



## Ethical Education Program Description

The Ethical Explorers curriculum is an engaging and comprehensive educational program open to all and designed for children and adolescents aged 5 to 15, with a focus on understanding humanist values through various artistic disciplines. The curriculum is structured to introduce learners to critical ethical concepts by immersing them in the world of visual, performing, and literary arts, allowing them to explore these ideas through a diverse array of artists from around the globe.

The program operates on a monthly cycle, each month dedicated to a specific humanist value and its associated UU Ministry theme, which guide the learning and creative activities for that period. For instance, September is centered around "Ethical Development" with a theme of "Invitation," while October shifts focus to "Service & Participation" under the theme of "Deep Listening." This thematic approach ensures that students can deeply explore each value and theme through multiple perspectives and artistic expressions. The curriculum is divided into four main components each month:

**Visual Art (First Sunday):** The exploration of visual art begins with an introduction to a significant visual artist whose work embodies the month's humanist value and UU Ministry theme. Through examining the artist's work and engaging in discussions, learners gain insight into how visual art can convey and explore ethical values. This is followed by a creative session where students create and share their own artworks inspired by the artist's style, reflecting the month's theme.

**Performing Art (Second Sunday):** The second week emphasizes performing arts, where students learn about a notable performing artist and how their work aligns with the monthly value and theme. Students might engage in activities like creating a dance or performing a piece of music that reflects the humanist value of the month.





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Literary Arts (Third Sunday): The focus on literary arts introduces students to a writer whose work reflects the month's value. Students read and discuss excerpts from the writer's work and discuss how these literary pieces embody the humanist value. Following this, students engage in and share a writing project that allows them to express their understanding of the aforementioned values.

Assembly Presentation, Teaching Artist Visit, or Field Trip (Fourth Sunday): The final week of the month is dedicated to showcasing the students' work in a learner-led Intergenerational Assembly. In certain weeks, we will invite a teaching artist to visit or go on a field trip. Students prepare to share their creations with the wider community, explaining how their work reflects the humanist value and theme studied during the month. Each month, students' work will be displayed out the Upper Assembly Hall in a curated gallery.

Throughout the curriculum, emphasis is placed on making the content accessible and engaging for all age groups. For younger children, the program minimizes written instruction and focuses more on hands-on activities and discussions. Older students are encouraged to delve deeper into the ethical concepts and artistic techniques. The curriculum also highlights artists from marginalized communities and various global regions, ensuring a balanced representation of different cultures and perspectives.

The Ethical Explorers curriculum fosters an environment where students not only learn about important values but also develop critical thinking, empathy, and creativity. By integrating artistic exploration with ethical education, the program aims to nurture well-rounded individuals who are thoughtful, culturally aware, and engaged in their communities.

