

Addressing the IB community theme: *sharing our humanity* in the curriculum

Introduction

The IB community theme: *sharing our humanity* is intended to encourage the whole IB community to focus on and engage with the following specific global issues in the period to April 2010.

- Global poverty
- Education for all
- Peace and conflict
- Global infectious disease
- Digital divide: uneven access to information and communication technologies
- Disasters and emergencies

While participation is entirely voluntary, the IB encourages all IB World Schools to become involved, as the aim of the project is to engage the whole IB community, including parents, students, and all those working in schools, or working with or for the IB.

IB World Schools can explore and address the IB community theme individually or with other IB World Schools. This can be done through:

- regular classroom teaching—by adjusting the focus of normal classroom work within the existing curriculum framework
- special projects
- community service.

The IB community theme provides IB World Schools with opportunities to bring together two or three IB programmes, engaging all students on a common topic, for example, global poverty. It also gives IB World Schools the opportunity to involve non-IB students in the school in an IB-related activity.

It is suggested that schools approach the topics of the IB community theme through guiding questions, pitched to the level of students, for example:

- What do we mean by poverty?
- What are the causes of poverty?
- Does it matter that some people are much poorer than others?
- Why do countries fight?
- How do conflicts arise?
- How are conflicts resolved?
- What can we learn from our everyday experience of resolving conflicts within our own lives?
- Can we apply our experience of resolving conflicts within our own lives to resolving large-scale conflicts (for instance, between countries or warring groups within countries)?

- What is terrorism?
- Terrorist or freedom-fighter – is there a real difference between the two or is it just perception?
- Is education for all a right?
- Does improved education help to remove people from poverty?
- What are the implications of uneven access to digital technology?
- Is a “natural disaster” only a disaster if it affects people?
- How can the effects of natural disasters be mitigated?
- What are the links between disease and poverty?
- Why are some diseases common in some parts of the world and eradicated elsewhere?
- What actions are being taken to address the global issues of the theme?
- What can we do, individually, to play our part in responding to these issues?

For further information, resources and suggestions, and for opportunities to post reports on the IB community theme, an online environment will be launched early in 2008.