

Introduction to the Early Years Programme



Early Years Precinct

In line with contemporary research and best educational practice, we have designed an Early Years precinct on the first floor. This precinct is a space that brings the Kindergarten and Grade 1 together. The precinct has three interlocking areas:

Kindergarten multi-age learning zone



Early Years open-plan library



Grade 1 classrooms



The library space acts as a link between the Kindergarten and the Grade 1 classes. This space is also designed to enable teacher collaboration to strengthen the coherence of learning and care for all Early Years students.

Multi-age Learning

The findings of various research studies indicate that multi-grade education is as effective as single-grade schooling in terms of academic achievement and better in terms of social learning (Saqlain, 2015).



In addition to published professional literature, our own professional experience from the results of our Middle School multi-age literacy development approach makes us confident that your child will benefit for a number of reasons. Our practice is also in line with [Aoba's Early Years Philosophy](#). Collaborative team teaching involving all six staff means that we can more readily focus on:

- child-centred differentiated learning where children's individual needs are given preference.
- facilitating the development of routines for learning the Aoba way.
- flexibility to build on the strengths of each child to support their social, emotional and intellectual development.
- opportunities for your child to make choices about their learning and ways to contribute to their classroom community.
- learning in teams with friends and others.
- increasing the older children's level of confidence, independence and competence.
- consistency of teachers throughout the kindergarten years that allows teachers to develop a deeper understanding of your child's strengths and needs.



Key Factors of Multi-age Learning

Class organisation and management

- Flexible learning space
- Clear and predictable routines
- Teachers and assistants as co-facilitators of learning

Instructional organisation and curriculum

- Units of Inquiry focus on 'big idea' concepts
- Learning skills and attributes are acquired in developmentally appropriate ways

Curriculum delivery and flexible grouping

- The inquiry cycle is used as a guide for all learning
- Learning engagements are differentiated according to students' needs and interests (use of whole and small group activities)

Student agency and collaborative learning

- Student choice and interests are valued and actively integrated into their learning
- Collaborative learning is evident throughout the day



Multi-age Teaching Strategies

The teachers will:

- follow the International Baccalaureate PYP (Early Years) programme.
- apply schedules and routines that promote clear and predictable instruction patterns.
- apply systematic development of literacy and numeracy conceptual understanding and skills acquisition.
- enhance student and team responsibility for learning and the flexible use of time.
- use individual and team learning experiences with others across and within age levels.

- develop skills and strategies that allow children to have a high level of independence.
- provide opportunities and have expectations for peer to peer learning.
- develop creative thinking and communication skills to solve problems by innovating.
- develop strong links with home to support learning through appropriate online experiences.

How the learning is monitored, assessed and communicated:

- Ongoing assessment of learning informs planning (student observations and documentation of learning)
- Tracking progress based on developmental continuums in the areas of social, emotional, cognitive and language development
- Regular progress updates and semester reports
- Learning updates via Seesaw



Outcomes of Multi-age:

We expect growth in:

- social and intellectual confidence and efficacy.
- teamwork, collaboration and empathy.
- creative ways to express themselves.
- freedom of choice and exploration of many ideas.
- cooperation and good citizenship.

