

Empowering students to be their best selves

Students at this progressive school are supported in developing learning habits for a lifetime.

At Australia's oldest progressive school, they do things a bit differently. Students at Preshil don't have to wear uniforms or play sports for the school and extracurricular activities are self-selected. "The more alike you ask children to be, the less opportunities they have to express their difference," says Preshil interim principal Cressida Batterham-Wilson.

Located in Kew, with their Arlington kindergarten and primary campus situated on Barkers Road and their secondary campus, Blackhall Kalimna, on Sackville Street, Preshil is a coeducational, secular and independent school that eschews unyielding adherence to rigid traditions and authoritarian systems of control, discipline and competition. In other words, they do not use the fear of failure or the threat of punishment to motivate children.

"We're a school which is very deeply rooted in the idea that all children are unique, and they will progress and grow in their own way," explains Batterham-Wilson. "Our job is to accept them as they are, and challenge them and encourage them to develop and grow in the social setting that is school."

Preshil is also an International

Baccalaureate continuum school, offering accredited IB primary years, middle years and diploma programs (PYP, MYP and DP).

"These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people with their differences can also be right," says Batterham-Wilson, quoting part of the IB mission statement.

She describes it as a "seamless, visionary curriculum framework" that Preshil students build on year after year, encouraging the best of learning traits that set them up for later life. "Are we courageous? Are we communicators? Are we reflective? Those sorts of searching

questions are consistent through all of the programs."

She adds: "One of the really interesting elements of the IB, particularly in the primary years program, is that it's a very socially conscious, globally aware

program. Right from the start of their scholastic journey, students are asked to consider their place in the world, sharing the planet and being active citizens.

"In the middle years program, the statements of inquiry are asking students to

"The IB asks that students consider being active citizens."

Cressida Batterham-Wilson



Preshil students learn to be engaged citizens, raising awareness or taking a stand on issues.

consider provocations and problems and look at ways of solving those, so you get a lovely through-line between the PYP and that MYP where students are looking at themselves as learners on the planet here and now, and asking what it is that they can take on. In the DP, creativity action and service bring these things to their natural conclusion."

Batterham-Wilson says the IB asks that students consider being active citizens, raising awareness or taking personal action about their own impact on the planet, adding that Preshil has had a number of staff and students attend climate change rallies together.

For the last IDAHOBIT day - the International Day Against Homophobia,


Transphobia and Biphobia - senior students organised awareness raising on campus by inviting human rights speakers and unfurling the rainbow Pride flag from the balcony.

"It was brilliant," she says of the initiative shown by students. "The IB is deeply, deeply aspirational in terms of how we should be considering living our life."

Preshil offers a truly contemporary, globally-minded alternative to conventional schooling and the result, says Batterham-Wilson, is that they are sending young adults out into the world who are self-aware, able to speak their mind and advocate for themselves, for others, and for how the world might be.

JOANNE BROOKFIELD


CLASS OF 2020



Shaping

LIFE LONG LEARNERS

	Medicine Monash University			
	Paramedicine ACU			
	Biomedicine University of Melbourne			
	Biomedical Science Monash University			
	Science University of Melbourne			
	Arts University of Melbourne			
	Commerce University of Melbourne			
	Laws / Engineering Monash University			
	Engineering / Arts ANU			
	Civil Engineering / Business Management RMIT			



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THE PROGRESSIVE ALTERNATIVE



Preshil delivers an engaging, nurturing and challenging curriculum. The rigorous International Baccalaureate framework provides a seamless continuum of education from our Kindergarten through to the IB Diploma Programme in Years 11 & 12.

With an uncompromising focus on each student; their wellbeing, strengths, passions and future aspirations, Preshil continues to offer a truly progressive educational experience.

A DEDICATED INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

Providing a Continuum of IB Education from Kindergarten to Year 12

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