



## **The Learning Project Curriculum Framework**

### **Empowering Students Through Democratic, Self-Directed Learning**

#### **Introduction**

At The Learning Project Ibiza, we are committed to nurturing an environment where children are at the center of their learning, empowered by self-direction and guided by democratic principles. Our mission is grounded in the belief that young people thrive when they are entrusted with responsibility, freedom, and the opportunity to shape their learning experiences. We provide a truly democratic community where students not only learn about democracy but live it daily.

The Learning Project operates as a self-governing community, where all members—students and staff—have equal rights in decision-making through three key democratic mechanisms:

#### **The Community Meeting**

This weekly meeting is the heart of our school's governance, much like in Sudbury schools, where each member has one vote, regardless of age or role. Every aspect of school life is discussed, from rules and policies to daily operations, with decisions made by direct democratic vote. Students take on key roles, such as Chairperson, Secretary, and CM clerk ensuring that governance is a shared responsibility.

#### **The Peace and Justice Committee (PJC)**

Conflicts and disagreements are addressed through our Peace and Justice Committee, which embodies our commitment to community justice. Students and staff rotate onto the committee, ensuring that everyone participates in conflict resolution, mediation, and decision-making regarding school matters. The PJC provides a structured yet compassionate way to resolve disputes, ensuring that fairness, empathy, and accountability are central to our community.

#### **The Financial Management Committee (FMC)**

Every member of the community can propose items to be purchased for the school. The Financial Management Committee meets weekly to review requests, and purchases are voted on collectively, reinforcing transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility over school resources.

## Democracy in Action

These democratic structures aren't just theoretical concepts; they are the lived experience of our students. Through their participation, students develop real-world skills in governance, negotiation, financial responsibility, and ethical decision-making. Our school is a place where democracy is not just taught—it is practiced daily, through mutual trust and respect, preparing students to engage thoughtfully and confidently in society.

At The Learning Project, we are not only reimagining education—we are redefining it. Our goal is to be Europe's leading democratic school, advocating for true freedom and autonomy in education. We align our philosophy with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring that children's voices are not only heard but at the core of shaping their futures.

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## Curriculum Overview

### 1. Formal Learning

TLP integrates New York State Standards for literacy, numeracy, and Spanish to provide a strong academic foundation.

- **Literacy & Numeracy:** Structured progression across developmental stages.
  - **Spanish:** Fostering bilingual communication and cultural engagement.
  - **Tracking Progress:** Platforms like **Volantis** and **IXL Diagnostics** ensure personalized learning paths.
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### 2. Personal Projects: Student-Led, Hands-On Learning

Students engage in **Personal Projects** guided by the **Design Cycle**:

1. **Explore:** Research topics of personal interest.
  2. **Plan:** Define strategies, goals, and timelines.
  3. **Create:** Implement projects through hands-on work.
  4. **Reflect:** Evaluate outcomes and refine ideas.
- **Younger students** focus on short-term projects with tangible themes.
  - **Older students** undertake complex, interdisciplinary work with real-world impact.
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### 3. Civics: Active Citizenship in Action

Our Civics Curriculum is deeply embedded in the school's democratic processes:

- **Engaging in Democracy:** Students vote, draft policies, and lead meetings.
- **Building Community Awareness:** Encouraging empathy, conflict resolution, and leadership through trust and respect.
- **Promoting Justice:** Applying restorative practices through the Peace and Justice Committee (PJC).

#### 4. Personal Social Health and Meta-Skills: Preparing for a Changing World

We emphasize key meta-skills that ensure lifelong adaptability:

- **Self-Management:** Initiative, focus, adaptability.
- **Emotional Intelligence:** Collaboration, empathy, leadership.
- **Innovation:** Creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking.
- **Social and Health Education:** age-appropriate issues that we explore and share together.

Through real-world challenges and experiential learning, students develop agency and resilience.

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#### 5. Discovery-Driven Science

Rather than treating science as a stand-alone subject, we embed scientific thinking within:

- **Personal Projects and Inquiry-Based Learning.**
- **Environmental and sustainability initiatives.**
- **Engineering and technology problem-solving.**

This contextualized approach ensures meaningful scientific literacy.

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#### 6. Informal Learning: Nurturing Curiosity

Informal learning is a cornerstone of our self-directed philosophy, allowing students to:

- Pursue **curiosity-driven** learning.
- Engage in **peer mentorship and collaborative projects.**
- Explore entrepreneurial and creative endeavors.
- Through the art of conversation, our community places value on the richness that is learned through discussions, by giving us the time and space to genuinely talk, listen and process together.

By removing rigid academic constraints, students develop intrinsic motivation and lifelong learning.

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## Characteristics of Learning at TLP

Our curriculum fosters deep, engaged, and meaningful learning through:

- **Meaningful Learning:** Making personal connections with knowledge.
  - **Social Interaction:** Learning across mixed-age groups.
  - **Active Engagement:** Student-driven inquiry and exploration.
  - **Iterative Learning:** Embracing mistakes and continuous growth.
  - **Joyful Discovery:** Encouraging curiosity, experimentation, and intrinsic motivation.
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## Why Choose The Learning Project?

- A solid foundation in literacy, numeracy, and Spanish.
- Hands-on, inquiry-driven learning through self-direction and Personal Projects.
- A true democratic environment where students govern their own learning.
- Meta-skills development that prepares students for an unpredictable future.
- A strong, engaged community that fosters collaboration, responsibility, and empathy.

At The Learning Project, we don't just teach content—we cultivate thinkers, leaders, and changemakers who will shape the future with confidence and integrity.