



DIOCESAN SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

International Baccalaureate





The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Diocesan

Diocesan School for Girls offers students the Diploma to ensure our education stays relevant to their needs in an increasingly global society. Our dual pathways of the NCEA or the Diploma enable our students to select a qualification pathway that meets their individual needs.

The IB Diploma Programme is an internationally recognised qualification and symbol of academic excellence worldwide. It is also an excellent fit with Diocesan's ethos of educating both hearts and minds.

Encouraging independent thinking, academic rigour, community service, inter-cultural understanding and respect for others underpin both Diocesan's philosophy and the International Baccalaureate's approach to teaching and learning.

As a Diploma candidate your daughter is assured the highest curriculum standards, breadth of subjects and depth of study. IB's challenging assessment measures your daughter's performance against rigorous international criteria.

Who are the International Baccalaureate?

The IB is a nonprofit educational foundation focused on the student. Founded in 1968, they currently work with 2,066 schools in 125 countries to develop and offer three challenging programmes to over 542,000 students aged 3 to 19 years.

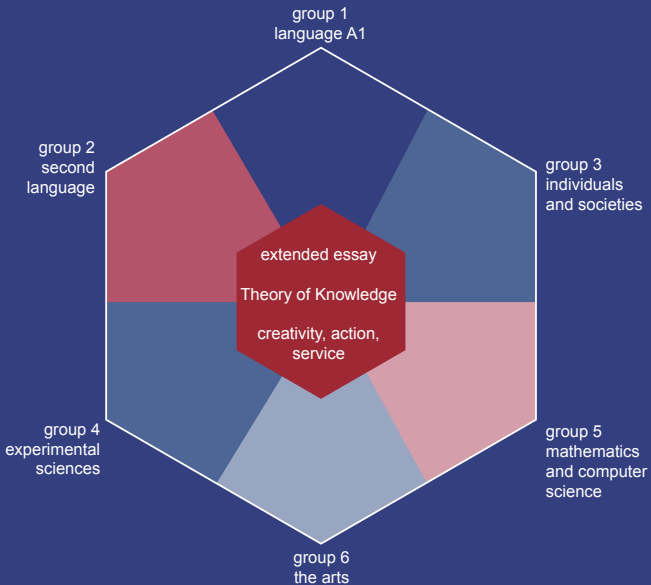
What does the Diploma Programme offer?

The curriculum for the two-year Diploma is a challenging pre-university course that demands the best from motivated students who are average to above in ability.

Students studying for the Diploma in Years 12 and 13 take six subjects – choosing from six subject areas. Students study three or four subjects at a higher level (HL) and the others at a standard level (SL).

They also undertake study in three areas that are unique to the Diploma - Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Action and Service (CAS), and the Extended Essay.





This curriculum gives students a broad, well-balanced education while allowing them to pursue personal interests and talents.

As well as focusing on international perspectives of learning and teaching, the curriculum insists students fully explore their home culture and language. This equips IB Diploma holders to not only debate real-world issues from an international perspective but also to provide leadership and support both locally and globally.

Unique features of the IB Diploma Programme:

- o The Extended Essay: is a supervised, 4000-word academic research essay on a specialised subject which helps students prepare for their university studies.
- o Theory of Knowledge (TOK): is a course that emphasises critical thinking skills, encouraging students to be aware of subjective biases and to analyse evidence and appreciate other cultural perspectives.
- o Creativity, Action and Service (CAS): fits in with Diocesan's goal to educate the whole person by exposing students to real-life experiences which encourage personal development, risk-taking and exploring challenges.

How is the Diploma assessed and examined?

Standards for the Diploma assessments and examinations are the same worldwide: Internationally appointed examiners mark external examinations which are held in November of the second IB year.

These exams are complemented by externally-moderated internal assessments including seminars, portfolios, practical work, oral work and research assignments.

This detailed system of internal assessment and external examination gives students every opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired.

Subjects are scored on a 1-7 scale with up to three bonus points for Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. Students must get at least 24 points out of a possible 45 to be awarded the IB Diploma.

Is the IB Diploma Programme right for my daughter?

Students considering the Diploma Programme need to:

- o Have average or above average ability
- o A sound record of achievement to date
- o Be self-motivated with a desire to be challenged
- o Have independent learning skills
- o Have good organisational and time management skills
- o Want to keep their options broad
- o Have an interest in an international perspective

What about university?

The IB Diploma Programme is an excellent preparation for university studies and is accepted by leading universities worldwide, and in New Zealand, as a university entrance qualification.

Some universities offer scholarships to students with the Diploma and others, like the University of Canterbury, at the discretion of academic departments, may reward students with excellent Diploma grades by exempting the requirements for admission to second level courses.



What about the NCEA?

Teaching both the NCEA and the Diploma Programme means Diocesan can offer a dual educational pathway to maximise your daughter's choices and ensure her a superior education. Diocesan strongly believes in the teaching of ethics and philosophy so all students will be taught this either as part of either their Diploma or NCEA pathway to ensure they develop a deeper understanding of critical thinking.

Diocesan has a proven record of students achieving at the highest levels of NCEA. Offering both qualifications means Diocesan can give your daughter the best possible education that is tailored to her individual strengths and needs and any specialised areas of interest.

All students complete their NCEA Level 1. During Year 11, with her teachers' support and advice, your daughter will decide whether to progress with NCEA Level 2 or begin an IB Diploma in Year 12.

Primary Years Programme (PYP)

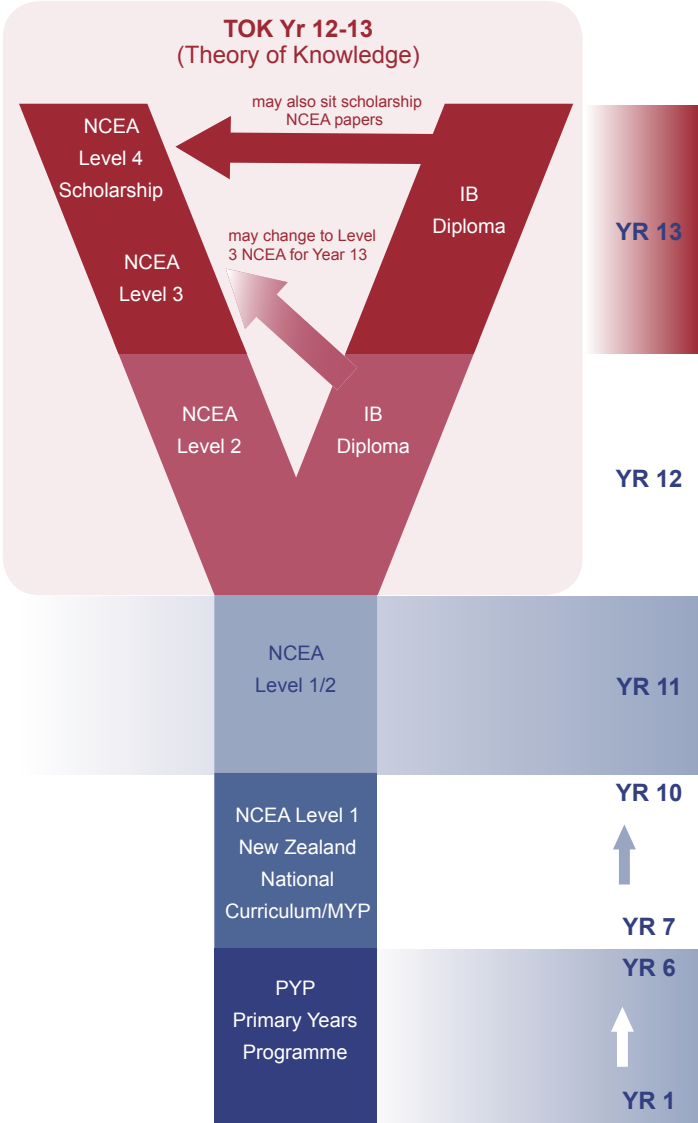
The Primary Years Programme is an international curriculum framework which fosters the development of the whole child by being integrated, holistic and inquiry-driven. It complements Diocesan's STAR values of Service, Tradition, Achievement and Respect.

PYP emphasises cognitive, social and personal development and teaches high level thinking skills which enables students to learn to critically analyse information. This transdisciplinary learning will become an integral part of Diocesan's school-wide approach to unifying learning and teaching from Year 1 to 13.



Educational Structure Dual Pathway

- A variety of choices
- One philosophy – educating hearts and minds





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