



Programme of Inquiry 2009-2010*

Age	An inquiry into: Who we are	An inquiry into: Where we are in place and time	An inquiry into: How we express ourselves	An inquiry into: How the world works	An inquiry into: How we organize ourselves	An inquiry into: Sharing the planet
	<i>An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.</i>	<i>An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.</i>	<i>An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.</i>	<i>An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.</i>	<i>An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.</i>	<i>An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.</i>
3-4	<p>Central idea Increasing awareness of our personal characteristics and abilities, and those of others, allows our self-identity to develop.</p> <p>Key concepts: form, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: identity, relationships</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical, social and emotional characteristics My role within my family Recognizing similarities and differences between myself and others 	<p>Central idea Documenting personal histories allows us to reflect on and celebrate who we are and where we've come from.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, change</p> <p>Related concepts: development (growth), family</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ways of documenting personal history Personal change from birth to present: self and family Reflecting on past experience 	<p>Central idea* We use play to express our feelings and ideas and in order to come to new understandings.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, connection, perspective</p> <p>Related concepts: beliefs, representation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating through play Imaginative use of everyday materials Games and toys 	<p>Central idea Our activity is usually connected to the Earth's natural cycles.</p> <p>Key concepts: change, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: cycles, interaction</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night and day cycles (dark and light) Seasonal changes Health and safety as related to climate and seasonal changes 	<p>Central idea Communities function more effectively when rules and routines are shared with all members.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, responsibility, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: community, system</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various communities we belong to Purpose of rules and routines Reaching agreement 	<p>Central idea Living things have certain requirements in order to grow and stay healthy.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: classification, living and non-living</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of living things Our needs and the needs of other living things Our responsibility for the well-being of other living things





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4-5	<p>Central idea Friendships enrich our lives and require nurturing in order to develop.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: conflict or cooperation, interdependence</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How friends are made and kept • Why friends are needed • Characteristics that develop healthy friendships 	<p>Central idea Journeys create change and can lead to new opportunities.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, change</p> <p>Related concept: choice</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of journeys people make • Choices and decisions involved in making a journey • Changes experienced because of a journey 	<p>Central idea Stories inform and provoke us, and give us pleasure.</p> <p>Key concepts: connection, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concept: communication</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What a story is • What stories convey • How stories are created and shared • Feelings and emotions that stories evoke 	<p>Central idea Understanding the way materials behave and interact determines how people use them.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, change</p> <p>Related concepts: behaviour, prediction</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour and uses of materials • Changing properties of materials • Manipulation of materials for specific purposes 	<p>Central idea People use a variety of skills and strategies that contribute to their role in a community of learners.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: citizenship, independence</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being part of a community of learners • Skills, strategies and attitudes • Making contributions to a community 	<p>Central idea Plants are a life-sustaining resource for us and for other living things.</p> <p>Key concepts: form, change, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: interdependence, systems</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What plants provide for us and for other living things • The structure of a plant • Caring for plant life





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5-6	<p>Central idea Making balanced choices about daily routines enables us to have a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, causation, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: balance, well-being</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily habits and routines (hygiene, sleep, play, eating) • Balanced choices • Consequences of choices 	<p>Central idea Communities are enriched by their members and the different perspectives they bring.</p> <p>Key concepts: change, perspective</p> <p>Related concepts: continuity, diversity</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What a community is • People within a community • The personal stories of community members 	<p>Central idea People recognize important events through celebrations and traditions.</p> <p>Key concepts: form, perspective</p> <p>Related concepts: beliefs, culture, values</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What traditions are • How and why people celebrate • Similarities and differences between various celebrations 	<p>Central idea All living things go through a process of change.</p> <p>Key concepts: change, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: cycles, transformation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life cycles • How living things change over their life time • Developmental stages of various living things 	<p>Central idea Transportation systems are directly related to the needs of a community.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: systems</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific purposes of different transportation systems • Factors that affect the kinds of systems that can be developed • Relationship between transportation systems and the environment 	<p>Central idea People interact with, use and value the natural environment in different ways.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, responsibility, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: conservation, interdependence, order</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local natural environment • Human use of the local environment • Actions that benefit or harm the local environment





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6-7	<p>Central idea Homes reflect personal identity and local culture.</p> <p>Key concepts: form, connection, perspective</p> <p>Related concepts: creativity, diversity</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of home • Different types of homes • Circumstances that determine where people live 	<p>Central idea Public areas strengthen communities and provide people with opportunities to connect.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: cooperation, ownership</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different public areas and their functions • How public areas develop • How these places differ from our homes 	<p>Central idea Imagination is a powerful tool for extending our ability to think, create and express ourselves.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: empathy, invention, transformation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we demonstrate and enjoy our imagination • How our imagination helps us to consider other perspectives • How imagination helps us to solve problems • The value of imagination 	<p>Central idea Understanding the properties of air allows people to make practical applications.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, causation</p> <p>Related concepts: force, energy</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence of the existence of air • What air can do and how we use it • The relationship between air, light and sound 	<p>Central idea Systems need to be in place to maintain organization in communities.</p> <p>Key concepts: connection, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: interdependence, organization, systems</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of organization • Different systems of organization that we use personally • Different systems of organization in our community • Collection, storage and use of information for organization 	<p>Central idea People can establish practices in order to sustain and maintain the Earth's resources.</p> <p>Key concepts: change, responsibility, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: lifestyle, resources</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited nature of the Earth's resources • Personal choices that can help sustain the environment • Reusing and recycling different materials • Reducing waste





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7-8	<p>Central idea Relationships are enhanced by learning about other people's perspectives and communicating our own.</p> <p>Key concepts: perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: communication, empathy, open-mindedness</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social interactions • Acknowledging others' perspectives • Managing and resolving conflict 	<p>Central idea The development of global perspectives is supported through understanding our place in the world in relation to others.</p> <p>Key concepts: connection, perspective</p> <p>Related concepts: context, location, orientation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we represent place • Representations of place through time • The relationship of our location to other parts of the world 	<p>Central idea Through the arts people use different forms of expression to convey their uniqueness as human beings.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: perception, self-expression</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The diverse ways in which people express themselves • How everyone can express their uniqueness through the arts • The role of art in culture and society 	<p>Central idea The design of buildings and structures is dependent upon the environment and available materials.</p> <p>Key concepts: connection, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: structure, sustainability, transformation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations to take into account when building a structure • How building impacts on the environment • Indigenous architecture 	<p>Central idea In a workplace people share responsibility towards a common purpose.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, causation, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: cooperation, employment</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of a workplace • Interconnectedness of people in a workplace • Importance of a shared vision or common purpose 	<p>Central idea Over time, living things need to adapt in order to survive.</p> <p>Key concepts: change, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: adaptation, evolution</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of adaptation • Circumstances that lead to adaptation • How plants and animals adapt or respond to environmental conditions





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8-9	<p>Central idea Understanding different ways of learning enables people to respond to their own learning needs as well as those of others.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, perspective, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: diversity, motivation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning communities • How people construct knowledge • Different learning styles • How learning styles impact the way people engage in a learning community 	<p>Central idea Family histories provide an insight into cultural and personal identity.</p> <p>Key concepts: change, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: chronology, history, tradition</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family ancestry • Artifacts, heirlooms or rituals that have meaning in a family • Similarities and differences between generations within a family 	<p>Central idea A variety of signs and symbols facilitates local and global communication.</p> <p>Key concepts: form, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: culture, media, pattern</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs and symbols • Reasons for the development of communication systems • Specialized systems of communication 	<p>Central idea Human survival is connected to understanding the continual changing nature of the Earth.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, change, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: erosion, geology, tectonic plates, movement</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the different components of the Earth are interrelated • How the Earth has changed and is continuing to change • Why the Earth changes • Human response to the Earth's changes 	<p>Central idea Communities provide interconnected services designed to meet people's needs.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, causation, connection</p> <p>Related concept: networks</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons people live in the local community • Services needed to support a community • Planning services for a community 	<p>Central idea Water is essential to life, and is a limited resource for many people.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: conservation, equity, processes</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of water and how water is used • What happens to water after we have used it • Distribution and availability of usable water • Responsibilities regarding water





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9– 10	<p>Central idea What we believe is a part of who we are.</p> <p>Key concepts: perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: diversity, perception</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What we believe • How beliefs influence the way we behave • The impact of religion and spiritual traditions on society 	<p>Central idea Human migration is a response to challenges, risks and opportunities.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, change, perspective</p> <p>Related concepts: population, settlement</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reasons why people migrate • Migration throughout history • Effects of migration on communities, cultures and individuals 	<p>Central idea Choices of role models reflect the characteristics that societies and individuals value.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: self-fulfilment, influence</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role models and why we value them • Why we should develop our own gifts, talents and interests • How personal strengths can be applied to help others 	<p>Central idea Energy may be converted from one form to another and stored in various ways.</p> <p>Key concepts: form, function, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: conservation, transformation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms of energy • The storage and transformation of energy • Conservation of energy • Renewable and sustainable energy 	<p>Central idea Marketplaces depend on the ability to produce goods and supply services that can be exchanged.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: interdependence, supply and demand</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium of exchange in various marketplaces • Ethics of the marketplace • How and in what ways we depend on people in other places • How global movement and communication affect the availability of goods and services 	<p>Central idea Children worldwide face a variety of challenges and risks.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: equality, rights</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges and risks that children face • How children respond to challenges and risks • Ways in which individuals, organizations and nations work to protect children from risk





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10– 11	<p>Central idea Complex factors contribute to the process of making decisions that have implications for ourselves and others.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, change, connection</p> <p>Related concepts: choice, systems</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors that influence our decisions • Decision-making processes for groups and individuals • Impact or consequences that decisions can have 	<p>Central idea Past civilizations shape present day systems and technologies.</p> <p>Key concepts: causation, change, perspective</p> <p>Related concepts: continuity, progress, technology</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspects of past civilizations that have survived • Reasons these systems and technologies developed • Why modern societies continue to use adaptations of these systems and technologies • Implications for the future 	<p>Central idea Rituals, traditions and artifacts provide a window into the beliefs and values of cultures.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, perspective, reflection</p> <p>Related concepts: beliefs, diversity</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What constitutes a culture • Significance of rituals and traditions • How artifacts symbolize beliefs and values 	<p>Central idea The fact that materials can undergo permanent or temporary changes poses challenges and provides benefits for society and the environment.</p> <p>Key concepts: form, function, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: measurement, transformation</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of chemical and physical changes • Practical applications and implications of change in materials • Ethical dilemmas associated with manufacturing processes and by-products 	<p>Central idea Governmental systems and decisions can promote or deny equal opportunities and social justice.</p> <p>Key concepts: function, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: equality, government or governance</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of governance • Principles of human rights and social justice • The effect of institutional behaviours and attitudes on social justice 	<p>Central idea Biodiversity relies on maintaining the interdependent balance of organisms within systems.</p> <p>Key concepts: connection, responsibility</p> <p>Related concepts: balance, biodiversity, interdependence</p> <p>Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdependence within ecosystems, biomes and environments • Ways in which organisms are interconnected in nature • How human interaction with the environment can affect the balance of systems





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11– 12	<p>Central idea Personal well-being is dependent on a complex balance of interconnected factors. Key concepts: change, responsibility Related concepts: growth, relationships Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of “well-being” • Factors that contribute to well-being (physical, mental, social and spiritual) • Personal issues affecting our well-being 	<p>Central idea Exploration leads to discovery and develops new understandings. Key concepts: form, perspective, reflection Related concepts: consequences, discovery, geography Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for exploration (historical and personal) • Feelings and attitudes associated with exploration • What we learn through exploration 	<p>Central idea People’s outward appearance can lead to perceptions and misconceptions. Key concepts: function, perspective, reflection Related concepts: creativity, diversity, stereotypes Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal adornments, clothing and identity • Reasons for what people wear • Impact of first impressions • Countering misconceptions 	<p>Central idea Reproduction of living things contributes to the continuation of the species. Key concepts: change, connection Related concepts: cycles, growth Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproduction as part of a life cycle • Reproductive processes • Genetics and hereditary factors 	<p>Central idea Technology impacts on the world of work and leisure. Key concepts: change, connection, responsibility Related concepts: communication, systems, ethics Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology and inventions of the home, workplace and leisure • Circumstances that lead to the development of important inventions and their impact • How technology supports/impacts sustainability 	<p>Central idea* Finding peaceful solutions to conflict leads to a better quality of human life. Key concepts: causation, perspective, responsibility Related concepts: conflict, diversity, justice Lines of inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of conflict • Conflict resolution and management • Living and working together peacefully

* Adopted from International Baccalaureate Organization

