Primary Years Programme

Transdisciplinary theme descriptors

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In April 2025, *PYP: From principles into practice* will be updated with new theme descriptors and additional guidance. In the meantime, this publication supports schools in transitioning from the current transdisciplinary theme descriptors to the new transdisciplinary theme descriptors.

Primary Years Programme (PYP) schools have until September 2027 to transition to the new descriptors.

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Purpose of this document

This publication contains the new PYP transdisciplinary theme descriptors. Schools may use this document, as well as two new teacher support materials (TSMs), to begin exploring and incorporating the new theme descriptors into their programmes of inquiry.

Transitioning to new transdisciplinary theme descriptors

Transdisciplinary themes: Analysing the new descriptors and including student voice

For more information on the transdisciplinary theme descriptor review, please refer to *Transdisciplinary theme descriptor review development report: Third report for teachers (April 2023)*.

Table one: The new transdisciplinary theme descriptors	
Who we are	An inquiry into identity as individuals and as part of a collective through: • physical, emotional, social and spiritual health and well-being • relationships and belonging • learning and growing
Where we are in place and time	An inquiry into histories and orientation in place, space and time through: • periods, events and artefacts • communities, heritage, culture and environment • natural and human drivers of movement, adaptation, and transformation
How we express ourselves	An inquiry into the diversity of voice, perspectives, and expression through: • inspiration, imagination, creativity • personal, social and cultural modes and practices of communication • intentions, perceptions, interpretations and responses
How the world works	An inquiry into understandings of the world and phenomena through: • patterns, cycles, systems • diverse practices, methods and tools • discovery, design, innovation: possibilities and impacts
How we organize ourselves	An inquiry into systems, structures and networks through: • interactions within and between social and ecological systems • approaches to livelihoods and trade practices: intended and unintended consequences • representation, collaboration and decision-making
Sharing the planet	An inquiry into the interdependence of human and natural worlds through: • rights, responsibilities and dignity of all • pathways to just, peaceful and reimagined futures • nature, complexity, coexistence and wisdom

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