

International Mindedness

What does it mean to be an [internationally minded global citizen](#)?

This week's PYP spotlight is about international mindedness, what it is, and how we can help support our students/children to become **internationally minded**.

International-mindedness is a view of the world in which people see themselves **connected** to the global community and assume a sense of **responsibility** towards its members. It is an awareness of the **interrelatedness** of all nations and peoples, and is a recognition of the complexity of these. Internationally minded people **appreciate** and value the **diversity** of peoples, cultures and societies in the world. They make efforts to learn more about others and to develop **empathy** and solidarity towards them to achieve mutual understanding and **respect** (Oxfam 2105; UNESCO 2015).

Connected-Responsibility-Interrelatedness-Diversity-Appreciation-Empathy-Respect

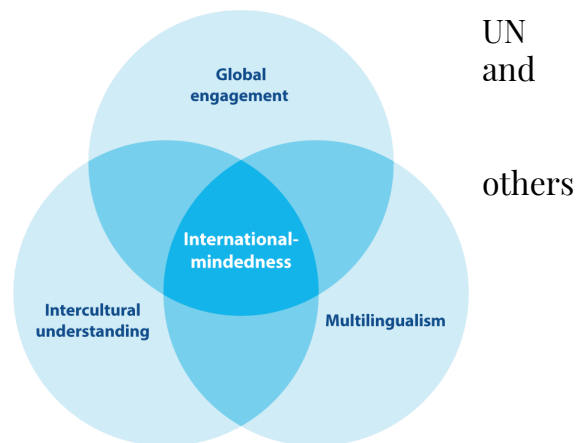
Put simply, for our young learners, international mindedness means understanding, respecting and valuing different cultures, embracing diversity and knowing that different perspectives have a great deal to offer.

At KJS, we want our students to know and recognise diversity and seek different perspectives, while at the same time knowing that we are all part of one big global community. In the words of Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, “I do think the 21st-century is about a more global view. Where you don't just think, yes my country is doing well, but you think about the world at large”.

So how do we educate our students for international-mindedness?

As a PYP school, there are four main ways we can do this:

1. Focusing student inquiries on globally significant issues/opportunities, such as those identified in the Global Goals. We do this through our units of inquiry our [Programme of Inquiry](#).
2. Creating opportunities for students to share different ideas, traditions, and knowledge with who may come from a completely different background. This supports them in developing intercultural understanding.
3. Embracing multilingualism. At KJS we do this through our additional language, Mandarin. We also promote home language through our library and our learning engagements.
4. The **learner profile attributes** provide the foundational dispositions for the development of international-mindedness.



An internationally minded learner:

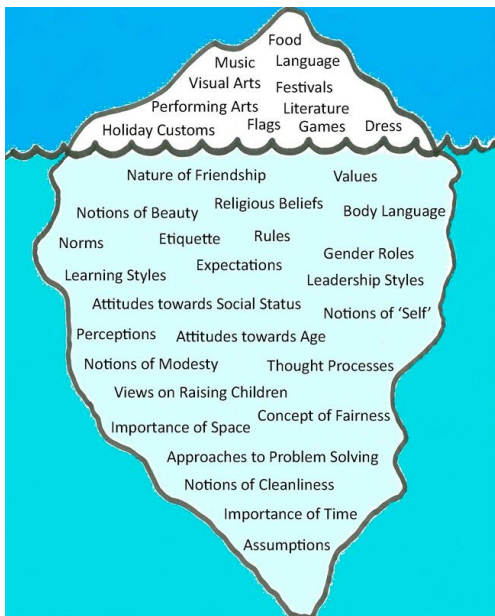
- is a competent **communicator**
- is **open-minded** and **knowledgeable**
- is a **caring** and **principled thinker**

- uses his or her **curiosity** and research skills to **inquire** about the world
- **thinks** and **reflects** critically about opportunities and challenges

(Boix Mansilla and Jackson 2011; Oxfam 2015; Singh and Qi 2013; UNESCO 2015).

How do you support your child at home to become internationally minded?

- ❖ Spend time talking about and **appreciating your own home culture(s)** and the different things that influence the way your family speaks, acts and thinks. Before we can start valuing and appreciating differences we need to understand ourselves and who we are as individuals.

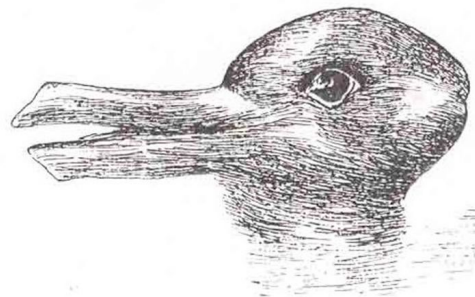
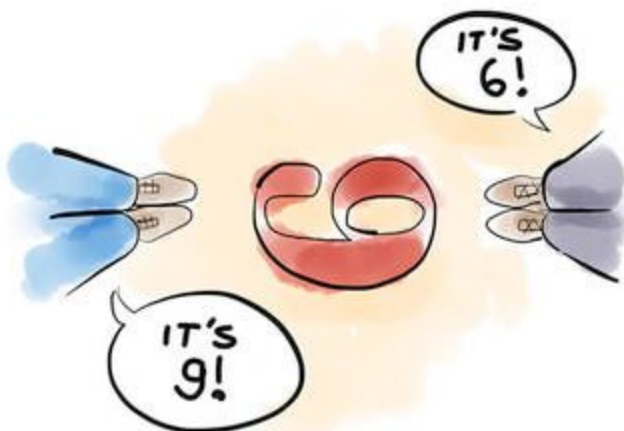


This graphic is called the **Cultural Iceberg** and it uses the analogy of the iceberg to explain that culture is a mixture of the external part of culture that is easily visible at the tip of the iceberg, such as clothes, arts, food etc and the internal which is invisible and far larger, values, thought patterns etc.

It's an effective way for families to begin the conversations about their own culture and cultural influences.

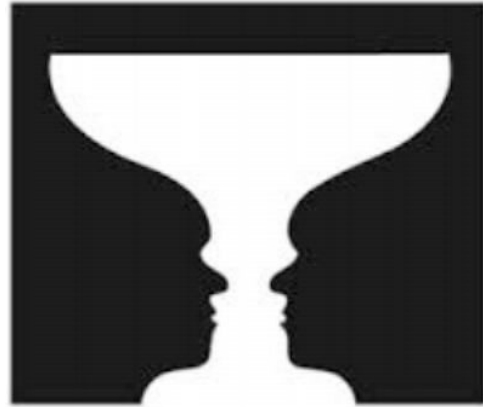
- ❖ Encourage **multilingualism** at home. So many of our children come from language rich environments, where there is more than one language represented. Please encourage your child to use and develop the home language.

- ❖ When you are out as a family take time to enjoy **multicultural events** around the city. Hong Kong is an incredibly diverse city with a lot of opportunities to appreciate the different cultures that co-exist here.
- ❖ Use these images to talk about how people have different perspectives and that we need to remain **open minded** and listen to different ideas. We may not always agree and that's ok as long as we are open to different ideas.



From one perspective it is a duck, from another it is a rabbit. Both perspectives exist at the same time and both are true.





If you have any other ideas please feel free to send them to me.
Regards,
Mrs. Doucette