

# Frequently Asked Questions

## General Information

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### **Who is the owner of Ullens School?**

The owner of Ullens School is Ullens Education Foundation (UEF) – a profit-not-distributing company. There is no individual owner or shareholder of the school. UEF is a privately managed public institution. Its policies, programs, and decisions are transparent.

### **How does the school utilize its surpluses?**

The school utilizes its surpluses on facility upgrades, investment in growth, scholarships, staff members' professional development, and outreach programs (public school development and community development initiatives).

### **How is Ullens school governed?**

Ullens School is governed by the School Management Committee (SMC), duly formed in accordance with the SMC formation, as mentioned in the Education Act of the Government of Nepal.

### **Who is the Chairperson of the School Management Committee?**

Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba is the chairperson of the School Management Committee. This position is purely a volunteer position.

### **Who appoints the Chairperson of the SMC?**

The board of trustees of UEF recommends three potential candidates. From these, the Department of Education of Lalitpur Metropolitan City officially nominates one to serve as the Chairperson of the SMC.

### **Is UEF registered in the Social Security Fund (SSF)?**

Yes, UEF is the largest contributor to the SSF in the education sector. The Government of Nepal recognized UEF as the top contributor in fiscal year 2079/80.

### **Does UEF pay regular taxes?**

Yes, UEF pays regular taxes to the Government of Nepal. UEF currently falls in the Medium-level Taxpayers Category. The details of the last 3 years of our direct income tax is as follows:

FY 2080/81 Rs. 24,085,528.00

FY 2079/80 Rs. 21,652,448.00

FY 2078/79 Rs. 13,377,544.00

### **Who decides the School Fees?**

The parents decide the school fees. The joint meeting of UEF and SMC proposes the fee structure for the academic year and submits it to the department of education, Lalitpur Metropolitan City. The school administration gets approval of the proposed fees from the two-third majority of the parent body. The parents' approval is then submitted to the DoE, for the implementation.

### **What programs does Ullens School run?**

Ullens School runs K-12 programs with Ministry of Education authorization. We also run the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) which is authorized by International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). This school does not run any program which is not authorized by MoEST and the local governing body.

### **What is the relationship of the School with Bank Street, Graduate School of Education?**

Bank Street Graduate School of Education, New York trained our teachers and school leaders. Bank Street also provided technical support in setting up the school and helped us with institutional mentoring in our initial years. The school's pedagogy is thereby inspired by the progressive education philosophy of Bank Street.

### **What are the roles that Ullens School expects from parents in school life?**

The school expects parents to actively participate in the Action Team for Partnership (ATP). The ATP is a parent body that advises and supports the school to conduct different activities that enrich children's experience and understanding. It also advises the school in strategic planning. The school also expects parents to serve as class representatives for parents, as members of the SMC, and as guest lecturers, and as chaperones during class trips and picnics.

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## **Philosophy and Academic Programs**

### **What is the philosophy of the school?**

Ullens School delivers a progressive education upholding the philosophy of "every child is unique".

### **Which curriculum does Ullens School follow for Grades One to Ten?**

Within the framework of the Government of Nepal's curriculum, Ullens School has refined the curriculum to make it a "progressive" one. The school delivers this curriculum in the form of Bank

Street pedagogy, which predominantly fosters “creative thinking” and “inquiry based” learning.

### **Which curriculum does Ullens School follow after SEE?**

Ullens School runs the National Education Board (NEB) Curriculum (Grades Eleven and Twelve) for high school students. The school also offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). This two-year pre-university international degree is widely acknowledged and accepted by colleges and universities in Nepal and abroad. Ullens School is the pioneer IB World School of Nepal and has been running this program since 2009.

### **Does Ullens School have branches?**

Ullens Education Foundation runs two different schools in Kathmandu Valley. The first school established in 2006 operates from Khumaltar, Lalitpur and runs K-12 & IBDP programs. The second school established in 2023 operates from Bansbari, Kathmandu and runs the K-10 program.

### **Does UEF run any other programs besides schools?**

Yes, UEF runs Ullens Center for Educators Development (UCED), Ullens LEAP (a program for gap-year students) and Ullens College.

- UCED is a teacher and school leader training arm of UEF. It trains teachers and school leaders across the country.
- Ullens LEAP –There is a growing trend of taking a gap year among students after completion of their high school. Ullens LEAP provides comprehensive skill based courses to gap-year students.
- Ullens College – UEF is offering a four year undergraduate programme in cybersecurity in collaboration with Kathmandu University.

### **Why does Ullens School not require uniforms for its students?**

As a progressive educational institution, we do not believe in conditioning young brains in a certain pattern or unifying the thoughts and ideas of young people in the way adults wish. We respect diversity among children and believe that each student has a unique sense of how their appearance should be. However, we implement a dress code to maintain civility and avoid fashion-related competition and envy among students.

### **What is the reason behind not overloading children with homework assignments?**

Teachers at Ullens School provide age-appropriate home assignments to students that are adequate to meet the demand of the curriculum and are based on our philosophy of progressive education. We believe children need time to search and read books for pleasure, follow their passion and hobby, spend time with family and learn social skills at home. (Refer to Homework Policy for further queries.)

### **Why doesn't the school have any examinations until Grade Five?**

We believe that education should prepare children for life rather than just for examinations. Our philosophy is to allow children to take ownership in learning and constructing their knowledge. The school assesses students continuously based on their understanding of content and application of these understandings in real life through assignments, project work, and different interactions.

### **What is the reason behind not having rankings and competitions?**

We recognize and accept the existence of cognitive diversity among our students. There is no need to label one child as better than another.

### **Why doesn't Ullens School have course books until Grade Five?**

Ullens School's instruction is curriculum-based, where homeroom teachers have and independence to design their lessons based on the students' cognitive abilities. The school aims toward active involvement of students in the learning process.

### **Why does the school have course books from Grade Six?**

Conforming to the government's policy of district, regional and national level examinations and their dependence on text books, the school prescribes a set of books for the students in Grades Six to Ten. Ullens School, however, does not restrict the teaching learning environment to a text book, and continues to follow the principles of progressive, inquiry-based education.

### **What is the teacher-student ratio at Ullens School?**

The teacher-student ratio is 1:8, while the adult-student ratio is 1:4.

### **What is the language policy of the school?**

The school has a bilingual policy. Students learn to organize their ideas clearly and concisely in both English and Nepali. Our primary medium of instruction is English for all subjects while language arts are delivered in their respective languages. Ullens School also offers Mandarin to our Elementary school students and students in our IBDP program can choose to study French or Spanish.

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## **Operation and Infrastructure**

### **Are your buildings seismic safe?**

Yes. Ullens School has been marked 'safe' by the Government of Nepal's seismic evaluation team formed after the Gorkha earthquake. To make our buildings more resistant to earthquakes, we have renovated them by replacing heavy inner walls with light weight, prefabricated structures.

### **Why does Ullens School promote commuting on school transportation?**

The reasons behind promoting the commute on school transportation are:

- To avoid traffic congestion; thereby reducing road chaos and carbon emission.
- To give parents a sense of relief by not worrying about commuting their child to and from school.
- School vehicles are safer than private vehicles.
- To enrich socialization.
- To teach our children the culture of using public transportation.
- To avoid potential unhealthy comparisons that are likely to come with private vehicles.

### **Why do you start school hours for primary grades early in the morning?**

The school hours for primary grades start early for a couple of reasons: First, avoid traffic congestion and reduce commute time. Second, the school considers a research-proven fact that children of this age wake up early and learn better in the morning hours.

### **Why is Ullens School's cafeteria vegetarian?**

We promote healthy eating. Managing healthy meat supply for an organization that serves more than 4,000 meals every day is risky and prone to hygiene issues. Ullens School doesn't compromise with the nutritional needs of children.

### **How is the food menu decided and nutritional needs met?**

Ullens School hires a nutrition expert who works with the Food Committee to decide on the menu for the cafeteria.

### **Is the drinking water used by the school safe?**

The school serves drinking water that is purified by our purification system. We send water samples for laboratory tests every month and the test report is displayed on the school notice board.

### **Do you have sports facilities?**

Since the school is located in a densely populated neighborhood, we have limited sports facilities on-campus. Including three of its premises, the school is spread over a total of 26 ropani of land, out of which we have designated space for sports activities as follows:

- Indoor Space for gymnastics, table tennis, martial art, badminton, etc.
- Rooftop space for PE classes, softball, etc.
- Outdoor space for futsal, basketball, badminton, cycling etc.
- We take students to a public sports club for swimming.