

Al-Rayan International School

Primary ARISVersity Handbook

2025/2026

ARIS Core Purpose

"We are a diverse community of learners that are committed to inspire, empower and transform for a better world."

ARIS Core Values

- Greatness in Everyone
- Learning with Everyone
- Creativity and Innovation by Everyone
- > Service to Everyone
- Change for Everyone

ARIS Characteristics

- Responsibility and Respect
- Passion and Mindfulness
- Collaboration and Communication
- Reflection and Action

IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end, the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

ARIS offers the following programmes:

- The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP)
- The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP)
- The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. (IBDP)
- The International Baccalaureate Career Programme. (IBCP)

IB Learner Profile

The learner profile is at the heart of all IB program models. This profile brings the aspirations of the IB Curriculum to life and supports and promotes the development of student-centred education. Each unit of inquiry has one or more focused learner profiles linked to it. All IB programmes aim to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. As IB learners we strive to be:



INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.



THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.



PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.



CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.



BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.



KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.



COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.



OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.



RISK-TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.



REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

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Introduction

ARISVERSITY is a programme developed by Al Rayan International School to empower parents and strengthen the home-school partnership. Recognising that an informed parent body is crucial for student success, ARISVERSITY offers a deep dive into the school's academic curricula over an 8-month course. Through interactive monthly sessions, parents will gain valuable insights into the key components of the Primary Years Programme.

Objectives

The objectives of the ARISVERSITY course are:

- To provide parents with a comprehensive understanding of the educational frameworks used at Al Rayan International School in the Primary school.
- To equip parents with the knowledge and skills to actively support their children's learning journey.
- To foster open communication and collaboration between parents and school faculty.
- To empower parents to make informed decisions regarding their child's educational path.

Registration & Communication Process

- At the beginning of the Academic year, the Communications Department sends an email to all primary school parents. This email includes a registration link and the ARISversity Handbook.
- Interested parents register by completing the online form.
- The PYP Coordinator follows up with registered parents one week before each session to remind them of the upcoming session.
- Please note that this course is offered at no cost to participating parents.

ARISVersity Completion Requirements

To successfully complete the ARISversity program and receive a certificate of completion, participants are expected to:

Attend all 6 modules, each lasting one hour

- Arrive on time and attend the full duration of each session
- Actively participate in discussions and complete all assigned activities
- Demonstrate understanding of the course content throughout the sessions
- Complete the final assessment

Upon successful completion of all modules and the final assessment, parents will receive a certificate and recognition during the ARISversity Completion Ceremony in the month of May.

Parents who miss more than a session will have the opportunity to catch up on the material the following academic year.

ARISVersity Course Structure 25/26

NB	Date	Module Title	Overview	Facilitator
1	Thursday 25th September 2025	Introduction to the PYP: The Learner Profile and Approaches to Learning (ATL)	The Learner Profile captures the IB's mission to nurture caring, principled, and internationally minded students. Alongside this, Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills equip children with essential tools like research, communication, and self-management. Parents will explore how these attributes and skills shape their child's learning and how they can be supported at home.	HR Facilitators
2	Thursday 30th October 2025	Transdisciplinary Teaching and Differentiation: Empowering Inquiry and Concept-Based Learning for Students	In this module, parents will delve into the effective instructional practices of transdisciplinary teaching and differentiation, which enhance inquiry and concept-based learning in the classroom. Participants will gain insights into how these approaches support students' holistic development and foster a deep understanding of key concepts.	HR Facilitators
3	Thursday 27th November 2025	Assessment in the PYP: Nurturing Growth, Reflection and Authentic Learning	Assessment in the PYP looks beyond tests and grades — it's about growth, reflection, and authentic learning. Parents will learn how formative and summative assessments are used, how feedback helps students improve,	HR Facilitators

			and how assessment connects directly to skills and concepts.	
4	Thursday 19th February 2026	Action and Service: Empowering Students to Make a Positive Impact	Service learning is a cornerstone of the IB programmes at AI Rayan International School, empowering students to make meaningful contributions to their local and global communities. In the PYP, learning leads to action. Parents will explore how students are encouraged to take meaningful steps — big or small — to make a positive impact in their classroom, community, and the wider world through service learning.	HR Facilitators
5	Thursday 26th March 2026	IB PYP Core: Exhibition (PYPx)	The PYP Exhibition is the culminating learning experience for Year 6 students. In this module, parents will gain insight into how PYPx showcases student inquiry, action, and reflection — and how families can support students through this exciting milestone.	HR and Subject Facilitators
6	Thursday 30th April 2026	Supporting Growth: Well-Being, SEL and Personalised Learning	At ARIS, student well-being is at the heart of learning. This module highlights how social-emotional learning (SEL) and personalised pathways nurture resilience, confidence, and growth. Parents will also learn how home-school partnerships strengthen support for each child.	EEEP and Wellbeing Departments
7	Thursday 21st May 2026	Celebration of Learning	The final session brings it all together. Parents will present their reflections and celebrate their journey through ARISversity. Certificates will be awarded to recognise their commitment to learning and to partnering in their children's education.	PYP Coordinator

ARISVersity Final Assessment

For ARIS Parent Learners in the IB Framework

1. Introduction

The final assessment for ARISversity is designed to provide parents with an opportunity to reflect on their learning journey, demonstrate their understanding of IB principles, and connect their insights to real-life applications. The assessment is **engaging**, **flexible**, **and accessible**, ensuring that all participants can showcase their learning in a meaningful way.

2. Eligibility for the Final Assessment

To participate in the final ARISversity assessment, parents must have demonstrated consistent engagement throughout the program. Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Parents must have attended all ARISversity modules.
- Attendance records will be reviewed to confirm participation.
- Parents who do not meet the attendance requirement will not be eligible to complete the final assessment or participate in the **completion ceremony**.

3. Assessment Options & Formats

Parents may choose from the following four assessment formats based on their interests and preferred mode of expression.

You may choose your preferred submission format for each task:

- Written essay (350- 500 words)
- ✓ Video recording (2-3 minutes)
- Audio reflection (2-3 minutes)
- ✓ Infographic- Canva or creative visual (PPT slides, Cardboard presentation)

Assessment Submission Format:

- Submission Deadline: One week before the final session (by the end of the day, 6th of May 2026)
- Format Requirements:
 - o Written reflections: Typed, 12pt font, PDF format 300- 400 words
 - Presentations: Live or pre-recorded (MP4 format, max 3 mins).

- Visual Projects: Infographic (PNG/PDF), Poster (A3 size), or Video (max 3 mins).
- Case Study: Written (PDF) or Recorded (MP4, max 5 mins).
- Submission: Completed tasks should be sent via email to: adua@aris.edu.gh
- Support Available: Parents can ask for guidance in the final module (Service) or send an email to the coordinator.

Parent Reflection and Engagement Task: "Bringing the IB Home"

As part of our ARISversity experience, we invite you to complete one of the following reflective tasks, applying what you've learned about the IB philosophy, principles, and practices. These tasks are designed to deepen your understanding of how the IB can support your child's educational journey—and your role in it.

Option 1: Reflective Response – Explaining the PYP in My Own Words

★ Scenario:

A fellow parent has reached out to you because they're considering moving their child to an IB school. They've heard it's very different from other education systems and want to understand why it might be a good choice. They ask for your honest insights and experience and why you chose ARIS and what your child is really learning beyond subjects.

Task:

Write a short reflection or record a 2-minute video/audio explaining the value of the Learner Profile, ATL skills, or transdisciplinary inquiry in parent-friendly terms.

Guiding Prompts:

- What makes the IB PYP different from other systems?
- How does the IB prepare students for real-world challenges and opportunities?
- What has impressed you most about the IB Learner Profile, Core (Exhibition), or ATL skills?
- How has your perspective on education or parenting shifted through learning about the IB?

Option 2: "Bringing IB Principles into Parenting"

★ Scenario:

Imagine you are creating a resource to help other parents understand and apply Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills or IB values at home. Your goal is to demonstrate how these principles can support your child's growth, learning, and well-being in a home setting.

@ Task:

Choose **one key IB concept** that resonated with you during the ARISversity modules, and present how it can be applied in **parenting or home learning**. Your work should clearly show how this concept connects to your experience as a parent and how it can benefit others in the ARIS community.

💡 Possible Focus Areas:

- Helping your child develop self-management or research skills at home.
- Encouraging reflective thinking or open-mindedness in family conversations.
- Supporting balanced routines and caring habits to foster wellbeing and academic growth.

Option 3: Case Study Analysis - "Navigating the IB Way"

- ★ Scenario Choices (choose one):
- a) Your child says: "I don't want to share my toys at school." How could you use Learner Profile attributes to guide them?
- b) Your child is worried about making mistakes when trying something new. How could you encourage "risk-taking" in a supportive way?
- c) Your child resists doing reflections on Friday. How could you model reflection as a family?

Task:

Analyse your chosen scenario and propose IB-aligned strategies you would use as a parent to support your child in navigating the situation.

Quiding Prompts:

- How does the IB framework help address this challenge?
- Which Learner Profile attributes or ATL skills are important in this case?

How can you model and reinforce IB values at home?

Option 4: Family Action Project – "Learning in Action"

Scenario: One of the most powerful elements of the PYP is Action—students taking what they learn and applying it to make a difference. Imagine your family is starting a small action project inspired by something your child is learning at school (e.g., caring for the environment, helping others, celebrating diversity).

Task: Design a simple action your family could take together that reflects IB values. This could be as small as starting a recycling routine at home, practising gratitude, or organising a family "kindness challenge." Document your idea in writing, or create a short poster/visual to share with the community.

Guiding Prompts:

- What inspired this action? (connection to school learning or Learner Profile)
- How will it help your child see themselves as an agent of change?
- How can other families try something similar?

1. Written Essay (350-500words)

Criteria	Highly Competent (4)	Competent (3)	Developing Competenc y(2)	Working Towards Developing Competency(1)
Clarity & Structure	Clear, logical structure with strong introduction, body, and conclusion	Mostly clear structure; minor lapses in flow	Some organisation ; some ideas unclear	Lacks clear structure and coherence

Application of IB Concept	Insightful and specific application to parenting/home learning	Good understandi ng and relevant application	Basic understandi ng; application could be deeper	Limited or unclear understanding/a pplication
Reflection & Personal Connection	Deep, thoughtful reflection and strong personal relevance	Reflective with some personal examples	Some reflection; examples may be general	Limited reflection or personal connection
Language & Presentation	Well-written, free of errors, engaging style	Few language errors, generally clear and readable	Several errors; language may hinder clarity	Frequent errors, difficult to follow

2. Video Recording (2-3 minutes)

Criteria	Highly Competent (4)	Competent (3)	Developing Competenc y(2)	Working Towards Developing Competen cy(1)
Delivery & Engagement	Confident, expressive, and engaging delivery	Clear delivery with some engagement	Uneven delivery, limited expression	Low engageme nt; hard to follow
Content & Organization	Clear focus, well-organised content with smooth transitions	Mostly clear and organised	Some clarity; transitions may be choppy	Lacks focus or clear structure
Application of IB Concept	Strong, meaningful application to	Relevant application with clear understanding	Basic application with general ideas	Unclear or minimal connection

	parenting/home learning			
Reflection & Relevance	Thoughtful, personal insights and practical relevance	Reflective with some connection to personal experience	Some reflection; may lack depth	Minimal reflection or relevance

3. Audio Reflection (2–3 minutes)

Criteria	Highly Competent (4)	Competent (3)	Developing Competency(2)	Working Towards Developing Competen cy(1)
Clarity & Expression	Clear, expressive voice; easy to understand	Mostly clear; few lapses in tone or pace	Some difficulty in clarity or tone	Hard to hear or follow consistentl y
Organisation of Ideas	Logical flow with strong structure	Mostly organised; some transitions could improve	Partially organised; some ideas jumbled	Disorganis ed or difficult to follow
Application of IB Concept	Insightful, relevant application with strong connection	Appropriate application with good understanding	General application; needs deeper insight	Minimal or unclear application
Personal Reflection	Deep, authentic reflection and connection to parenting	Personal and reflective, some depth	Basic reflection; may feel surface-level	Little personal insight or reflection

4. Infographic or Creative Visual (e.g., Canva, PPT, cardboard)

Criteria	Highly Competent (4)	Competent (3)	Developing Competency (2)	Working Towards Developing Competency(1
Visual Design	Eye-catching, well-organised, visually balanced	Appealing and organised with some design strengths	Basic visuals; may be cluttered or sparse	Poor layout or hard to read visuals
Content Accuracy	Clearly communicates one IB concept with relevant examples	Mostly clear and accurate; minor gaps	Message is somewhat unclear or lacks clarity	Unclear or inaccurate concept representation
Application to Parenting	Strong, specific application to home/family context	Good application with some relevance	General or vague connection	Weak or missing link to parenting
Creativity & Effort	Highly original, shows clear effort and thought	Creative and thoughtful presentation	Some creative effort shown	Minimal effort or creativity