

Al Sahwa School



Service Learning Programme

Handbook



What is Service Learning?

The Service Learning programme is a vital and mandatory requirement of the MYP Programme at Al Sahwa School.

The programme encourages students to become aware of their roles and responsibilities as members of communities and then requires them to take active part in the community in which they live - 'It starts in the classroom and extends beyond it.'

Giving importance to the sense of community throughout the programme encourages students to be responsible citizens and seeks to deepen the student's knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

The MYP Service Learning provides an avenue for experiential learning through a range of physical, service and community activities or projects.

ACTION:

Taking action on issues in the local, national or global Community.

SERVICE:

An unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student.



What is a Project?

- Students plan and participate in an activity that they have designed over a period of time with an outcome that helps others.
 - The project has no time and is not about how long it takes but by the impact in which it has on those you help.
- A responsible adult must supervise activities at all times
 - Paid activities and normal family responsibilities do not count as SL

| | Service Project | Creativity Project | Physical Project | Learning Outcomes |
|---------|-----------------|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Grade 7 | At least 1 | At least 1 either creativity or Physical | | At least 2 Outcomes |
| Grade 8 | At least 2 | At least 1 either Creativity or Physical | | At least 3 Outcomes |

Service Project:

These are unpaid and voluntary exchanges that support the local, national or global community and have learning benefits for you.

Creativity Project:

Arts and other experiences that involve creative thinking.

Physical Project:

Physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing academic work elsewhere in the MYP.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X12K5rzzVE> - Service Learning example

| | |
|--------|--|
| Step 1 | Student informs advisor of new Service Learning project |
| Step 2 | Student completes SL form - GOOGLE FORM |
| Step 3 | Project is entered on to centralised spreadsheet |
| Step 4 | Student completes the project and writes a reflection |
| Step 5 | Supervisor reviews reflection and completes 'Service Learning Experience Supervisor Report' - REPORT |
| Step 6 | Coordinator - Review and completion |
| Step 7 | End of year 'Exit Interview' |

Service Learning Outcomes

All of the learning outcomes are closely associated with the IB learner profile attributes and ATL skills. Through participation in service, students can become more confident, self-regulated learners. There are seven Service Learning outcomes:

1. **Become more aware of their own strengths and areas for growth**

You are able to see yourself as an individual with various skills and abilities, some more developed than others, and understand that you can make choices about how you wish to move forward.

2. **Undertake challenges that develop new skills**

Challenges and new skills may be those not previously undertaken or acquired, or those that extend your existing expertise.

3. **Discuss, evaluate and plan student-initiated activities**

The planning and initiation of an activity should involve a discussion and evaluation of objectives, responsibilities, and expectations. These steps are often completed in collaboration with others, and should be demonstrated in all SL work.

4. **Persevere in action**

At a minimum, this implies showing determination and commitment by attending activities regularly and accepting a share of the responsibility for dealing with problems that arise in the course of activities.

5. **Work collaboratively with others**

Collaboration can be shown in many different activities, including working with coaches, adults, and other students.

6. **Develop international-mindedness through global engagement, multilingualism and intercultural understanding**

This can mean being involved in international projects, but there are many global issues that can be acted upon locally or nationally (e.g. environmental concerns, caring for the elderly).

7. **Consider the ethical implications of their actions.**

Ethical decisions arise in almost any SL activity (e.g. by considering who will and who will not benefit from your actions).

Examples of Projects

- Tutor children during or after school
- Coach a youth sports team
- Give free music lessons
- Organise a reading program to encourage young children to read
- Organise events to help new students make friends
- Build and setup a birdhouse
- Grow flowers in your garden and donate to local hospitals
- Start a neighbourhood watch scheme
- Organise and help in National Day celebrations
- Set up a 'Clean up the beaches' campaign
- Assist in the awareness of the recycling campaign in school and in Muscat



Reflection

After the action has been completed and students have made a real difference in the life of another human being a reflection needs to be made. Which means 'what did you learn?' Reflection is a valuable tool to understand and separate the specific moments of being proud to moments when things didn't quite go so well.

Questions to ask:

- **What were the overall thoughts of the project?**
Example: I was very pleased with how I performed in the overall project, I found it hard to complete at times as it required dedication but I managed to meet all the criteria successfully.
- **If I had to complete the project again what would I do differently?**
Example: Overall, my project was a success, but if I were given a second chance, there are some things I would change. I would try to.....

