



INSPIRING FUTURES

ESF International Kindergartens and Primary Schools

Our vision is for every student to be the best that they can be





The English Schools Foundation (ESF) is the largest English-medium international school organisation in Hong Kong with 22 schools and a comprehensive programme of extra-curricular activities.

Our mission is to inspire creativity and nurture global citizens and leaders of the future. We do this by creating joyful learning environments, led by a community of exceptional teachers who bring out the best in every child through a personalised approach to learning and by inspiring curious minds.

All of our five ESF International Kindergartens, nine primary schools and the two all-through schools are authorised **International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools**. To know more about the IB programmes, please visit: www.ibo.org



Our people make the difference

ESF attracts exceptional teachers from all over the world. We pride ourselves on the standards we set for teaching and learning, and our people make all the difference. Our teachers and school leaders are highly qualified and experienced in international education.

Each of our schools is led by skilled and experienced leadership teams, who work with teachers to plan and customise the curriculum.

Teachers are supported by **educational assistants**, many of whom have recognised certificates in education. **Mandarin Chinese lessons** are delivered by native speakers with Chinese teaching qualifications.



World-class learning environments

Our schools are designed to cater for the learning needs of young learners with age appropriate education and technology resources. There are classrooms, libraries, multi-media rooms, music rooms, playgrounds, gyms and other facilities which are furnished and equipped to the highest standards. Some primary schools have roof-top gardens or outdoor areas for green projects or activities. In the kindergartens, children have ample opportunities to develop their gross motor skills in the indoor and outdoor play areas.



Learning at ESF schools

ESF kindergartens and primary schools offer an **English-medium education** for students aged 3 to 11 years. We educate children from a diverse range of backgrounds, making our schools truly international.

ESF schools have access to a wealth of resources. Our curriculum, the **International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP)** encourages learning through inquiry and provides opportunities to take risks and be creative.

We provide an educationally caring, supportive and enriching environment to nurture students' abilities and talents. Our student-centred programme is designed to meet the needs of young learners, developing each child's cognitive, social and emotional skills. In meeting these needs we provide each student with the agency to be active participants in their own learning.

As part of the Hong Kong community, we place priority on the learning of Chinese language and culture. Chinese is taught as an additional language in all ESF kindergartens and primary schools.

Support for individual needs

We understand that young learners are unique and make progress at different rates and in different ways. Students are offered a variety of learning opportunities. Our teachers are very experienced in planning the curriculum to cater to children's different learning needs. Our special educational needs staff works closely with class teachers to support the inclusion of all students in our schools.

Learning in the Early Years

We value early years education as essential for a child's development and as a foundation for lifelong learning. Through inquiry-based learning and play, we encourage children's natural curiosity, creativity and develop their personal and social skills. The aim is to inspire our early learners with the confidence and skills to reach their potential and be the best they can be.

Our indoor and outdoor learning environments are thoughtfully designed, highly interactive and richly resourced. Children in the early years are encouraged to learn through engaging hands-on experiences designed to challenge their thinking and promote independence.

We place high importance on developing relationships with our children and families in our early years provision.





ESF Curriculum - International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

The most significant and distinctive feature of the IB Primary Years Programme is the six transdisciplinary themes. These themes are supported by knowledge, concept and skills from the traditional subject areas but utilise them in ways beyond individual subject areas to support the transdisciplinary model of teaching and learning.

The six transdisciplinary themes are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organise ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Students inquire into, and learn about, these globally significant issues in the context of **units of inquiry**, each of these addresses a **central idea** relevant to a particular transdisciplinary theme. These units collectively constitute the school's **programme of inquiry**.



The IB Learner Profile

At the heart of our curriculum is the Learner Profile. This is a long-term, holistic vision of education that underpins our work and puts the student at the centre of everything we do. Our schools offer a curriculum which provides students with opportunities to:

- **inquire** - develop natural and systematic curiosity, by developing skills of inquiry;
- **think** - be creative, critical and reflective thinkers who are able to apply their thinking to new situations;
- **communicate** - be effective communicators, conversant and creative with technologies;
- **take risks** - be prepared to experiment and take calculated risks, to explore new ideas both independently and in collaboration with others;
- **know** - become more knowledgeable, and be able to explore and evaluate ideas and issues;
- **care** - be caring, with respect and empathy for diversity in the world;
- **be open-minded** - be open-minded, valuing the language, culture and beliefs of others;
- **be balanced** - be well balanced individuals, resilient in the face of difficulties;
- **reflect** - be reflective learners, developing an awareness of their own strengths and areas that need improving; and
- **be principled** - develop underlying principles that reflect the values of common humanity, community and respect of individuality.



The five essential elements

The curriculum incorporates five essential elements — **knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action**.

Students are given the opportunity to:

- gain **knowledge** that is relevant and of global significance – for all students in all cultures;
- develop an understanding of **concepts**, which allows them to make connections throughout their learning;
- acquire transdisciplinary and disciplinary **skills**;
- develop **attitudes** that will lead to international-mindedness; and
- take **action** as a consequence of their learning.

Schools work with the five elements to construct a rigorous and challenging curriculum that is engaging, relevant and significant for learners in the 3 to 11 age range. The curriculum organises learning across subject areas.

How does learning take place?

The PYP provides structured inquiry which engages students actively in their own learning.

The programme supports students' efforts to construct meaning from the world around them by:

- drawing on their prior knowledge;
- providing provocation through new experiences; and
- providing opportunities for reflection and consolidation.

This approach respects students' developing ideas about how the world works. It encourages them to question, consider and refine their understanding of the social and natural world.

Students learn how to learn, helping them to interact effectively with the learning environments they encounter and encouraging them to value learning as an essential and integral part of their everyday lives.

Students will also learn six subjects in PYP: mathematics, languages, social sciences, science, arts and personal and social and physical education.





How are students assessed?

We believe that assessment is integral to all teaching and learning. Parents are well informed about their child's progress. Teachers will be able to identify students' needs and plan the next stage of learning. They prepare written reports on each child and parent conferences are scheduled during the year.

Each child has a portfolio which reflects their learning journey. Teachers use a wide range of assessment strategies to collect information on each of the elements represented in the curriculum: the understanding of concepts, the acquisition of knowledge, the mastering of skills, the development of positive attitudes and the ability to take responsible action.

Year 6 students carry out an extended, in-depth, collaborative project known as the **PYP Exhibition**. This involves students working collaboratively to conduct an in-depth inquiry into real-life issues or problems. Students share their understanding of the five essential elements of the PYP with the whole school community. The PYP Exhibition provides an opportunity for teachers to assess students' learning across the five essential elements.





Chinese in ESF kindergartens and primary schools

Chinese is a mandatory core subject in ESF kindergartens and primary schools. A **three-pathway programme** is in place in primary schools which caters for students who learn Chinese as a foreign, second or near native language. Each pathway is different in the nature of learning, but each provides opportunities for students to learn at an appropriate pace whilst being appropriately challenging. Central to our teaching philosophy is empowering students to learn through a fruitful and enjoyable learning experiences. The four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing are taught in all three pathways. The Chinese programme maximises the opportunities for students to reach a level that would help them to live and work in a Chinese speaking community. The programme is taught in Putonghua.

Chinese culture is a prominent element in the curriculum and an indispensable part in units of inquiry of the PYP. Students learn about Chinese people, their history and society in daily lessons and in a wide range of specially designed activities. Those conducted locally and in the mainland supplement classroom learning with authentic rich experiences.

In Year 6, all students complete a transitional assessment to ensure their placement in secondary school will best benefit their future study of Chinese.

Joining our schools

Who can apply?

ESF schools are non-selective. The main criterion for entry is the readiness of a child to benefit from an English-medium education.

Year groups are formed on the basis of students' ages. Students usually start **K1** in the calendar year when they turn **3 years old**, and **Year 1** in the year they turn **5**. Students entering schools at later years will, where places are available, be placed in the year group appropriate to their age.



NEW Through-train at ESF from K1 to Year 13

ESF is now moving to a through-train system. Students joining K1 from **August 2020** will be guaranteed a place at an ESF primary and then secondary school without the need for further interviews, if they can benefit from a mainstream education. For more details, please visit: www.esf.edu.hk/esf-admissions/

Applying for a place at an ESF kindergarten

Applications to K1 are invited from **1 to 30 September** of the year prior to admission. **Applications for K2** or for K1 outside the September admissions period can be made at any time. These applications will be added to our waiting list in accordance with their priority and date of application.

All applications should be submitted online and please follow the procedures detailed on our website: www.esf.edu.hk/kindergartens-policy/.





Applying for a place at an ESF primary school

Each ESF primary school has a designated catchment area. Students will be offered a place in their catchment ESF school, determined by their Hong Kong residential address. Visit: www.esf.edu.hk/esf-zones for details. ESF International Kindergartens and two ESF all-through schools (Discovery College and Renaissance College) remain zone free.

Central application to **Year 1** is open in **September** of the year before the child starts school. Late applications for Year 1 received after the end of September will be allocated a place on the waiting list in accordance with their priority and date of application.

Application to enter **other year groups** can be made at any time during the year. If there are no vacancies, applicants will be added to the waiting list of the school of zone.

Transition to ESF secondary schools

All Year 6 students enrolled in an ESF primary school are guaranteed a place in Year 7 in an ESF secondary school. A student joining in Year 6 on or after August to 1 December is guaranteed an ESF secondary school place but not necessarily at the school of zone (conditions for period of commitment will apply).

How to apply?

All applications are submitted via ESF's online admissions system. Please refer to the instructions on the ESF website before you start: <http://www.esf.edu.hk/esf-admissions>

Where parents are interested in places in Jockey Club Sarah Roe School or in learning support classes, parents should refer to: www.esf.edu.hk/SEN/Admissions

Gain priority for interview

Corporate and Individual Nomination Rights provide a fast-track route for children into ESF schools, providing they meet the entry requirements. For details, please refer to: www.esf.edu.hk/esf-nomination-rights

ESF is the largest English-medium international school organisation in Hong Kong.

ESF Kindergartens

ESF Abacus International Kindergarten

1A Mang Kung Uk Road, Clearwater Bay, N.T.
T: +852 2719 5712
E: kinder@abacus.edu.hk
www.abacus.edu.hk

ESF Hillside International Kindergarten

43B Stubbs Road, Hong Kong
T: +852 2540 0066
E: kinder@hs.esf.org.hk
www.hillside.edu.hk

ESF Tsing Yi International Kindergarten

Maritime Square, 33 Tsing King Road, Tsing Yi, N.T.
T: +852 2436 3355
E: kinder@ty.esf.org.hk
www.tyk.edu.hk

ESF Tung Chung International Kindergarten

1/F, Commercial Accommodation, The Visionary,
1 Ying Hong Street, Tung Chung, Lantau, N.T.
T: +852 3742 3500
E: kinder@tc.esf.org.hk
www.tck.edu.hk

ESF Wu Kai Sha International Kindergarten

Level 1, Lake Silver Tower, 599 Sai Sha Road,
Ma On Shan, N.T.
T: +852 2435 5291
E: kinder@wksk.edu.hk
www.wksk.edu.hk

All-through Schools

Discovery College

38 Siena Avenue, Discovery Bay, Lantau Island, N.T.
T: +852 3969 1000
E: office@discovery.edu.hk
www.discovery.edu.hk

Renaissance College

5 Hang Ming Street, Ma On Shan, N.T.
T: +852 3556 3556
E: admissions@rchk.edu.hk
www.rchk.edu.hk

Jockey Club Sarah Roe School (Special School)

2B Tin Kwong Road, Homantin, Kowloon
T: +852 2761 9893
E: info@jcsrs.esf.edu.hk
www.jcsrs.edu.hk

English Schools Foundation

25/F • 1063 King's Road • Quarry Bay • Hong Kong
Tel +852 2574 2351 • Fax +852 2818 5690
www.esf.edu.hk
info@esfcentre.edu.hk

Connect with us on:



ESF Primary Schools

Beacon Hill School

23 Ede Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon
T: +852 2336 5221
E: bhs@bhs.edu.hk
www.beaconhill.edu.hk

Bradbury School

43C Stubbs Road, Hong Kong
T: +852 2574 8249
E: enquiries@bradbury.edu.hk
www.bradbury.edu.hk

Clearwater Bay School

DD 229, Lot 235, Clearwater Bay Road, N.T.
T: +852 2358 3221
E: info@cwbs.edu.hk
www.cwbs.edu.hk

Glenealy School

7 Hornsey Road, Mid Levels, Hong Kong
T: +852 2522 1919
E: enquiry@glenealy.edu.hk
www.glenealy.edu.hk

Kennedy School

19 Sha Wan Drive, Pokfulam, Hong Kong
T: +852 2855 0711
E: admissions@kennedy.edu.hk
www.kennedy.edu.hk

Kowloon Junior School

20 Perth Street, Kowloon
T: +852 3765 8700
E: office@kjs.edu.hk
www.kjs.edu.hk

Peak School

20 Plunketts Road, The Peak, Hong Kong
T: +852 2849 7211
E: office@peakschool.net
www.ps.edu.hk

Quarry Bay School

6 Hau Yuen Path, Braemar Hill, Hong Kong
T: +852 2566 4242
E: office@qbs.edu.hk
www.qbs.edu.hk

Sha Tin Junior School

3A Lai Wo Lane, Fo Tan, Sha Tin, N.T.
T: +852 2692 2721
E: info@sjs.edu.hk
www.sjs.edu.hk



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