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**The
Polymath
School**

21st Century Education

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

Benjamin Franklin

The Polymath School



We take great pride in introducing to you **The Polymath School** – a premium Nursery-to-Grade-12 school located in the heart of Bhiwandi and Mumbai city's first complete Project Based Learning (PBL) School.

The Polymath School

Polymath – “a person of wide knowledge or learning”.

A polymath is someone whose expertise spans a number of different subject areas; someone who draws on complex bodies of knowledge to solve specific problems. The people we look up to - be it Leonardo Da Vinci, Michaelangelo, or Albert Einstein from the Western World, or *rushis* and spiritual *gurus* from India such as Kabir saheb, Srimad Rajchandra or Pujya Dadabagwan - were all polymaths.

The word Polymath comes closest to describing the kind of education we would like to provide – interdisciplinary, creative and uninhibited by conventions. Education that makes our children well rounded by integrating arts, sciences, physical fitness and spirituality.



Our logo is a personification of our vision.
“to enable every child to be the best version of himself/herself”.

At first glance what seems like a labyrinth, is a purposeful maze designed to depict the multidisciplinary approach of education. Education is a journey of self-directed and self-paced experiences and discoveries. It's about finding your own way. The multiple openings show a child's journey to her own core to realize her true potential.

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21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

History of Education



20th Century

Our current education system was developed during the industrialization era. Most of the jobs during this period were assembly-line factory jobs – where workers had to repeatedly perform a narrow set of pre-defined tasks.

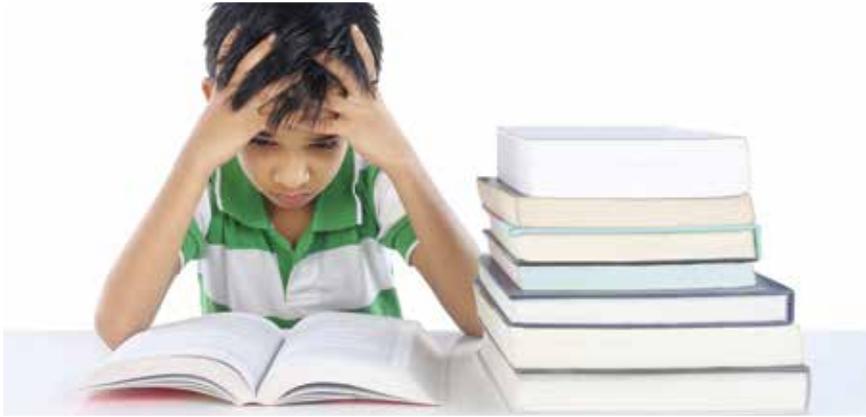
The education system itself was designed as a mass production system, supplying scores of students with a basic understanding of the “3 R’s” (reading, writing and arithmetic) and the capacity to receive and perform basic instructions – making them ideal as factory workers. Since content was expensive and not easily available, a lot of emphasis was placed on rote memorization of facts.



21st Century

The world that we live in today is starkly different from that of the 20th century. Content is ubiquitous and free, routine and advanced tasks are being automated, top-down structures are being replaced by flat structures of project-based teams and technological breakthroughs are changing every aspect of our life.

Our education has to come up to speed with these realities. Mastery of the “3 R’s” is no longer enough, nor is the superficial recollection of facts. What is needed is deeper learning of content through its application in solving real-life issues. Also, content knowledge needs to be complemented with purposeful development of critical skills (problem solving, creativity, communication, collaboration) and universal human values (empathy, positivity, equanimity, ethic of excellence).



20th Century Education

Memorise and forget.

Information limited to textbooks.

Learners work individually.

Teacher as the knowledge provider.

Emphasis mainly on reading, writing & arithmetic.

Little focus on morals, ethics, values.

Assessments done by teachers - mainly through standardised tests.

Education divorced from real world, students bored and disengaged.

21st Century Education

In-depth understanding of content.

Information from various sources, within & outside the school.

Learners work collaboratively.

Teacher as the facilitator of learning.

Emphasis on conceptual understanding & critical skills.

Values integrated into the curriculum and assessments.

Assessments done by peers, teachers, industry experts – through project work & portfolio presentations.

Education linked with real world & students interests, therefore fun and engaging - creating life-long learners.



Project Based Learning (PBL)

Project Based Learning (PBL) is one of the most effective learning methodologies to prepare our children for the 21st Century. It will be the primary teaching methodology at our School. The essential design elements of PBL:

Project Objective

Overarching Theme

Sustained Inquiry

Authenticity

Student Voice & Choice

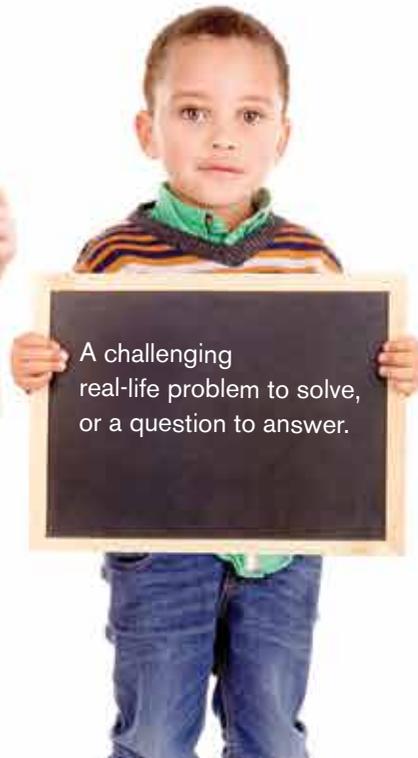
Critique & Revision

Public Product

Reflection



In-depth understanding of content and development of critical skills and values.



A challenging real-life problem to solve, or a question to answer.



Students engage in a rigorous process of asking questions, finding resources, applying information.



The project features real-world context, tasks and tools, and quality standards.



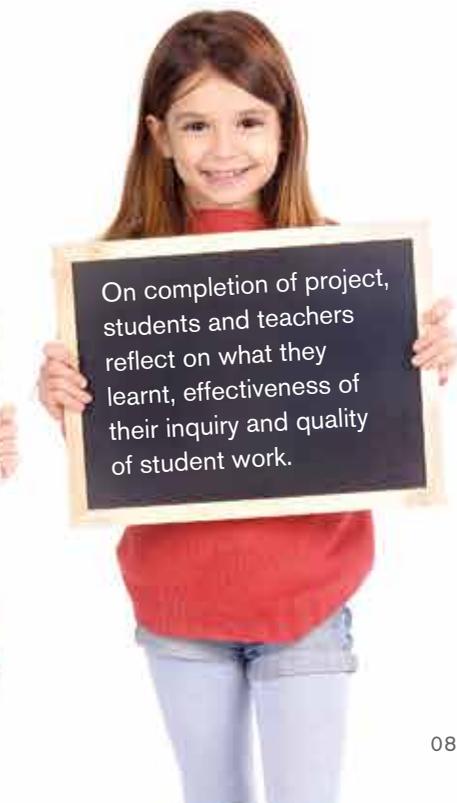
Students make some decisions about the project, including how they work and what they create.



Students give, receive, and use feedback to improve the process and products.



Students make their project work public by presenting it to an authentic audience - people beyond the classroom.



On completion of project, students and teachers reflect on what they learnt, effectiveness of their inquiry and quality of student work.

Advantages of Project Based Learning (PBL)

The experience of thousands of teachers across all grade levels and subject areas, backed by research, confirms that PBL is an effective and enjoyable way to learn - and develop deeper learning competencies required for success in college, career, and civic life. Here are some of its key advantages.



Makes school more engaging

Students are active, not passive; a project engages their hearts and minds, and provides real-world relevance for learning.



Improves learning

Students understand content more deeply, remember what they learn and understand how it can be applied to new situations.



Develops critical skills

Students learn to take initiative and responsibility, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, and manage themselves more effectively.



Makes teaching more rewarding

Projects allow teachers to work more closely with active, engaged students doing high-quality, meaningful work, and in many cases to rediscover the joy of learning alongside their students.



Connects with real world

Projects provide students with empowering opportunities to make a difference by solving real problems and addressing real issues. Students get a "slice-of-life" by interacting with adults and organizations outside their school.



Uses technology constructively

Students enjoy using a variety of tech tools that fit perfectly with PBL. Technology is leveraged to find resources, create products and to connect with experts around the world.

THE ACADEMIC MODEL



Vision

We want every child to be the best version of himself / herself.

We would like to reimagine education by:

.....
Changing the nature of schools from mere rote-learning, test-preparation centres, to institutions that are hotbed of creativity and innovation.
.....

.....
Changing current model of education, where teachers give and students receive “knowledge”, to a model where students are equal partners in shaping their own education.
.....

.....
Changing learning from being dull, boring and divorced from real world to learning that is highly engaging, fun and aligned to the real world.
.....



Curriculum

Our curriculum will place equal emphasis on all the following elements.



In-depth Understanding – and internalization of content through its application in multi-disciplinary, real-world projects.



21st Century Skills – developing real-world skills such as creativity, problem solving, communication and collaboration.



Ethic of Excellence – never settling for anything less than "excellent"; developing grit through perseverance.



Human Values – developing empathy, positivity, equanimity and reflection.

Student Assessments

Rather than focusing only on standardised tests, students will be assessed on different aspects of learning in multiple ways.

Comprehensive assessments

Within every project, the students will be assessed on all of the four elements of our curriculum – content, skills, excellence and values. ✓

High-quality work

Work goes through many drafts and isn't considered complete until it represents high-quality work for that child. ✓

Ongoing portfolios

Every student to have an ongoing portfolio of his projects – containing not just the final products, but also the multiple drafts and iterations that show his journey. ✓

Student led conferences

Students will demonstrate their learning through presentations to an authentic audience comprising older students, teachers and occasionally industry experts. ✓

Exceptional Teachers

Focus on Relationships

The child's relationship with her teacher is at the base of all learning. If a child can count on her teacher to be by her side through good and bad times, to love her and respect her - then meaningful learning within the school, and success in life beyond, is all but guaranteed.



Teachers as Scholars

Teachers in our school will work as scholars – documenting their work, observing work of others, comparing best practices and presenting their findings to teachers from other schools. Having to make their work public, these teachers will put in unusual effort and thoughtfulness in their practice.



Centre for Excellence

To share our experiences with project based learning and to learn about cutting-edge work being done by other progressive schools around the world, we have established a Centre for Excellence. This will serve as a platform for a vibrant give-and-take of ideas for all teachers.



Examination Board

We will be designing our own curriculum centered around experiential, project-based learning and, at the same time, meeting international educational standards.

In Grades 9 & 10, students will study for IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) administered by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), UK. In Grades 11 & 12, students can opt for AS & A levels, also administered by CIE, UK, or move on to any junior college.

There are more than 10,000 Cambridge schools in over 160 countries worldwide. Within India there are 376 Cambridge, including 108 in Maharashtra. The IGCSE emphasizes on adding value within a national context while also encouraging an international outlook. It is well accepted by Colleges and Universities through out India and is considered equivalent to SSC (state board) and ICSE & CBSE (national boards).



Reimagining School

Our school is designed by EDA, the Indian arm of Fielding Nair International (FNI), a global leader in innovative school design. They have helped us reimagine what a school can be. The school layout is flexible and designed to foster true learning, creativity and building of meaningful relationships.

Small Learning Community

Every grade will be housed in a separate Small Learning Community (SLC), a huge 5,500 sq. ft. school-within-a-school, which will have everything from its own science-cum-arts studio (“Da Vinci Studio”), library space, performance space, outdoor terraces, huddle room, teacher-collaboration space (“fish-bowl”), bathrooms and high-end computers & peripherals.

The layout within an SLC is flexible and encourages varied styles of teaching (to a large group, to a small group, one-to-one teaching, team-teaching, performance-based teaching, Socratic Seminars) and varied types of learning (self-study, project-based, peer-to-peer learning, distance learning, etc.)



State-of-the-Art Facilities



Multi-Purpose Hall – Which can be used alternatively for seating 400 persons, indoor sports or project exhibitions.

Maker Space – An advanced engineering lab with 3D printers, laser cutters, hardware tools, etc.

R&D Science Suite – Traditional physics, chemistry and biology laboratories redesigned into an integrated R&D Science Suite.

Culinary Lab – To learn everything about food & a healthy life style.

High-Speed Broadband – Access throughout the school to assist in independent learning anytime, anywhere.

Visual-Arts Studio – For painting, photography & digital arts.

Performing-Arts Studios – Multiple studios for music, dance & drama.

Cafeteria – Which can also double-up as a performance or exhibition space.

Mini-Amphitheatre – For outdoor performances.

Mini Forest Area – To connect with nature.

Multi-Purpose Sports Ground

Play Area – For little kids.

Outdoor Learning & Collaboration Areas – Throughout the campus.



The Polymath School



Top view of the Small Learning Community



Small Learning Community



Small Learning Community





OUR TEAM MEMBERS

Promoters



Bhavesh Gandhi
CA, MBA (Kansas, USA)

8 years of experience as a value-investor in financial markets; 12 years in real-estate market; ardent follower of Pujyashree Dadabagwan, deeply involved in seva since 2002.



Hemant Mehta
Engineer (BE-Electronics)

10 years of experience in the IT industry, including 6 years with Accenture; Promoter, Navdeep Construction Co. - a 25-year old firm engaged in multiple businesses; ardent follower of Pujyashree Dadabagwan, deeply involved in seva since 2003.



Mahendra Gandhi

One of the top builders in Bhiwandi, with over 25 years of experience in building residential, commercial and warehousing projects. Projects include Vardhaman Heights & Arcade at *Anjur Phata*, Vardhaman Warehousing Complex at *Valpada*, Arihant Township at *Dhamankar Naka*.

Promoters



Shantilal Shah

A veteran in construction industry, with over 35 years experience; Promoter, Navdeep Construction Co. – a 25-year old firm engaged in multiple businesses – turnkey-civil-works projects for MCGM (SWD, roads, bridges),RMC plants and real-estate development.



Anand Mehta Engineer (Civil)

18 years experience in construction industry; Promoter, Navdeep Construction Co. – a 25-year old firm engaged in multiple businesses – turnkey-civil-works projects for MCGM (SWD, roads, bridges), RMC plants and real-estate development.



Jasu Lakhani Chartered Accountant, CPA, MBA

Settled in USA since 40 years; built over 40 low-income-housing apartment complexes across America. Has mentored several start-up ventures, helping them grow and achieve their goals.



Kant Doshi CPA, MBA

Settled in USA since 35 years; a venture capitalist and partner in multiple businesses. Instrumental in building Kansas City's largest integrated health care organization - Swope Community Enterprises.

Consultants



Rayna Dineen: School Designer, EL Education (USA).

EL Education was born out of a collaboration between The Harvard Graduate School of Education and Outward Bound USA. Today EL education is a network of over 150 Expeditionary Learning Schools in USA, where project-based-learning expeditions are the pedagogical mainstay. Through these expeditions students engage in interdisciplinary, in-depth study of compelling topics, in groups and in their community, with assessment coming through cumulative products, public presentations, and portfolios.

Rayna Dineen has worked in education for over 30 years, including 16 years directly with EL Education. She has two master's degrees from Columbia University, in addition to doctoral work at Colorado State University. She founded an EL Education school in New Mexico, USA and served there as teacher and principal for 13 years. She now works as an EL Education School Designer serving schools in USA & India.

STRATEGUM
India's education partner

Strategum Eduserve Pvt. Ltd. is India's leading education management services company. It pioneers in institution development across the entire gamut of education space – from play schools, K-12 schools to universities. Till date, it has established and managed over 50 educational institutions in 11 different States of India.



Admissions open for academic year 2017 for Nursery, KG1, KG2, Grade 1 & 2.

Photo Credit:

Some of the photos used in this brochure are from schools around the world designed by our architects EDA, or their parent company FNI. We have used them here since our school facilities are also designed by EDA and will be similarly open and flexible.