

## Silver Fern International School Education Philosophy

### Academic Year 2025 - 2026

At SFIS, we believe children learn best through play, exploration, and guided discovery. We foster whole-child development—intellectual, emotional, social, and physical—through a child-centered, inquiry-based curriculum. Rooted in global best practices, our approach nurtures curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

#### 1) Play-Based Learning

- Encourages creativity, imagination, and problem-solving through meaningful and joyful experiences.
- Supports cognitive and social development by allowing children to make choices, collaborate, and explore.
- Provides a developmentally appropriate foundation for academic concepts through hands-on, child-led activities.

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#### 2) Social-Emotional Development

- Helps children build self-awareness, empathy, and emotional regulation in a nurturing environment.
- Fosters strong relationships and communication skills through cooperative play and teacher-guided interactions.
- Promotes resilience, confidence, and a sense of belonging within the classroom and school community.

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#### 3) Hands-On Exploration

- Engages children in active learning through sensory-rich and practical experiences.
  - Encourages inquiry, experimentation, and discovery to deepen understanding of the world around them.
  - Bridges abstract concepts with real-life connections, supporting meaningful learning outcomes.
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#### **4 ) Early Literacy & Language Development**

- Builds a strong foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through storytelling, songs, and conversations.
  - Encourages language-rich environments that support vocabulary growth and comprehension.
  - Integrates literacy across all areas of play and inquiry to promote communication and expression.
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#### **5) Family Partnership**

- Encourages open communication and collaboration between educators and families to support each child's growth.
  - Values families as essential partners in the learning journey, respecting their insights and cultural backgrounds.
  - Builds a strong, supportive school community through regular engagement, events, and shared goals.
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