
- Promotes collaborative and comprehensive planning, aimed toward continuous improvement in teaching and learning.
- Includes measures for vertical and horizontal alignment across all subject areas and year levels to ensure consistency and promote cross-curricular links.

The YCIS Curriculum Framework encompasses the following competencies:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Creative and critical thinking
- Communication and technology
- Research and problem solving
- Global and cultural awareness
- Character development

The YCIS Curriculum Framework includes the following subject areas:

- English Language & Literature
- Chinese Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Creative and Performing Arts
- Information & Design Technology
- Physical, Health, and Character Education

V. Curriculum Development, Review, and Revision:

Curriculum development and review is based on a cyclical process through which each subject area is reviewed and revised every three years. The key goals of the continuous cyclical process are to:

- Provide regular, rigorous, and methodical revision of all subject areas of the curriculum.
- Develop and maintain thorough and consistent curriculum documentation that provides a intentional framework for instructional planning.
- Establish developmental continuity of expectations for students from year to year.
- Ensure alignment of instructional and assessment practices with high academic standards and the YCIS Philosophy & Objectives.
- Identify and revise gaps and redundancies in the curriculum.
- Ensure that essential human and financial resources are applied to continuous curriculum development, without creating an undue burden in any one year.
- Provide a structure for ensuring that in every subject area, the learning outcomes, scope and sequence, and unit plans are current and aligned; and reflect the written, taught, assessed, and learned curriculum.
- Ensure that sufficient instructional time is afforded for each subject/course, based on established YCIS priorities, thus guaranteeing that the YCIS Curriculum Framework is viable in the school's timetable.

YCIS 3-Year Curriculum Review Cycle

