

## **The West Island School Student Skills Framework**

### **Skills for learning and skills for life through the Middle Years Diploma**

West Island School recognises that the acquisition of both qualifications and knowledge are important, however, they represent just part of the learning experience for students during their time at the school. Equally important is the development by students of key skills required to maximize opportunities and meet the challenge of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With this in mind, as part of the Middle Years Diploma (MYD), the school has created a West Island School skills framework which incorporates the WIS learner profile, the school's aims and values, the skills developed during student's primary curriculum experience, plus the skills inherent in subjects taught at West Island School. Identification of the five major skills in the framework was done through a process of consultation with students in Year 7 to Year 11 and by highlighting the major skills apparent in subject specific Year 7-9 skills maps.

The diagrams on the following pages illustrate the major skill groups and associated observable features developed in all subjects in the MYD curriculum. These skills are referenced further in the attached Year 7-9 year group and subject specific curriculum skills maps which can also be found on the school's website under the MYD tab.

Students are encouraged to evaluate their own skills development through on-going participation in classroom learning experiences, one to one sessions with their tutors, explicitly in learning for life lessons and through the school's online reporting system as part of the MYD.



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### Skills for learning and skills for life through the Middle Years Diploma

**Independent Critical  
Inquiry**

**Effective Collaboration**

**Creative Thinking**

**Reflective Thinking**

**Confident Self  
Organisation**

Each group of skills is distinct but also interconnected as students are likely to encounter skills from several groups in any one learning experience. Progression in skill development may also vary from one learning experience to another as students are challenged in different ways.

## Independent Critical Inquiry

West Island School Students:

- Ask purposeful and constructive questions.
- Gather, analyse and evaluate information.
- Explore issues from different perspectives.
- Make decisions on their own.
- Generate solutions to problems.
- Justify conclusions with evidence.

## Effective Collaboration

West Island School Students:

- Work in teams to achieve outcomes.
- Value new thinking and ideas.
- Respect different cultures and beliefs.
- Learn from, listen to and encourage others.
- Provide support and constructive feedback.
- Reach agreements and are able to compromise.

## Creative Thinking

West Island School Students:

- Adapt to situations.
- Solve problems.
- Try out new ideas and alternative solutions.
- Link and apply different kinds of learning to new situations.
- Take the initiative and lead.

## Reflective Thinking

West Island School Students:

- Assess and evaluate their own actions.
- Identify how to improve and develop.
- Set personal goals and success criteria.
- Invite feedback and deal positively with constructive criticism.
- Show self awareness.

## Confident Self Organisation

West Island School Students:

- Have self respect.
- Show passion and ambition.
- Can be self reliant and show resilience.
- Manage their time and meet deadlines.
- Plan ahead and prioritise.