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# SSIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*The SSIS Primary School Programme is based on the Singapore Curriculum which is world-renowned for its content and methodologies.*



**We aim to equip students with the necessary life skills needed to excel in today's fast-changing world. It is with this in mind that we have embarked on a skills-based learning approach to complement our existing curriculum. In essence, we recognise the fact that it is no longer sufficient to merely acquire content, but more importantly, students must learn 'how to learn' and be able to apply the acquired skills and knowledge.**

## **Subjects:**

**English,  
Mathematics,  
Science,  
Chinese Language,  
Chinese Culture,  
Social Studies,  
Information &  
Communication  
Technology,  
Physical Education,  
Co-curricular  
Activities,  
Visual Arts,  
Performing Arts**

## **Niche**

### **Programmes:**

**STEAM,  
Farm to School  
Project,  
Intensive Support  
Programme,  
Optimal Learning  
Programme**



# English

The English curriculum at SSIS is designed to help develop the students' thinking and language together through interactive learning. The English curriculum draws on a variety of text types to build academic vocabulary and strong content knowledge through teaching explicit skills in reading and writing. Additionally, our English curriculum builds on the language, experiences, knowledge, and interests that students bring to the school.

The core of the English curriculum is the Strategies for English Language Learning and Reading (STELLAR) Programme and is comprised of support programmes that enhance the quality of our curriculum, instruction and assessment.

- Grades 1 and 2 – STELLAR Programme, Get Reading Right Phonics Programme, Handwriting, Differentiated Guided Reading and Home Reading Logs.
- Grade 3 to 6 – STELLAR Programme, Soundwaves Phonics Programme, Differentiated Guided Reading, Literature Study, and Daily Reading Logs.

The aim of the English curriculum is to develop reading, grammar, writing, listening and speaking skills. Students will be able to communicate effectively in English as a result of their development in the following critical areas:

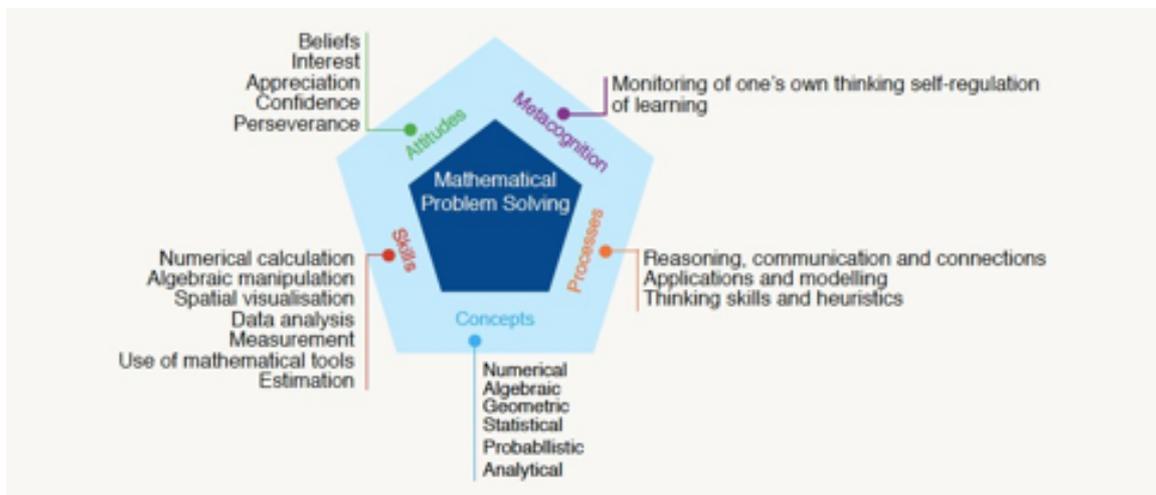
- Reading: Text complexity and growth of comprehension
- Writing: Text types, responding to reading and research skills
- Speaking and Listening: Flexible communication and collaboration
- Language/Grammar: Conventions, effective use and vocabulary acquisition

# Mathematics

Primary School students at SSIS acquire mathematical concepts and skills through the rigorous learning of different activities in the classroom. The students develop thinking, reasoning, communication, application and metacognitive skills through a mathematical approach to problem solving.

The aim of the Mathematics curriculum is to develop the following mathematical processes:

- Communication and Reasoning. Students are encouraged to use concrete tools or pictorial representations to communicate mathematical ideas and understand abstract mathematical ideas using appropriate notations and symbols. Students are also encouraged to infer based on data presented and facts.
- Students are encouraged to understand the relationships of concepts within Mathematics and between Mathematics and everyday life.
- Students are encouraged to apply mathematical concepts and skills to solve problems in a variety of everyday situations.
- Thinking Skills and Heuristics. Students are encouraged to devise their own ways to solve the problem (Using Polya's Method of Problem Solving)



## ***Math Model Drawing***

The SSIS Mathematics programme promotes the use of model drawing to develop problem-solving skills in Primary School students. This approach helps students create pictorial representations using bar modelling that allows them to visualise key information in order to understand and solve problems.

# Science

Students at SSIS not only read and hear about science, they also do science. Science is best experienced through open-ended, hands-on inquiry that results in students thinking and acting like scientists.

Instructions incorporate inquiry-based learning in which students are engaged to explore, explain, and extend their knowledge and understanding. The science programme encourages students to explore the world in which they live and make sense of the natural phenomena around them. Students learn about life and physical processes, living things, and non-living things, such as materials and their properties.

The science curriculum at SSIS is based on the Singapore science curriculum, which combines inquiry-based instructions with science process skills that encourage students to learn fundamental science concepts, principles, theories and attitudes that are essential for scientific inquiry.

## Chinese Language

At SSIS, we cater to students who have little to no knowledge of Mandarin as well as those with advanced skills in reading and writing Chinese. Our students are streamed into classes according to their abilities and needs.

We offer daily Basic Chinese, Singapore System Based Chinese and Advanced Chinese classes.

### Basic Chinese Programme

Our native Chinese speaking teachers have crafted a special oral programme for students who participate in the Basic Chinese programme. This programme aims to build confidence in students to enhance their spoken Chinese abilities as well as their ability to read pin yin.

### Singapore Based Chinese Programme

The school adopts the Singapore Advanced Chinese curriculum as part of our Singapore Based Chinese curriculum. This is the intermediate level of Chinese language learning that has a strong emphasis on reading and writing. Students are given themes and scenarios that help engage them in their learning.

### Advanced Chinese Programme

We utilise a local Shanghai curriculum for our Advanced Chinese learners. This programme caters to students who have a very competent grasp of the Chinese language. A wide variety of challenging reading, writing and speaking activities assists students in stretching their capacity as advanced Chinese learners.

### Chinese Culture

It is also vital that we provide all students with an opportunity to learn about and experience the many wonderful facets of Chinese culture on top of our rigorous Chinese language programme. Weekly Chinese Culture classes are incorporated into our Chinese curriculum. Students are introduced to Chinese customs and traditions such as Tea Ceremonies, Chinese Calligraphy, Ancient Chinese Poetry and ‘The Three Analects’ (How to be a good person).

By catering to the different needs of the students, we are adopting the philosophy of “我学习，我快乐” -“Learning Chinese is Fun”.

## **Social Studies**

Our Social Studies programme aims to nurture students to become global citizens with an appreciation for world events and current affairs. The interdisciplinary nature of social studies also highlights relationships and the interconnectedness between the academic subjects and issues in the wider world. Social Studies is especially pertinent to the SSIS community, which is comprised of students and staff from around the world. The subject infuses into the Singapore-based school curriculum an international awareness that reflects the school's multi-cultural nature within an international context. The curriculum covers topics in Government, Heritage, Physical and Human Geography, Conflict, Global Issues, Economics and Innovation as well as map and compass-reading skills.

## **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

The Baseline ICT standards (BICTs) are incorporated into the ICT curriculum to ensure that all students are equipped with the necessary ICT skills and learning experiences in the Primary School. The themes and activities incorporate the two key initiatives – Thinking & Process Skills. Mini-tasks are assigned to students during each school term to assess their understanding of the BICTs.

### **Areas of ICT Skills**

ICT skills and competencies are categorised into five key areas:

- Learning through Searches and Communication Tools
- Learning through Text and Images
- Learning through Data and Graphs
- Learning through Multimedia
- Learning through Computational Thinking and Coding

The areas defined above are applicable across all subjects. There is also the flexibility to focus the integration of certain ICT skills within specific content areas of other subjects.

## Physical Education

The SSIS Physical Education programme provides opportunities for every student to enjoy and challenge themselves through a diverse range of sports and activities. Here in SSIS, we believe in developing the whole person, where the goal of the SSIS Physical Education programme is to cultivate the physical, mental and social-emotional development of our students through active participation within a safe, caring and nurturing environment.

Students participate in the **SSIS Golf programme** as part of the Physical Education curriculum. Experienced and qualified professional golf instructors work with Primary School students across all year levels. Students also have an opportunity to further enhance their golf skills through our Co-Curricular and After School golf programmes.

Every Primary School Student also participates in the **SSIS Go Swim Programme** where they learn in groups of similar ability. They receive personalized instructions and undergo a grading assessment at the end of each swim unit. Our aim is for every child to enjoy the sport of swimming and a love for water sports.

## Co-Curricular Activities

The Grade 1 to Grade 6 Co-Curricular Activities Programme offers over 30 different choices for students to participate in, including sports (martial arts, soccer, basketball, table tennis and golf), aesthetics (dance, drama, gu zheng, orchestra and xylophone) and special interests (baking/cooking club, STEM club, and the sewing, knitting and scrapbooking clubs).



## Visual Arts

The primary students' characteristics and needs are reflected in the primary visual art's curricular development and the curriculum is designed to focus on developing students' EQ and IQ, discovering and enhancing their imagination and creativity, artistic ability and aesthetic appeal. Students are expected to involve themselves in art projects with great interest and fervour.

Our art curriculum focuses on a broad view of education and the role that art can play. They indicate how art can contribute to essential aspects of children's personal development such as creativity, independence, judgement and self-reflection. The art curriculum includes opportunities to learn and explore other cultures: celebrating different cultural traditions.

## Performing Arts

Students in the Primary School can choose to learn a string instrument, such as the violin, within a small group setting, as well as having the opportunity to follow a programme of general music. This programme includes vocal music, theory, and music appreciation. Students are exposed to a range of Western and Eastern instruments which allows every student the opportunity to discover an instrument they love, and to become a lifelong music learner.

SSIS is also a testing center for the Associated Board Royale School of Music (ABRSM) exams, thereby allowing students to participate in two professional level music tests every year.



# STEAM (Science. Technology. Engineering. Arts. Maths)

SSIS has a STEAM lab which consists of a MakerSpace, Lego Discovery Space, Robotics Room and Video-making Room. It is a place which provides hands-on, creative avenues to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent as they deeply and enthusiastically engage in inter-disciplinary projects.

STEAM helps to promote a growth mindset and prepare our students to be the next generation of innovators and thinkers.



## Farm to School Project

The Farm to School project is unique to SSIS. It was created to allow students to experience a hands-on approach to learn about sustainability and environmental awareness. The project also aims to support the holistic learning environment through the integration of academic and non-academic areas such as character building and physical well-being of pupils.



Students learn how to take ownership of the garden; they tend to the garden, harvest seasonal produce, and enrich the garden plots by using the earthworm compost system. To add a bit of fun, students are always very excited about the Farm to School Awards that recognize classes that tend to the garden regularly and with the best yields. The types of vegetables and crops grown include spinach, rosa red lettuce, carrots, Italian lettuce, potatoes, cherry radish, lavender, sunflowers, pumpkins, and strawberries.

## Optimal Learning Programme

OLP is designed to encourage students' natural interests, establish a literacy-based structure which will be beneficial for them in all subjects across the curriculum. It also forms a bridge between school and home so there is consistency in terms of personal drive and work ethic. The aim is for children to be in better control of their learning, understand their learning style and apply it in all their subjects. The programme will also fully stretch the advanced learners' potential through a series of activities and projects.



## Intensive Support Programme

We provide additional support to students who require extra assistance to learn the English language. Specialist English support teachers work with small groups of students within mainstream classes to assist within the mainstream context. Extra specialist classes are also provided for students outside of the mainstream classroom that provide individualized support based on the English Language needs of each student.