



# Nurturing and Inspiring

Primary School is where we build the foundations of our children's learning. Their attitude to school, their ability to make and develop friendships, their curiosity, creativity and individuality are all fostered throughout the wonderful primary ages. This is where we give children space to ask crazy questions, to build connections, to learn how to disagree and most importantly to begin to express themselves as individuals. Primary School is where children begin to recognise themselves as independent learners. Building on the beautifully nurturing Early Years environment and transitioning all the way to be ready for the exciting world of Middle School, Primary is a neighbourhood full of deep and vibrant learning, caring relationships, and natural curiosity.

## Primary School Community

We believe in the importance of students not only having a sense of belonging in their grade, but also belonging to a wider community of learners. Feeling safe, understanding that they are a valued member of the community and building lasting relationships, truly are at the heart of successful learning.

This sense of belonging is nurtured in many ways throughout the week. In classrooms, teachers facilitate community meetings, build class agreements centered on our IRESPECT values and hold regular community building activities. Our weekly Primary School assembly allows students, teachers and parents from across the grade levels to share their learning experiences, to connect as a community and to join together in song and dance. It is a celebration of the diversity, energy and enthusiasm of our community. The Primary School also unites for celebration days, sports events, community ceremonies and many festivals. We create links between classes and grades with regular, facilitated sharing sessions and encourage teachers to build links with our local Balinese community.

## Primary School Curriculum

At Green School Bali, Primary School refers to the learning offered from Grade One through to Grade Five. Students typically become seven years old during the academic year they join Grade One and eleven years old during their last year in Primary School.

In Primary, we believe that students learn more from **how** they are taught than from **what** they are taught. Thus, our programme reflects the Green School Principles, which are core shared beliefs about how to nurture learning experiences that build connections, allow for exploration, and inspire joy and wonder,

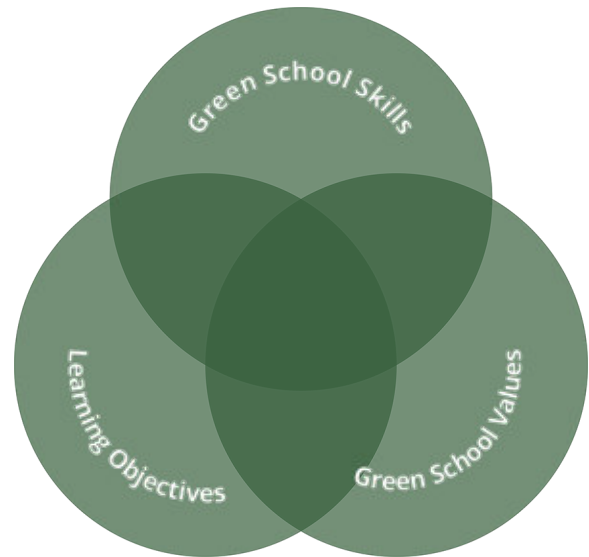
Our pedagogical belief is that learning is most impactful when it is:

The **REAL** learning principles are designed to foster authentic experiences in which students can grow and nurture their values, skills and competencies.



# A Balanced Approach to Learning










Always evolving, the Green School Learning Program seeks to find a balance between the skills, values and discipline-based competencies that prepare learners for an ever-changing world. Our program aims for a carefully balanced approach of personal and social growth as well as academic learning designed to develop the qualities, skills and competencies required to build *a community of learners, making our world sustainable.*





## Green School Skills

By nurturing 'Green School Skills' in our students we aim to prepare them for their journey as learners and as passionate friends of the environment for the rest of their lives. Students learn these skills throughout every part of our program, including projects and lessons that align with the Green School Mission of 'A Community of Learners Making *Our* World Sustainable'.

Think	Act	Reflect
 <p><b>Think Creatively</b> Be original. Be imaginative</p>	 <p><b>Activate</b> Feel empowered &amp; empower others. Take Action. Make difference</p>	 <p><b>Be Aware</b> Look within. Figure yourself out.</p>
 <p><b>Think Critically</b> Dig deeper. Ask why. Make connections.</p>	 <p><b>Collaborate</b> Confident alone. Stronger together. Find your way.</p>	 <p><b>Solves Problem</b> Figure it out. Go for it.</p>
 <p><b>Think in Systems</b> Step back and see the whole picture</p>	 <p><b>Communicate</b> Process, organize, &amp; coherently express ideas</p>	 <p><b>Adapt</b> Bend like bamboo</p>

Students in Primary School are welcomed into a community that values them as individuals. The learning is active, hands on, messy, sweaty and fun! Indonesian and international homeroom teachers together oversee pastoral care; building safe, nurturing and responsive spaces and communities. Inspiring specialist teachers in Green Studies, Balinese and Visual Arts, Music, and Physical Wellbeing support this pastoral care and provide deep, enriching learning experiences. Primary School cherishes the unique quirks, creativity, and curiosity of our young learners. By allowing these to be nourished in a supportive, structured and *safeish* learning environment, Primary School fosters the development of the Green School Skills in a developmentally appropriate manner.

## IRESPECT Values

As a school we subscribe to a set of values - **IRESPECT**. These are the values of Integrity, Responsibility, Equity, Sustainability, Peace, Empathy, Community, and Trust. At all times we teach and model these values and support students and adults alike to understand, share and practise them. We encourage all teachers to honour and recognize these values in our students with ongoing dialogue, discussion, and reinforcement.

**Integrity** – being honest and ethical with thoughts and actions.

**Responsibility** – being accountable for thoughts, actions and deeds.

**Empathy** – understanding and caring for the feelings of others.

**Sustainability** – ensuring that your own body and surroundings are cared for so they are clean and healthy for as long as possible.

**Peace** – contributing to a state of harmony.

**Equity** - respecting everyone as an individual and valuing fairness

**Community** – being part of a group seeking common goals and taking care of each other.

**Trust** - building and maintaining strong relationships with each other, the school and the environment.

In the Primary School we recognise that fostering these values is part of a four-way interaction. These values need to be embodied and enacted from:

- 1: Adults to adults
- 2: Adults to children
- 3: Children to adults
- 4: Children to children.



## Wellbeing

Wellbeing in the Primary School truly embodies the principle of well-ness. It incorporates social-emotional learning, physical wellbeing development, community building, strong and positive relationships as well as elements such as mindfulness, gardening, and play.

**Social-emotional** learning in Primary School happens everywhere, all the time. In directed lessons in the classroom building on the expertise of talented educators, as part of our Teman-Teman connections program, when playing around our nature-infused campus, during conversations around the lunch table or when there has been an argument between friends. Being able to recognise our own emotions, to understand how to build relationships and of course having strategies for how to overcome problems are all key elements of this program.

**Physical Wellbeing** is so much more than PE! As well as understanding the importance of exercise and physical health, we develop an understanding of fair play, practise cooperation, and celebrate the successes of others. Taking turns, helping out, and having a part to play are all vital skills developed through physical wellbeing lessons.

**Mindfulness** in Primary School allows space for the developing social, emotional and behavioural skills which play an integral role in self-development. Mindfulness offers strategies for helping students to focus their attention, improve self-regulation skills, build resilience and develop a positive mind-set whilst at school and in life. Mindfulness as a practise in class and school wide is a feature of each day.

**Piket/Helping Hands** programs allow students to take an active role in caring for their classroom, their gardens, and the campus as a whole. By assuming responsibility for caring for these spaces, children develop a sense of pride in the spaces and a deep feeling of belonging. Having responsibility for sweeping the classrooms in the morning, taking care of and packing away the tikar mats at the end of the day, watering a bed of flowers or vegetables, taking out the class compost after lunch, or cleaning off the whiteboards are all examples of the types of responsibilities that make up a piket program.

# Guardians of the Earth

In Primary School we understand that learning is not a 'one size fits all' proposition, but rather needs to be evolving, adaptive and responsive to the developmental and environmental readiness of our learners.

At Green School Bali, we address this by following guidance from the concept of Stages of Environmental Readiness, and by moving Beyond Ecophobia. In this way, we allow students in the primary school ages to focus on developing a love for and connection with nature. This process of building a love for the natural world in our young learners is at the heart of how we educate for sustainability in the Primary School, and is a vital step on the path to becoming passionate advocates for the wellbeing of mother earth.





# Our Place in the World

## Indonesia is our home

We are privileged to call the island of Bali and the nation of Indonesia home. Indonesian Studies in Primary School allow us to feel connected to our place in the world, to learn about and from the amazing islands, people, cultures, languages and traditions of Indonesia, and to always stay true to our principle of local-to-global learning.

**Budaya Cultural Studies** are woven through the fabric of much of our Primary School learning and bring the magical nation of Indonesia to life. It might be through finding out about the volcanoes in Java, the flora and fauna of Kalimantan, the lives of incredible Indonesian heroes such as Ibu Kartini, or through making models of the revolutionary Subak system of irrigation from here in Bali. Local learning at its truest!

**Bahasa Indonesian Language** learning allows students and teachers to feel connected to the wonderful people who make up the Indonesian community here at Green School Bali and beyond. Developing conversational and day-to-day language skills allows students to make connections, ask questions, and understand the world around them.

**Balinese Ceremonies** are the beautiful heart and soul of our Primary School program and community. These celebrations are practiced out of respect for the culture of the island on which we live. Learning how to make the delicate *kwangen* and *canang* offerings used in the ceremonies; cleaning, preparing, and tidying away the spaces used for the celebrations; taking part in the ceremonies themselves and receiving blessings from friends, teachers, or local elders, are all important and regular elements of our Primary School. And yes, parents are invited!

**Specialist Experiences** provide students with real-life, hands-on connections with Indonesian studies, particularly in the Arts and Music. Shadow puppets, Gamelan, mask making, coconut leaf weaving, Jegog, ink painting, Angklung and much more.

# A Structured Approach to Learning

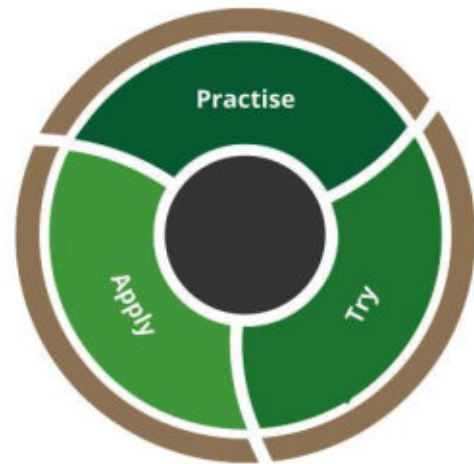
## Three Frames of Learning

The pedagogy used in Green School is the Three Frames of Learning. This defines how we deliver the content of our courses in the classroom. This scaffold is designed to provide a consistent, relevant, well-rounded and comprehensive learning experience. The three frames of learning are:

1. **Proficiency Frame**
2. **Thematic Frame**
3. **Experiential Frame**

These frames of learning can also be thought of as a **practise-apply-try** paradigm:

1. **Practise**: Where we practise and improve discrete intellectual competencies across different proficiency disciplines.
2. **Apply**: When we can apply the skills we have been practising and developing through exciting and engaging thematic units.
3. **Try**: Where we can have-a-go at new, exciting, challenging and risky activities through hands-on, active experiences.

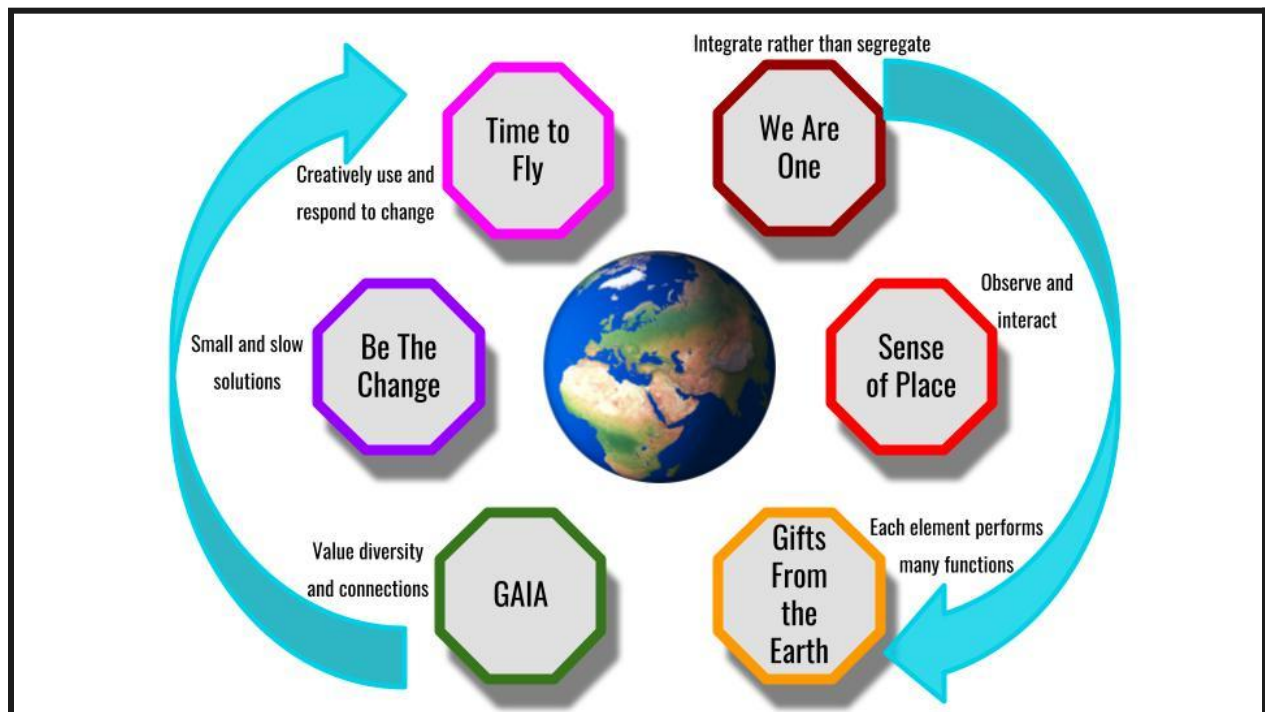


As indicated by the concept of practise-apply-try, these frames of learning are interconnected and interwoven throughout the fabric of the primary school program. These links and connections allow for learning to be deepened and extended and help to build an immersive experience of learning for our students.

## THEMATIC

Thematic learning is an integrated, interdisciplinary approach where units are focused on a particular theme. Thematic units inspire students through relevant concepts and real-world experiences. They provide opportunities for students to ask questions and follow their own paths of inquiry and they bring to life the beauty, surprises and connections in the world around us. Thematic learning is holistic in that it engages multiple styles of intelligence and it builds on the Green School principle of wall-lessness by encouraging collaboration between homeroom and specialist teachers.

Thematic learning in the Primary School follows an arc of discovery designed using the principles of permaculture. These thematics are explored differently in each grade, but follow a carefully designed sequence which allows children to build an understanding of their community, to feel at home in their space, to develop an understanding of the world around them and to discover a greater sense of themselves.



## PROFICIENCY

The proficiency frame focuses on discrete intellectual competencies that require repetition and practise to support skill and concept development. Proficiencies are taught in direct sessions and through broader units of enquiry, often and importantly being intertwined with the focus of the current thematic exploration. High quality, interactive assessments (*not tests*) are used to gain an understanding of children's strengths and areas for development and as a basis for teacher's planning.

Proficiency learning in Primary School meets children where they are on their own learning journey, providing the support, revision, and challenge that each individual student needs to succeed.

Green School has developed literacy and maths curriculum overviews and a scope and sequence designed to fit with Green School's unique vision, mission and educational philosophy. This scope and sequence can also be matched to other curricula around the world and understood by educators broadly.

### **At, Above, or Below Grade Level?**

At Green School we do not believe in a one size fits all approach to education, and just like the awe inspiring natural world around us, we understand that our classrooms are home to a beautifully diverse and energetic population of students. In our proficiency learning, we move away from the industrial model of education which views all students in a grade as all working on the same track. Rather, we understand education and learning as being much more organic. We all develop at different times and in different ways, sometimes in need of extra care and nurturing while at other times flourishing and blossoming to show areas of growth and strength. It is central to our approach that students are met wherever they are on their own individual journey of learning and that all members of our community, including parents and teachers, are supported to continue moving away from thinking of children as being at, above, or below grade level.



## EXPERIENTIAL

Experiential learning at Green School is the “hands-on, getting dirty” part of Green School. Whether it means working in the school gardens, creating art, building out of bamboo, learning first aid, or carrying out work experience, you will find students exploring and problem solving around the campus and around Bali. Students in every Learning Neighbourhood engage in real-world practical projects that deepen their understanding of their physical place in the world.

In Primary School, experiential learning involves a number of components and happens in all of the spaces that we are in throughout the day.

**Specialist Experiences:** Practical specialist subject experiences are offered at least weekly - Green Studies, Visual Arts, Music and Physical Wellbeing. In these programs students generate a deeper understanding of themselves as learners, are offered the chance to step outside of their comfort zones, and express their curiosity and creativity in a variety of ways.



**Elective Activities:** Elective activities across the Primary School provide students with an increasing sense of ownership over their learning and their schedules. For our older Primary School students, they also begin to build the bridge to Middle School. During the **Jalan-Jalan** elective, children work in mixed-age groups choosing to participate in a variety of practical, hands-on activities. These choices come from a range of areas: service learning, enterprise education, practical arts, student-led projects, and outdoor/physical education. They offer the opportunity to engage with our campus in different ways, to give something back to our community or to build connections outside of the boundaries of Green School.



## Primary School Timetable

While primary school students have a classroom that can be thought of as their home base, learning occurs in spaces all around the campus. Below is an example of a Primary School timetable to illustrate what a “typical” Green School week might look like. It is important to note however that in practise the timetable for each class may vary considerably from this template based on the needs of the children and the current focus of the learning. However, schedules are intentionally designed to create holistic learning experiences based on our understanding of the ‘Three Frames of Learning’ (Thematic, Proficiency, Experiential). In the example below, blank spaces are in the hands of homeroom teachers to design, blending thematic, proficiency and experiential learning based on the specific needs of their class groups.

Example Only					
green school BALI	Senin	Selasa	Rabu	Kamis	Jumat
	Community Time				
Pagi			Assembly		
BREAK					
Siang	Music	Social Emotional	Art		Green Studies
	PW				
LUNCH					
Sore				Library	

For more information, please visit us at:

Admission enquiries: [admissions@greenschool.org](mailto:admissions@greenschool.org)

**Green School Bali** - [www.greenschool.org](http://www.greenschool.org)