



"Torah Im Derech Eretz"

Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School Implements an International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

It is the duty of any educational institution to be innovative and keep abreast with the educational trends both nationally and internationally. Education is forever changing and at Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School we are passionate about improving our learning and enhancing the educational journey of our pupils.

Imparting knowledge and crucial 21st Century skills are pivotal in today's curriculum. These skills in essence are the 13 abilities that today's students need in order to succeed in their careers during the Information Age. These are critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, information, literacy, media literacy, technology literacy, flexibility, leadership, innovative, productivity, and social skills. These skills are intended to help students keep up with the lightning-fast pace of today's modern world. Each skill is unique in how it helps the students.

Previously Phyllis Jowell School has been teaching according to the current national curriculum known as CAPS and incorporating cross curricular themes focusing a lot on group work. However, over the years, we have found CAPS to be too content-heavy which has often led to teachers struggling to complete the large amount of content in class. This has resulted in work being set as homework leaving the children with less free time, being over-assessed, stressed out and becoming more and more demotivated about education. There was no time for thorough consolidation. The content-heavy curricula also did not allow for the development of vital 21st century skills.

The International curriculum (IPC), however is designed to specifically improve learning. It is content-rich and has multiple opportunities that are offered to children in order to develop their understanding. The learning goals encourage holistic development of internationally-minded learners. Three categories of learning goals are defined: personal, international and subject learning goals.

The personal goals include: Enquiry, Resilience, Morality, Communication, Thoughtfulness, Cooperation, Respect and Adaptability. The focus is on meeting all the learning goals. Assessments and evaluation are considered tools for improving learning as opposed to CAPS where pupils are over-assessed. The IPC's learning programme is centred around the assessment of skills, not just content.

Teachers teaching the IPC curriculum aim to reach subject goals organized around themes that reflect the interest of children and motivates them to find out more. Each theme contains aspects of different subjects integrated to create a bigger picture.

The thematic approach of the IPC lends itself to be integrated smoothly with the values of the Phyllis Jowell School. Our core value of "Torah with the way of the world" infuses all aspects of the school, and the new curriculum is no exception. Our Kodesh and General Studies teachers collaborate in order to ensure our students receive an authentically Jewish world class education.

This International curriculum believes that Knowledge, Skills and Understanding each need to be learned, taught and assessed. Since implementing this new curriculum, we have seen a renewed interest and motivation from our pupils. They are keen to engage and play a more active role in the learning journey at school.

