

# **COMMUNITY**

## **The Community is Important**

Build community is one of the core values of DIS

The school community arguably sits alongside a well-developed curriculum as the most important factor that influences how effective a school is at delivering education. A culture of safety, trust, intentional care, creativity, curiosity/inquiry, risk-taking, and focus are all so important. It takes special teachers, students, leadership, vision, and a lot of careful tending in order to create such an atmosphere in our community.

Beyond that, DIS will be known for having one of the kindest, warmest, and closest-knit communities anywhere. This is the kind of atmosphere that most families hope to find for their children. DIS will be a good place to raise children and an environment that allows for a healthy education mindset.

## **Students**

At DIS students are always first in our community. We have amazing young people who are committed to learning. They engage well with the principles of the DIS Student Learner Outcomes. Our students are artists, athletes, performers, scientists and scholars. DIS students will become analytical and are dreamers. They bring energy to our campus and a richness in perspective which is further shaped by collaborative learning and peer relationships; they challenge each other to meet their personal best. At DIS, we see learning not as primarily a competitive endeavor to outshine one another, but as a supportive process where we help one another to learn and grow and take pride in one another's successes.

## **Christian Foundation Values**

An important part of how we engage in education is in the promotion of specific values. As a school built on Christian foundations, we consider peace, unity, respect, love, and selflessness to be principal values and are at the heart of Christian community. Regardless of our personal faith, these are principles that foster friendship, understanding, and collaboration. Policy and tradition promote these qualities at DIS, and the atmosphere is felt and carried by stakeholders at all levels.

## **Pastoral Care**

Rooted in Latin meaning "to feed", the modern definition involves "looking after the total welfare of the pupil". As a school built on Christian foundations, DIS believes in feeding a

student's soul. It firmly believes that a child is more than a vessel for knowledge and that caring for the whole child is an essential part of quality education.

The DIS pastoral system aims to:

- create a whole-school atmosphere in which relationships are centrally important and are healthy and positive
- prepare children and young people through the curriculum for the realities of life today
- equip them with the skills they will need to face challenging situations when (rather than if) they arise
- encompass both reactive responses to issues, which can arise in children's lives, but also preventative educational strategies and skills to enable children to be better prepared to navigate challenges they may face in their lives.

DIS aims to create a tight and multi-layered net, which does not allow students to fall through the cracks. The following is the basic model of delivery of Pastoral Care at DIS:

***Head of School & Division Principals***

Oversees and coordinates the Pastoral Program.

***Grade Team Leaders***

These teachers are responsible for the overall welfare of students in a year-group as well as specific delivery of the pastoral program to each Secondary School Year-group. They create specific curriculum and plans to be delivered by Homeroom teachers.

***Homeroom Teachers***

All teachers in the Secondary School are expected to help deliver the pastoral program, investing in students' lives beyond the academic classroom.

***Counseling Department***

Counseling works closely with Grade Team Leaders and the Principal to build a network of support as well as guide and inform about specific pastoral needs with students and year-groups.

***Student Life***

DIS believes in balancing the Physical, Mental, Social and Spiritual dimensions of each student. Therefore, the education of students through the pastoral care system is part of a well-rounded program.

***Homeroom***

Homerooms are an intimate environment and are a place for students and teachers to

connect outside of the formal learning environment. They take place once every school day and last for 15 minutes. Home rooms are used to deliver the pastoral program to students in a specific year group. Most students look forward to homeroom where they can get to know each other better, their teachers better, and how to become a better person.

### **Student Discipline the pastoral care way**

Punishment without restoration does not bring true lasting behavioral changes. Even with preventative structures in place, students will make poor choices at times, and most poor choices result in the breakdown of trust in relationships. Therefore, discipline is an opportunity for relationship restoration. Restorative approaches not only help deal with the issue at hand, but they also empower individuals to improve choices out of respect for others and through a greater sense of empathy. This all flows from our mission statement's commitment to develop love and integrity in our students. Pastoral Care and the Learning Skills

The *DIS Learning Skills* curriculum makes direct connections with Pastoral care principles. The *Learning Skills*, specifically in the area of *Self-management*, deal directly with core developmental opportunities for students.

Skills developed through the *Learning Skills* program includes; but is not limited to:

- Mindfulness
- Perseverance
- Emotional management
- Self-motivation
- Resilience

### **School Community Services**

Part of effectively educating a child is making provision for some basic physical needs. DIS offers the following programs in the community to help meet these needs in the lives of our students and faculty.

#### **Food Service**

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#### **Medical Services**

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### **Parent-Teacher Association**

The DIS PTA is a voluntary association of parents and faculty who work together to support the educational and co-curricular programs at DIS. Our goal is to promote community and unity among staff, parents, and students, and to enhance the learning environment through volunteer support.

All DIS parents, faculty, and staff are encouraged to join the DIS PTA.

The PTA organizes service projects and donates funds to improve the school facilities and support student programs. Examples of PTA activities could include; but will not be limited to following:

- Christmas Bazaar
- International Festival
- Career Day
- Student Co-Curricular Support
- Spirit Store
- Student Art Calendar
- Parent Information Workshop Sessions
- Teacher Appreciation Snacks

### **PTA Meetings**

#### **Executive Meetings**

PTA Officers, Grade Representatives, and Committee Chairs meet monthly to plan for upcoming events and to approve PTA expenditures. Executive Meetings are open to all PTA members.

#### **Grade-Level Meetings**

Grade representatives can organize monthly parent meetings by grade to share information from PTA Executive Meetings, and gather parent questions & feedback.

#### **Parent Information Workshop Sessions**

These are regular parent information sessions led by DIS administrators and faculty members. The workshops are designed to help parents understand DIS programs, policies and practices. Topics include communication platforms, academic updates, special assessments, clubs & activities, upcoming community events, and others.

### **Parent Volunteers**

DIS Parents are active volunteers in many ways within the school:

- Learning Center (Library)
- Clubs/After-school activities
- Teaching Thai to DIS teachers

### **Parent Representatives**

Parent reps are appointed by the Head of School in consultation with the PTA President. They serve on various school committees and represent the parent community in the following areas:

- Head of School Advisory Committee (HAC)
- Crisis Management Team
- WASC Accreditation Committees
- Other Ad-hoc committees

Parent volunteers are important to the success of students at DIS. You are welcome and encouraged to get involved in your child's education at DIS by working with the PTA

### **Calendar**

<https://www.dischool.ac.th/en/calendar>

### **Employment**

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### **Partnerships**

By collaborating with progressive institutions, DIS envisions the creation of educational activities, promoting mutual academic interests and supporting understanding of the challenges students face in a complex and increasingly interdependent world. DIS partnerships offer benefits to students across the educational spectrum. For our students, the benefits often include educational opportunities unique to the programs that the partnership offers. Our partnerships bring real opportunities for students, and they include the following:

## **Gyeonggi Suwon International School (GSIS)**



A strong and effective partnership has been established with the Foundation Board of GSIS and DIS since the early formal curriculum planning months of DIS as assistance with curriculum, policy, and website development. DIS looks to furthering the partnerships with joint adult and student community service and teacher and student classroom visits to both schools in the future.

## **Taejon Christian International School (TCIS)**



A strong and effective partnership has been established with the Foundation Board of GSIS and DIS since the early formal curriculum planning months of DIS as assistance with curriculum, policy, and website development. DIS looks to furthering the partnerships with joint adult and student community service and teacher and student classroom visits to both schools in the future.

## **ICS-Bangkok**

A strong and effective partnership has been established with the Head of School of ICS-Bangkok/Udon Thani and DIS since the early formal curriculum planning months of DIS as assistance with consultation with curriculum and policy. DIS looks to furthering the partnerships with joint adult and student Thailand service projects and teacher and student classroom visits to both schools in the future.

### **ICS-Hong Kong**

A strong and effective partnership has been established with the Dean of Co-curricular Education & Pastoral Care of ICS-Hong Kong and DIS since the early formal curriculum planning months of DIS as assistance with consultation with curriculum and policy. DIS looks to furthering the partnerships with joint adult and student Asia service projects and teacher and student classroom visits to both schools in the future.

### **Dalat International School – Penang, Malaysia**

A strong and effective partnership has been established with the Head of School of Dalat International School and DIS since the early formal curriculum planning months of DIS in assistance with consultation with curriculum and policy. DIS looks to furthering the partnerships with joint adult and student Malaysia/Thailand service projects and teacher and student classroom visits to both schools in the future.

### **NWEA-MAP**

A strong and effective partnership has been established with the Northwest Evaluation Association in the USA to assist DIS with externally assessing the academic progress of DIS students on USA based educational standards. NWEA uses the MAP, Measures of Academic Progress assessment series to assess students in English in Mathematics, Reading, Language Usage, and Science.

### **WASC**

A relationship has been established with the Executive Vice-President of the Accrediting Commission for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in the USA and the DIS Head of School. DIS plans to apply for Candidacy Status for Accreditation with WASC once the 23-24 SY opens and proceed with the process of becoming a WASC accredited international school.

### **WIDA**

A partnership has been established with World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) in the USA. The partnership with WIDA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is with the WIDA ESL services company and the WIDA International School Consortium. The company provides DIS with ESL Screener Tests for English Language Skills and ESL Model

Tests for English Language Skills of English Language Learners (ELLs). The consortium supports collaboration between ESL teachers in international schools for best practice in ESL education.

## **Giving to DIS**

DIS is helped by the church community, many foundations and volunteers so that DIS can keep the tuition fee as low as it is. All money collected goes toward areas of operations and growth. Money is managed to provide a wide variety of educational programs and rich supportive activities programs. We rely on the support of friends in the Surat Thani, Hong Kong, and international communities to help supplement program needs, which is done through generous gifting to the school's Donation Fund.

Support through the Donation Fund helps make our extraordinary school even BETTER! Gifting allows us to provide more opportunities for students through academic programs, resources, facility additions and upgrades, technology, and many other ways.

There are a variety of reasons why people choose to give to our school:

- They want their children to have those opportunities that come with additional funding.
- They believe in the mission of DIS and want to be a part of providing high-quality international education.
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- They are grateful for the education received at DIS and want to support the next generation of students, enabling them to do more and go farther.
- They see an investment in our student's education as an investment in the future... for the future of this generation, for the future of Thailand, and for the future of the world.
- There are also other, perhaps more personal, reasons for seeing children succeed in education at our school.

For whatever reasons, partnership with DIS through the Donation Fund is very much appreciated. It is also a very real way to be involved in the growth and improvement of our school.

Gifts to the Donation Fund go directly into our regularly-audited budgets to better the school and its programs. The Head of School, the DIS Board of Trustees, the Daniel Education Foundation and other school leaders consider the support given, and they designate it according to current operational needs as well as the school's long and short-term improvement plans.



Funds that are generously donated to the Donation Fund are usually given in an unrestricted manner to be used by the school according to current needs; however, you can designate your donation support to one of the following areas if you feel strongly about doing so:

**Current Needs**

Additional Start-up Expenses

Tuition support for "Low-Income" student applications

Phase II Funding

We are always appreciative of gifts given to our school. Whether in large or small amounts, given annually or given as a one-time offering, we would like to say "thank you" for your support of students and learning.

Our Finance Office is best able to receive and report gifts when given through wire transfer to our regular receiving account. There are certainly other ways that one may give financial support to the school, and our Finance Office would be happy to speak with you and help to plan arrangements.

If you would like to give to the DIS Donation Fund, we would ask that you contact the Superintendent's Office to discuss your support. For more information contact our *Superintendent, Mr. Stone Lee* at [stone.l@dischool.ac.th](mailto:stone.l@dischool.ac.th)

We would like to say, "Thank you" once again for your consideration and your partnership.

**Alumni**

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