

Canadian International School 2019 - 2022 School Development Plan



Canadian International School
Learning To Understand

Introduction:

The Canadian International School (CIS) was founded in 2014 as a private non-profit institution to serve the international community of Erbil, Iraq. CIS is recognized by both the Iraqi Central Government as well as the Kurdish Ministry of Education and is governed by a 6-member school Board, offering education of excellent quality, with English as the principal language of instruction.

We at the Canadian International School are welcoming, diverse, respectful and inclusive. Our goal is to support open dialogue and seeks feedback regarding the effectiveness of its work from its stakeholders. We are committed to continuous improvement, questioning the status quo.

Canadian International School is committed to strong community relations efforts to meet the needs of its students today and in the future. We develop and participate in partnerships with community groups, including business and civic organizations.

The key to the success of this partnership is our ability to recognize opportunities and fulfill responsibilities to one another on behalf of our students in a very special way, the Canadian International School embodies some of the best aspects of private education. In recent years, our elementary, middle, and secondary school divisions have ranked at the very top, in terms of its academic achievement and overall reputation, Canadian International School is compared very favorably with some of the most prestigious private schools in the Erbil area. Canadian International School uses a unique collaboration between both conventional and modern techniques of teaching the students enrolled. With an enrollment of around 500 students, the school offers a complete curriculum of academic studies for Grades K to 12, including English, Arabic & Kurdish language, social sciences, mathematics, and science. In addition, through a unique enriched program, students can broaden their studies beyond the traditional curriculum and classroom setting.

The Canadian International School has worked vigorously in order to successfully become a Cambridge Associate School. Over the past two years, the students have undergone IGCSE examinations and have attained respectable results.

While meeting the highest standards of the school board and the Erbil Ministry of Education, the curriculum is also distinguished by a strong, supportive sense of community, with individual attention, small class sizes, and a focus on preparing for higher education enrollment.

Students learn in ways that are appropriate for their needs. We inspire teachers to encourage students to develop skills in critical thinking, creativity, and communication in preparation for a world that rewards analysis, initiative, and leadership.

Vision and Mission

Vision Statement:

The Mission of The Canadian International School (CIS) is to inspire learners of today to become positive members of their society and the world in general.

Mission Statement:

Our Vision is to inspire excellence, nurture character, kindle creativity and innovation, and embrace a multicultural and global perspective while fostering meaningful contribution locally and globally.

Content of SDP

1. Securing the school's distinctive positioning in Erbil
2. Further strengthening the school's curriculum and pedagogy
3. Facilitating students' achievement and progression into Higher Education
4. Developing the school campus to achieve our ambitions

Securing the school's distinctive positioning in Erbil

Strategic Task in 3-year plan	2019 - 22 tasks	Success criteria	Lead staff member	Status
<p>Promote CIS as a distinctive option and a caring school for parents who aspire to a high quality, internationally-minded but locally rooted education for their children review and update the school's vision and mission statement</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a program of PR activity to highlight quality of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) learning & teaching, b) student personal growth & achievements c) students' awareness of their own and others' culture 2. enhance communication with existing parents & other stakeholders regarding school's strengths and benefits 3. Continue the effort of the working group to review mission statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS perceived by the community at large as a quality school • Students are perceived by the community as positive, purposeful and personable individuals • Continued strong support from CIS parents and stakeholders • A new set of statements that embraces the aspirations of stakeholders 	<p>Principal + PR team</p> <p>Principal + Board of Directors</p> <p>Principal + Mission Statement working group (Stakeholders)</p>	
<p>Consolidate and promote the school's unique curriculum model of using both the British (Checkpoint, IGCSE, ICE, AS/A Levels and AICE) and American (SAT, SAT Subject, and AP) curriculums to prepare students effectively for the IPD or the or Local KRGSD</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update all curriculum brochures, clarifying the benefits of each diploma option to existing and future parents 2. Make HE destinations and careers advice service more visible to parents 3. Communicate report to existing & prospective parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wider community recognizing the uniqueness of CIS and the benefits of the diploma choice we offer to parents and students • More balanced uptake of two diplomas by students • Better parental and student understanding of the quality of the school's and Career Advice service • positive response from parents regarding CIS report 	<p>Vice Principal + curriculum coordinators</p> <p>Principal + Head of Upper School</p>	

<p>Continue to showcase CIS students' creative talents through technology contests, and visual arts exhibitions; continue to build on successes of CIS sports teams</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a program of Arts & Technology activities for the year 2021 - 2022 2. Review and consolidate successes of sports teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful staging of student performances & exhibitions • Successful establishment of more sports teams with outstanding results 	<p style="text-align: center;">Arts & Technology Faculties + PE Faculty</p>	
<p>Encourage the formation of a CIS alumni association to further strengthen the school's profile and to draw upon the talent of former students to highlight the school's successes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite new graduates of 2021 to keep in touch using school webmail, and to establish a newsletter. 2. Establish constitution & run inaugural meeting of alumni 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An active alumnus that contributes towards the improvement and promotion of the school to parents and the general public 	<p style="text-align: center;">Principal</p>	

- Further strengthening the school's curriculum and pedagogy

Strategic Task in 3-year plan	2019 - 22 tasks	Success criteria	Lead staff member	Status
<p>Deliver planned curriculums 7 courses to enable the first and subsequent cohort of students to graduate with international diplomas and qualifications</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate good practice of Upper school teachers & continue to prepare students effectively for Diploma examinations. 2. Deploy additional resources on targeted subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation and integration and ongoing review of Cambridge Curriculum to the HMH Common Core Curriculum. • Students able to access both diplomas with a high percentage attaining the required level of success 	<p>Principal + Academic Coordinator + Head of Departments.</p>	
<p>Establish a curriculum review cycle</p> <p>Continue review of KS3 to KS5 curriculum begun last year in response to "IP"</p> <p>Conduct self-evaluation of the whole "IP" curriculum in 2019-20</p>	<p>Review key aspects of lower and middle school curriculum structure in response to Evaluate delivery of "IP"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP program • Inquiry-based learning • Inter-disciplinary collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum review implemented so that strengths and areas of development are identified, and plans of action developed to meet further challenges, and the forthcoming evaluation visit in April 2021. • A positive report from IP evaluation team that visited CIS in September 2019 	<p>Principle + Academic Coordinator</p>	
<p>Further enhance the British Curriculum as a viable and attractive curriculum offered in the whole school</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement a new CIE structure for choosing elective subjects to further enhance the flexibility of the British Curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and students made aware of the strengths and benefits of selecting the British Curriculum, leading to higher proportion of students selecting IGCSE, AS/Alevel qualifications the for 2019-2020 	<p>Principal, + Heads of Departments</p>	
<p>Strengthen good pedagogical practices in the classroom, including inquiry-based learning inter-disciplinary learning, differentiation, ESL strategies</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue and extend inter-disciplinary, inquiry-based learning units in Ips 2. Focus on meeting individual student needs through differentiated classroom activities 3. Develop school-wide approach to ESL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully meeting the standards of IP Approaches to Teaching & Learning (IP evaluation visit April 2019) • Students achieving more effective learning outcomes • Stronger and more consistent application of effective strategies to support ESL learners. 	<p>Principle + Academic Coordinator + Heads of Departments.</p>	

<p>Establish a consistent provision of learning support to meet individual needs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate & review existing learning support for students with individual needs 2. Establish an updated learning support policy framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective implementation of policy with appropriate resourcing & good practices for learning support 	<p>Principal + Academic Coordinator</p>	
<p>Sustain a high-quality teaching team to deliver the above through professional development, retention and focused recruitment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with Local and International training for teachers 2. Use teachers with expertise to deliver school-based TD 3. Continue teacher appraisal as developmental process; 4. Maintain support program for recently qualified teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of professional development needs through appraisal as well as requirements of the three-curriculum program • Delivery of effective TD for teaching team • Maintaining the high level of cooperation, collegiality and collaboration amongst teaching staff 	<p>Principal & Academic Coordinator Working with Heads of Departments</p>	

Facilitating students' achievement and progression into Higher				
Strategic Task in 3-year plan	2019 - 22 tasks	Success criteria	Lead staff member	Status
<p>Enhance opportunities for students' ownership of school life and development of their leadership qualities:</p> <p>Facilitate the further strengthening of the CIS student council as the key representative body of student opinion and action</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and raise the profile of student leaders and students' involvement in school life through peer elections and inter-school competitions, student council elections, student-led service and sports activities 2. consolidate leadership development activities for students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant student council effectively representing students' voices and aspirations, and carrying out purposeful activities and projects in and beyond the school • Students taking ownership of school theme for 2019-20, and developing strong, positive sense of belonging towards their school. 	Principal + Academic Coordinator	
<p>Enhance opportunities for senior students to broaden their outlook and international-mindedness</p> <p>Encourage their participation in International and national programs to learn outside the classroom</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend participation of external events and activities; 2. Establish and extend exchange programs with schools outside Erbil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High and sustained level of student participation and commitment to activities that demonstrate international-mindedness 	Principal + Heads of Department	
<p>Encourage high standards of achievement in all subjects through greater promotion of the CIS scholarship scheme</p> <p>Provide opportunities for senior scholars to act as role models for junior students e.g., reading buddies, peer counselling</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater promotion of CIS scholarship scheme, including extension of special needs scholarships; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy rate of application and success in the CIS scholarship scheme. • A healthy proportion of upper school scholars taking up leadership and service roles within the school to benefit junior students 	Principal + Heads of Departments	

<p>- strengthen the role of Homeroom teachers in monitoring social as well as academic progress of students</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workshop for new teachers more focused Teachers' meetings to strengthen their roles 2. Introduce electronic registration to track attendance more effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeroom Teachers more knowledgeable about their Students' potential and current progress • Homeroom Teachers more effective in tracking and intervention, to support students in need 	<p>Principal & Heads of Departments</p>	
<p>Review and further strengthen the school's careers and higher education preparation program</p> <p>invite more HE representatives to visit CIS</p> <p>encourage students to visit universities or participate in summer schools in their last summer holidays</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue provision of external speakers and careers events for senior school students; 2. Setting aside time for senior school tutors to write student references and to support their university applications 		<p>Academic Coordinator + Head of Departments + HE Representatives.</p>	

• Developing the school campus to achieve our ambitions

Strategic Task in 3-year plan	2019 - 20 tasks	Success criteria	Lead staff member	Status
Enhance environmentally-friendly policies and practices use in the school campus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further promote environmental policies and practices through an environmental theme for 2019-20 "Think Green, Live Green" 2. Support and encourage more student involvement in green activities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher awareness by staff and students matched by change of daily habits • Student participation in environmental issues in the wider community 	Academic Coordinator + Head of Science Department + Students	
Facilitate a further growth of student's positive usage and ownership of the campus: - to support meetings, communications, activities such as clubs and societies, program. - to celebrate students' creativity through visual art, murals, photography and video displays around the campus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide Students with more noticeboard space and other means of promoting activities; 2. Encourage the formation of more student clubs and societies 3. Continue a program of displaying student artwork around the campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Council takes responsibility for effective use of school campus to promote a richer school life • An enhanced and sustained CIS program with more clubs & societies • Vibrant displays of students' creative works around the campus established and reviewed 	Academic Coordinator + Teachers	
Establish multi-purpose Hall for PE/Drama	Complete building of new facilities	Facilities developed to meet the learning needs of faculties	Project Director & Principal	

<p>Develop ICT infrastructure and high-quality AV multi-media facilities to support learning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete enhancement of wireless networking. 2. Secure funding for enhancing ICT facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wireless access and web-based learning platforms for all staff and students, enabling ICT-supported learning to develop effectively across all areas of the curriculum • Good quality audio-visual and multi-media facilities established to support learning particularly in performing arts and languages 	<p>Principal + ICT team</p>	
<p>Develop further use of spaces, with necessary re-allocation of spaces, in the Blocks B and C to meet the needs of teaching and learning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete enhancement of Visual Arts & Music facilities 2. Establish new classrooms on second floor of C block 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students able to work more effectively Multi-Purpose Rooms 	<p>Project Director & Principal</p>	
<p>Maintain high degree of campus maintenance to ensure that CIS remains an attractive, inviting environment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure budget for repairs & renovation of campus 2. Conduct monthly campus audits to monitor the quality of environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect of adverse weather conditions on Campus addressed • Visually pleasing campus that is complemented by students and parents 	<p>Principal + Academic Coordinator</p>	