

ICS Milan

Curriculum Policy 2024

Philosophy and Vision

ICS Milan is committed to providing a holistic and well-rounded education that nurtures the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development of every student. Our curriculum is designed to be dynamic, inquiry-based, and responsive to the diverse needs and interests of our learners. We adhere to the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and the Diploma Programme (DP).

Curriculum Frameworks

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

- We follow the EYFS framework to provide a play-based, child-centered approach to learning for children aged 3 to 5.
- Focus areas include Personal, Social, and Emotional Development; Communication and Language; Physical Development; Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World; and Expressive Arts and Design.

Primary School (Years 1-6)

1. **Combined International and Italian Pathway (only for Italian 1st Language speakers)**

Students will follow the IB PYP programme, integrating the national requirements of the first cycle school curriculum in Italy. (*Indicazioni nazionali per il curricolo della scuola dell'infanzia e del primo ciclo d'istruzione – DM2004 -2012*)

- The PYP framework, emphasizing inquiry-based learning, global perspectives, and the development of essential skills.
- Transdisciplinary themes and key concepts form the basis of our units of inquiry, fostering an integrated approach to knowledge and skills development.
- <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/primary-years-programme/>

At the end of the Primary phase, Italian students will be recognized as having completed the Italian Primary curriculum and will be eligible for entry to Middle school, either in ICS Milan or in other international schools or in an Italian school.

2. International students - International students will follow the IB PYP programme.

- The PYP framework, emphasizing inquiry-based learning, global perspectives, and the development of essential skills.
- Transdisciplinary themes and key concepts form the basis of our units of inquiry, fostering an integrated approach to knowledge and skills development.
- <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/primary-years-programme/>

Middle School (Years 7-9) -Secondaria di I grado (Secondary I).

Combined International and Italian Pathway (only for Italian 1st Language speakers)

Students will follow the IB MYP programme, integrating the national requirements of the first cycle school curriculum in Italy. (*Indicazioni nazionali per il curricolo della scuola dell'infanzia e del primo ciclo d'istruzione – DM2004 -2012*)

- The MYP is implemented for students in Years 7-9, (and for Year 11 in 2024 only) fostering academic and personal development through a concept-driven, inquiry-based curriculum.
- MYP subjects include Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Design. Students also complete the community project in Year 9. (For 2024, Year 11 students will complete the Personal Project)
- The MYP is implemented for students in Years 7-9, (and for Year 11 in 2024 only) fostering academic and personal development through a concept-driven, inquiry-based curriculum.
- MYP subjects include Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Design. Students also complete the community project in Year 9. (For 2024, Year 11 students will complete the Personal Project)
- <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/>
- Italian students who study L1 Italian are prepared for the *Esame di Terza Media* at the end of Year 9.
- At the end of the Middle School, Italian students will be recognized as having completed the Italian First Cycle curriculum and will be eligible for entry to High School, either in ICS Milan or in other international schools or in an Italian school.

1. International Students – International students will follow the IB MYP programme.

- The MYP is implemented for students in Years 7-9, (*and for Year 11 in 2024 only*) fostering academic and personal development through a concept-driven, inquiry-based curriculum.
- MYP subjects include Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Design. Students also complete the community project in Year 9. (For 2024, Year 11 students will complete the Personal Project)
- The MYP is implemented for students in Years 7-9, (*and for Year 11 in 2024 only*) fostering academic and personal development through a concept-driven, inquiry-based curriculum.
- MYP subjects include Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Design. Students also complete the community project in Year 9. (For 2024, Year 11 students will complete the Personal Project)
- <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/>
- All students will study Italian as a 2nd language

High School (Years 10 and 11) - Secondaria di II grado (Secondary II)

1. Combined International and Italian Pathway (only for Italian 1st Language speakers)

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

- From 2024, students in Years 10 and 11 (with *the exception of Year 11s in 2024 only who will complete the MYP*) in a rigorous IGCSE programme, focusing on a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for further studies and personal growth.
- Core subjects include English, Mathematics, and Science, with additional subjects chosen based on student interests and future goals.
- Italian students must study a determined combination of subjects. The curricula permits alignment with the needs of both the Paritaria and the IGCSE. This means that Italian students may take IGCSE exams as well as being recognized as following the curriculum of the Liceo Scientifico Opzione Scienze Applicate (percorso quadriennale)

2. International Students – International students will follow the Cambridge IGCSE programme

- From 2024, students in Years 10 and 11 (with *the exception of Year 11s in 2024 only who will complete the MYP*) in a rigorous IGCSE programme, focusing on a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for further studies and personal growth.
- Core subjects include English, Mathematics, and Science, with additional subjects chosen based on student interests and future goals.
- <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-upper-secondary/cambridge-igcse/>

High School (Years 12 and 13) - Secondaria di II grado (Secondary II)

1. Combined International and Italian Pathway (only for Italian 1st Language speakers)

Students follow both the IB DP and the *secondo biennio Liceo Scienze Applicate*.

Diploma Programme (DP)

- Our students in Years 12 and 13 follow the IB Diploma (DP) programme, offering a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that encourages critical thinking, research skills, and a global perspective.
- Students pursue six subjects, including three at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL), and complete the DP Core components: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)
- **Italian** Students have the opportunity to choose from a range of subjects, which will also enable them to qualify (with the right subject combinations) for the *Esame di Stato conclusivo* and to ensure their subject choices are eligible for entry to any Italian university stream.
- The final decision to sit the IB DP **and** the *Esame di Stato conclusivo* is at the discretion of the senior academic leadership and is dependent on students having demonstrated consistent aptitude, attitude and academic progress in Year 11.

^^ Bilingual Diploma: In accordance with their academic ability, students can choose their own Language A alongside with English Language A which gives them the opportunity to graduate with the Bilingual IB Diploma. The final decision to study 2 Language A subjects is at the discretion of the school based on academic progress and performance.

International Students – Students will follow the IB DP programme only

- Our students in Years 12 and 13 follow the IB Diploma (DP) programme, offering a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that encourages critical thinking, research skills, and a global perspective.
- Students pursue six subjects, including three at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL), and complete the DP Core components: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).
- <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/>

2. Italian ONLY Pathway

- Italian students have the possibility to complete their Italian programme of study – *primo biennio per Corso quadriennale scuola secondaria di II grado*.

**Please note that only students who have demonstrated consistent aptitude, attitude and academic progress in Year 11 will be admitted onto this pathway. The final decision will be taken by the school senior academic leadership.

Assessment

Assessment practices across all programs are formative and summative, focusing on both content knowledge and the development of skills. Assessment strategies include a variety of methods such as examinations, projects, presentations, portfolios, and continuous teacher feedback.

Integration and Continuity

Our through school approach ensures smooth transitions between each phase of education. Collaborative planning and communication among teachers from different stages promote coherence and progression in students' learning experiences.

Parent and Community Involvement

We actively involve parents and the community in the learning process, fostering a collaborative environment that supports the growth and development of every student.

Review and Evaluation

Our curriculum is subject to regular review and evaluation to ensure its relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with the school's mission and vision. Feedback from students, parents, and educators is considered in making continuous improvements.

Policy Review

This curriculum policy will be reviewed annually to reflect any changes in educational standards, best practices, and the evolving needs of our school community