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**Welcome to
International
School of Ticino.**

We don't know
what the future
holds for our
students, but we
know it will be
extraordinary.

The value to be part of the International Schools Group

The International Schools Group, is the largest provider of quality international education in Italy, characterised above all by the extent to which its philosophy and approach is perfectly aligned with that of the **International Baccalaureate®**.

Alongside the use of English as the language of tuition for **students from 2 - 3 to 18 years of age**, all of our schools have an excellent track record in using group dynamics, innovative teaching techniques and tools that are updated continuously in a unique and stimulating educational context.

From Early Years through to High School, all these International Schools offer International Baccalaureate® programmes adopted by over **4500 schools in 150 countries**. (www.ibo.org). We are proud to be able to call ourselves IB continuum schools as every one of our schools is officially authorised by the IB (or is in the final candidate phase preceding authorisation) to exclusively offer its programmes at every level:

- **Primary Years Programme (PYP)**
- **Middle Years Programme (MYP)**
- **IB Diploma Programme (DP)**

In this way all our schools offer what is a **truly international curriculum**, widely considered to be the most forward-thinking and avant-garde educational model in the world, aimed at stimulating inquiry, critical thinking and international-mindedness.



Since September 2016, the group has been a member of Inspired.

A definitive statement of excellence in private education, Inspired, founded by Nadim M. Nsouli, is a leading international group of **33 premium schools educating 20.000 students on four continents**, designed to inspire students to achieve their maximum potential in a nurturing, progressive academic environment.

Inspired offers a fresh contemporary approach to education by re-evaluating traditional teaching methods, curricula and creating a more dynamic, relevant and powerful model reflecting current attitudes.

Inspired schools nurture the unique individuality, talent and self assurance of each student, equipping them to take on the world with the skills and confidence to ensure success.

(www.inspirededu.co.uk)



Why choose International School?

High Standards, International Values and Active Citizenship

These core values are embedded in our mission statement and experienced every day by students of all ages, coordinated by an outstanding team of educational leaders and implemented by our **highly skilled and dedicated professional staff**. Learning at our International School is exciting and engaging, as students strive for excellence in a climate that is caring and responsive to their personal needs and goals.



Five key reasons to set your child on course for the future

1> International perspectives and values

Learning at the International School is an international experience. It leads to a perception of the world that merges understanding of our global context with the development of **skills and attitudes** that young people require **to participate fully in the world of tomorrow**, both as national and global citizens. The school community extends to parents and staff and to our network of partners across Switzerland, Italy and throughout the world. We encourage our students to feel **part of a dynamic enterprise, committed to development and cultural interaction.**



2> Top class facilities for successful schools in the heart of their community

Each school is uniquely designed and developed in response to its environment and location. Varying in size mainly between 130 and 1200 students, our schools provide an **excellent education** in every case **for both local and international students** in each community.

All campuses are extremely attractive, functional and designed around students' needs and are equipped with:

- **libraries**
- **professional science laboratories**
- **creative arts centers**
- **music studios**
- **a wide range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities**

We are committed to incorporating technology to support our educational vision and enable students to integrate the use of personal mobile devices to assist learning. At every stage of education we stress the importance of **balance between traditional and contemporary skills** to ensure that young learners are fully equipped to face future challenges.



Specialist and well resourced arts studios and science laboratories



Bright classroom, eco-friendly design

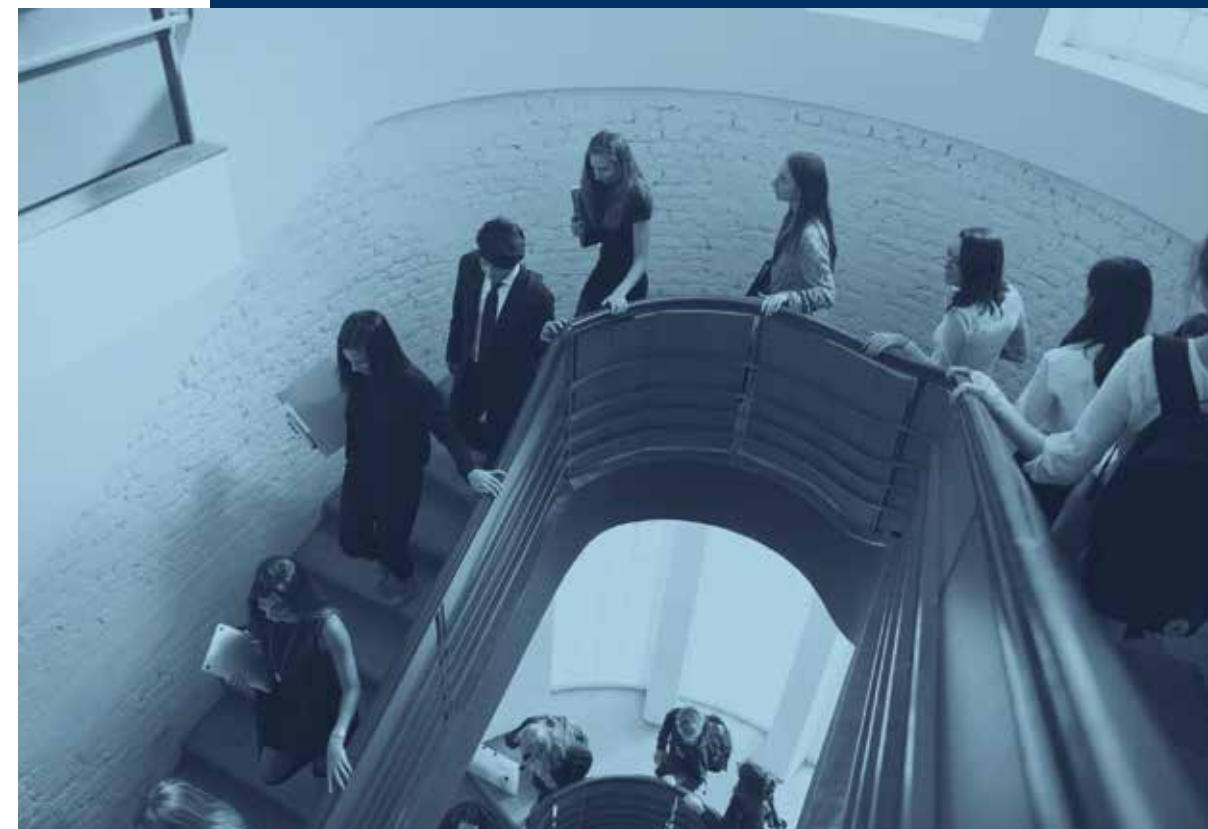


Library and learning centre



Outdoor playgrounds and sports facilities





3 The IB Curriculum Framework



The International Schools Group was the first group in Italy to be authorised by the International Baccalaureate to **offer all three of its curriculum programmes**:

- Primary Years Program (PYP)
- Middle Years Programme (MYP)
- Diploma Programme (DP)

Its programmes are internationally recognised for their quality and the innovative approaches. There is a high value placed on learning through inquiry, which engages students to participate actively in the learning process and provides students with the most challenging and rewarding experiences available in schools today.

4 Outstanding results and a proven track record

In the 30 years since we introduced the International Baccalaureate as a Group, our results have been consistently outstanding. All graduates have an **excellent record of academic success** and go on the world's most renowned universities to study in a wide range of faculties and specialisations. The IB was created for internationally mobile citizens and is recognised worldwide, allowing stu-

dents an enviable breadth of choices for their future studies and ensuring global opportunities for their future professions.

Alongside our international programme, 6 year resident students follow mother-tongue courses that prepare them for **Piano di studio della scuola dell'obbligo ticinese** expectations with lessons that are fully integrated into the IB Curriculum.



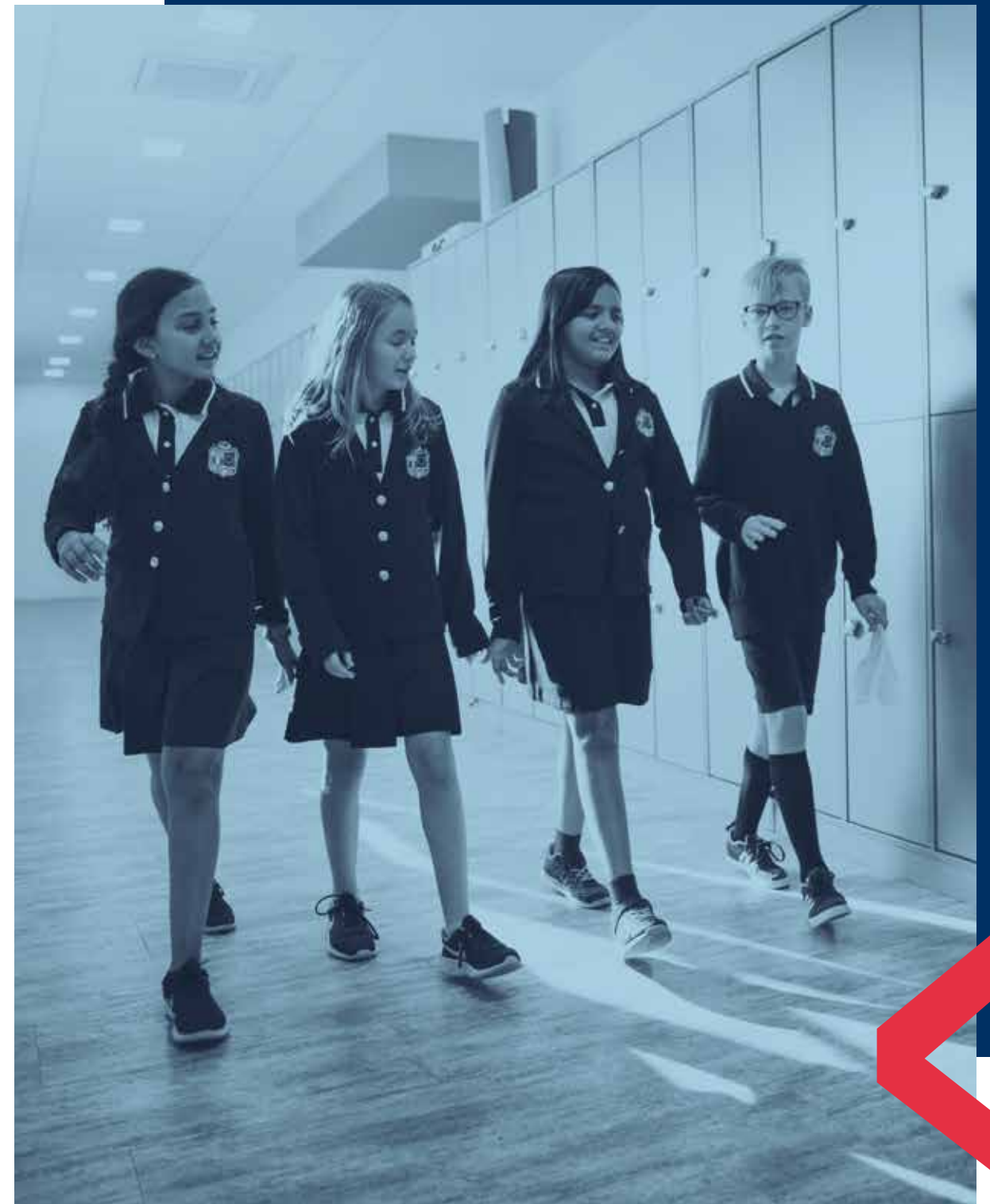
LATIN AMERICA - 2 SCHOOL
EUROPE - 12 SCHOOLS + 2 ELS

AFRICA - 13 SCHOOLS
AUSTRALIA - 3ELS

5 Member of Inspired, a leading international group of 33 schools.

Inspired sets a new standard in premium private education with hand-picked teachers and a dedication to excellence that permeates every aspect of each school. **Integrating innovative, challenging and enriching academic, performing arts and**

sports programmes, Inspired's students leave with outstanding results, a love of learning, confidence and a firm value system that prepares them to embrace the challenges life throws at them in their future endeavours.





School structure

IB Programme

Sistema Italiano

Primary Years Programme		
Early Years Prekindergarden Kindergarden Transition Grade 1	2 years old 3 years old 4 years old 5 years old	Scuola d'infanzia
Elementary School Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6	6 years old 7 years old 8 years old 9 years old 10 years old	Scuola Primaria
Middle Years Programme		
Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11	11 years old 12 years old 13 years old 14 years old 15 years old	Scuola Secondaria di 1° grado Scuola Secondaria di 2° grado
Diploma Programme		
Grade 12 Grade 13	16 years old 17 years old	



Early Years



Curriculum

As an integral **part of the IB Primary Years Programme** our Early Years curriculum takes a trans-disciplinary inquiry approach to learning and is inspired by the philosophy and practice of the world renowned **Italian Reggio Approach**. Children are given time to explore concepts and construct their theories together with teachers in **small groups**:

- elaborating their understanding through all **expressive, creative, verbal and mathematical languages**
- creating **natural connections between mathematics, science, digital technology and the expressive arts**
- making a **full immersion in an English language context**

The flexibility in thinking involved encourages not only the development of proficient language skills but also the creative and lateral thinking skills necessary for success in the 21st century.

Children are exposed to the **English language** in its written form throughout the Early Years setting within imaginative and **symbolic play contexts and teacher led activities**. As the child progresses through the Early Years setting this is supported and developed directly by the teacher to ensure the gradual acquisition of literacy skills needed as they move onto primary school.



Identity

Our youngest children are a fundamental part of our community who make a significant contribution to the educational experience of our schools. The identity of our Early Years Departments is constructed around the **three pillars of children, parents and teachers**. We consider the child to be a bearer of rights who is a collaborative protagonist of their own learning experience and who must be supported by the teaching staff to fulfil their potential and prepare them for the rigours of an international primary education and beyond. As a group of international schools our **ethos** is one of **tolerance, respect and open mindedness** and we believe that diversity enriches our community.



Environment

Children learn by building relationships with their surrounding environment. The carefully planned and stimulating physical environment of our Early Years settings reflects this both inside and out. The **spaces are organised to support and enrich the children's learning experience**. Children are given time and space to explore natural and open ended materials, that are carefully chosen with the teachers and support the **development of inquiry projects**. Our gardens stimulate children's curiosity about the natural world.

Primary School and the IB Primary Years Programme



Action

The **Primary Years Programme (PYP)** is a trans-disciplinary curriculum **framework with an inquiry approach to conceptual learning and teaching**. It is taught in over 100 countries of the world. The learner, and the learning community, is at the centre of learning and teaching. Through the embodiment of the attributes of the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile the **programme strives to build cultural understanding and internationally minded young people**.

Throughout an academic year, **student inquiry is guided by conceptual ideas that are connected to six transdisciplinary themes of global significance**. Bridges between subject disciplines are fostered and developed to build transferable knowledge, understanding and skills. The PYP has **five Essential Elements** which are outlined below.

We encourage the children to see their **learning as valuable experiences** that, as well as forming their intellectual development, should guide how they act. Therefore, **learning should be demonstrated by positive action and service**. The children are encouraged to reflect, choose wisely and to act responsibly with their peers, school staff and in the wider community. All children also have the opportunity to contribute to the student council.



Attitudes

Alongside the Learner Profile, PYP teachers aim to **foster a set of attitudes** in our children, **which are discussed, modelled and reflected upon through the units of inquiry**. These twelve attitudes help towards students being life-long learners on the global stage.





Key Concepts

Thinking conceptually through a unit of inquiry helps the children to view topics and issues through various lenses. **The PYP is built around eight key concepts which are used across all subject areas.**

These concepts are:

Form: What does it look like?

Function: How does it work?

Causation: Why is it this way?

Change: How does it change over time?

Connection: How is it connected to other things?

Perspective: What are the points of view?

Responsibility: What is our responsibility?

Reflection: How do we know?



Knowledge

What we teach is based on the themes of the PYP, current research and the needs of our school community. At the beginning of each unit parents receive a **Unit Newsletter which outlines the objectives for the unit** and how parents can support their child to develop their understanding. There are clear assessment tools and strategies and standards which align with those outlined by the IB.



Skills

As well as learning specific subjects skills, there are **many transdisciplinary skills** that our students should develop that **transcend subject areas** and are not limited to one subject. These 'Approaches to Learning' are developed throughout the units of inquiry.

The five 'Approaches to learning' areas skills

1 Thinking skills - the acquisition of knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, dialectical thought, and metacognition (thinking about thinking).

2 Research skills - formulating questions, observing, planning, collecting and recording data, organising and interpreting data, and presenting research findings.

3 Communication skills - listening, speaking, reading, writing, and non-verbal communication.

4 Self-management skills - gross and fine motor skills, spatial awareness, organisation, time management, safety, a healthy lifestyle, codes of behaviour and making informed choices.

5 Social skills - accepting responsibility, respecting others, cooperating, resolving conflict, group decision making, and adopting a variety of group roles.

The PYP Coordinator sends PYP Curriculum updates to parents and holds regular meetings and workshops to support parents in their understanding of the unique features of the PYP.

The average school day lasts around seven hours in most of our schools, from Monday to Friday. There is a full and varied after-school programme with activities including music, sports, drama, an extensive range of personal interest clubs and homework supervision for one hour after school on most days.

Middle School and the IB Middle Years Programme

Our programme has been created to **encourage students to take increasing responsibility** for their own learning process, assuming awareness and using the knowledge and skills acquired, and their personal talents, autonomously.

Autonomy is the key that will enable students to apply what they have learned concretely and to evaluate the information they receive critically.

At IS Ticino, students develop their intellectual capacities and their awareness with the help of the scientific, IT and art laboratories. At the centre of the teaching activities, however, are the extra-curricular activities. These aim to include and, at the same time, go beyond the traditional subjects to emphasize their interdisciplinary nature. Students are therefore led to develop a "holistic" vision of knowledge.

All of our students receive a rich curriculum which is comprehensive and challenging, helping students build a strong foundation in the major subject areas as well as several foreign languages. Skills are developed alongside knowledge, and the students become thoughtful, creative and valuable members of the International and Italian communities. Our educators are caring and experienced and are aware that students in this age group need security, support and success.



Curriculum

Our middle years programme will be mapped against the Ticino requirement of the 4 year middle school. This will enable your child seamless transition from our school to a state school programme, if you wish to undertake this in the future.

The MYP curriculum is organised around eight traditional subject areas:

- **Arts:** art, music and drama
- **Individuals & Societies:** history, geography and economics
- **Language & Literature:** english and italian
- **Language Acquisition:** French, Italian, German, Spanish (on request) and Mandarin (on request)
- **Mathematics:** mathematics
- **Physical & Health Education:** physical education
- **Science:** biology, chemistry and physics
- **Design:** product design

Co-Curricular Programme



Beyond our curricular educational activities, we offer a series of programmes and courses to give our students the possibilities to express their full potential. Our additional activities include the Italian Programme, Physical and Health Education, Creative and Performing Arts and Co-Curricular Activities.



Italian Programme

From Transition, IST introduces a bilingual structure for students who are required to comply with the Ticino Canton requirements (students with 6 years of residency in Ticino). This fosters the students' ethical, creative, social and intellectual qualities, in harmony with the guidelines of the **Primary Years Programme (PYP)**, **Middle Years Programme (MYP)** and the principles established in the **Piano di studio della scuola dell'obbligo ticinese** approved by the Ticino Canton and based on the **Accordo Intercantonale HarmoS**.



Physical and Health Education

We understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional wellbeing. **Physical and Health Education is part of the curriculum and is integrated within the PYP and MYP curriculum.** We instigate students' intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and enthusiasm to endeavour to discover their full potential. Lessons are planned with the aim to offer a **holistic approach including physical, social and emotional well-being**. In addition to PHE lessons,

there are also countless opportunities within the co-curricular programme to develop an enjoyment of physical activity during lunchtimes and also after school. Supplementing this we have a full schedule of competitive fixtures across all sports which take place after school and occasionally at weekends in many of our schools and these will be further developed in others once new exciting facilities have been constructed.

Creative and Performing arts

Whilst **creative and performing arts are embedded into our PYP and MYP curricula via Visual Arts, Drama and Music**, we also offer students many opportunities to engage actively in these areas beyond the classroom, primarily through our co-curricula programme, visits and workshops. It goes without saying that all of these subjects are taught by **fully qualified and experienced teachers in specially designed and resourced studios**.

Whilst exciting subjects in their own right, which many of our students opt to pursue further studies in for their DP and beyond, we also believe that the skills developed in these areas are extremely use-

ful for developing creative thought – an essential life skill for the modern workplace, no matter what their chosen career path.

We believe in the importance of **giving our students opportunities to be actively involved in the community**. We held our yearly whole **school exhibition in public spaces** where everyone is able to witness and appreciate works of our students and at the same time collaborate with them with some community projects. Our schools are equipped with specialist studios equipped with a large studio space and is a special area for students where they come to enjoy and create some of their personal works during their free time.



Additional Activities

The International School prides itself on being a learning community for all ages and learning styles. To this end, we value co-curricular learning which allows students to pursue talents and skills outside the classroom. We offer a range of **after school activities** in a variety of areas such as:

- **Drama,**
- **Football,**
- **Coding,**
- **Photography,**
- **Swimming,**
- **Tennis,**
- **Model United Nations,**
- **Mandarin Language Club,**
- **Robotics,**
- **Dance,**
- **Musical Instrument tuition.**

In addition, there are also activities close to our core purpose of developing internally minded and active global citizens such as Model United Nations and Global Issue Network. The particular selection of co-curricular activities is dependent on the school. All activities are run by **professional, experienced teachers and coaches**, taking place throughout the week.

