



Curriculum Description

iSchools

The Frontier Primary model uses modern teaching methodologies emphasising independence and critical thinking. Frontier uses the iSchools programme, a device-based tool which contains guided interactive resources and lesson plans to fully support teachers to navigate the Zambian National Curriculum in an innovative and creative manner that enhances the learning in class and allows teachers to work with students in smaller groups. The tablets – ‘Zedupads’ - are loaded with the full G1 – 7 National Curriculum in the relevant familiar language and in English.

Following initial training, teachers use their own designated teacher’s tablet to support lesson planning and teaching. Continuous professional development in pedagogy and methodology backs this up. All students have access to the Zedupad during lessons, so ICT is meaningfully integrated into every classroom.

Primary

Lower Primary (Grades 1 – 4)

Each class is led by a qualified class teacher, who has been trained through Educore to take a holistic approach to education, incorporating a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy into all other subjects and reinforcing topic work done during lessons through extra-curricular clubs, trips, visitors and activities. Teaching and learning is enquiry based, and focuses on the student’s individual needs and learning requirements through individualised feedback and dialogic reporting. There is the expectation that group work and active participation is at the centre of all lessons to encourage independence and critical thinking. Emphasis on the importance of play and creative opportunities in all curriculum subjects including Physical Education further enhances the learning experience in these year groups.

A key focus in these crucial foundation years is embedding a good standard of literacy and numeracy skills, including proficiency in phonics, reading and writing. For this reason, the timetable in all years includes a discrete ‘golden hour’ of literacy or numeracy every morning, before the normal curriculum begins.

As per Zambian regulations, all subjects are taught in the stipulated vernacular up to Grade 5, except English language lessons.

Upper Primary (Grades 5 – 7)

In the Upper Primary, students continue to use the iSchools methodology, but spend more focused time on key curriculum subjects such as Mathematics, English and Science. Students enjoy specialised teaching at times in these areas. The lessons are designed to build on the skills learnt in lower primary to prepare students for their Grade 7 public examination.

In this regard, Year 7 is strongly academic in its focus and there is additional time and effort placed on revision and examination preparation, including the provision of Saturday lessons.

All subjects in this age group are delivered in English as the language of instruction. The local vernacular is taught as an additional language subject.

Assessment

We know that all students should be supported and stretched to achieve their full potential. Part of this involves regularly tracking our students’ progress, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and setting individual learning targets. Our focus is not just on attainment but also on progress; we understand that not all pupils will excel academically, and take a holistic view to attainment, rewarding success in all areas of the curriculum.

Progress in the Primary phase is measured using our own assessment tests and the Grade 7 public exam. Our pilot school is also taking part in a wider comprehensive M&E study based on the Early Grade Reading and Mathematics Assessments (EGRA/EGMA), comparing progress against other schools in the region and internationally. Progress and attainment is shared with parents at termly meetings and through student reports.