



PRIMARY PARENT HANDBOOK

2020-21

Deira International School Mission

To create an outstanding, multi-cultural learning community which empowers students to achieve their potential, become life-long learners and responsible global citizens.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

1

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Introduction

The purpose of the Handbook

Welcome to the Primary School Parents' Handbook which we hope you will find helpful and informative. As parents or prospective parents, you may have a wish to keep abreast of policies and procedures in the school. Whilst this handbook has most of the everyday procedures laid out in summary form, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance if you would like to know more. Please note that this handbook is intended as a guide for parents and updated annually. It does not form a part of the school's contract with parents.

As a school, our door is always open. If parents have any worries about School, we would like to know about them as soon as possible. It is always easier to sort out a minor problem before it becomes a major one.

The first points of contact should normally be through the class teacher or by making an appointment through the Primary Receptionist. If the Receptionist is unable to give an instant answer to your question, she will find someone that can.

Primary School Office: Beverley Doidge: bdoidge@disdubai.ae
Primary School Reception: Emma Goodbody: egoodbody@disdubai.ae
Primary Office Telephone Number: 04 232 5552
School Address: Deira International School
P.O. Box 79043
Al Badia, Dubai Festival City
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Website
www.disdubai.ae

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

2

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



Welcome from the Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Primary phase of Deira International School (DIS), a dynamic, high performing British Curriculum School based in Festival City and a 'not for profit' school part of the Al Futtaim Education Foundation. In September, entering our 16th year, the DIS community will have on roll over 1750 students of which more than 1000 students will make up the Primary phase of the School.

Our overarching aims are to ensure we have a Primary School that understands and supports the needs and aspirations of all our students and the multi-cultural community that we serve. We set the very highest expectations for students and staff in a highly nurturing and caring environment. We believe that we all perform best when our well-being is being supported so I, with my Leadership Team, will place an emphasis on this at every level of the Primary provision.

DIS aims to produce lifelong learners, equipped to continue their journey as not only learners and leaders, but more importantly well-rounded members of our community and as active global citizens. Our teachers demonstrate a positive and "can-do" attitude, which reflects on the happiness, attitudes and outcomes of our learners. Our DIS promise is to provide the very best teaching, outstanding facilities and a relevant and purposeful learning environment that will enable students to realise their dreams and aspirations.

DIS staff constantly seek to innovate and improve the experiences for students and the local community. While academic success is important, our commitment to the wider curriculum through a range of cross curricular projects and CCAs provide a 'whole education' for our students.

Being a new member of the DIS community, the overwhelming supportive culture that sets us apart is very clear and this handbook serves as the first step to creating a relationship of trust between home and school and a partnership which has the one very important joint objective; the very best experience for every child.



I look forward to the year ahead as we embark on a different kind of year but one that we will embrace and through which we will work together overcome the inevitable challenges ahead.

Best Wishes
Gaynor Dale



Primary Head Teacher
GDale@disdubai.ae

"Forever learning, forever achieving"

3

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



DIS Vision and Mission

DIS Vision:

To create an outstanding, multi-cultural learning community which empowers students to achieve their potential, become life-long learners and responsible global citizens.

DIS Mission:

At DIS we believe all students fulfil their potential in an inclusive, forward thinking and safe environment, in which each child's individuality is valued and encouraged. Our committed team of educators provide opportunities for creativity and global awareness through a holistic and nurturing curriculum. They hold high expectations, use innovative learning and teaching approaches and encourage the celebration of cultural diversity. We foster partnerships where students, parents, staff and the wider community actively support and contribute to the achievement of the DIS Vision.

DIS Values:

At DIS, Respect, Excellence, Collaboration and Integrity are the values we live by, that help us action our Vision and Mission. These are also the values of Al-Futtaim Group.

DIS Motto:

"Forever learning, Forever achieving"

"Forever learning, forever achieving"

4

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



Deira International School Calendar Dates 2020/2021

TERM ONE	
Sunday 30 th August 2020	New to DIS Students Induction and FS1 & 2 students for allocated times
Monday 31 st August 2020	Year 1 & 6 Only
Tuesday 1 st September 2020	First day of Academic Year for all students
Thursday 15 th October 2020	Staff PD (students not in school)
Sunday 18 th October – Thursday 22 nd October 2020	Half Term (School Closed)
Thursday 29 th October 2020	*Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) Birthday
Tuesday 1 st December 2020	*National Commemoration Day
Monday 2 nd December – Tuesday 3 rd December 2020	*National Day
Thursday 10 th December 2020	Last Day of Term
TERM TWO	
Sunday 3 rd January 2021	Start of Term 2
Sunday 24 th January 2021	Staff PD (students not in school)
Sunday 14 th February – Thursday 18 th February 2021	Half term (School Closed)
Thursday 25 th March 2021	Last day of Term
TERM THREE	
Sunday 11 th April 2021	Start of Term 3
Tuesday 13 th April 2021	*Ramadan Begins
Thursday 13 th May – Saturday 15 th May 2021	*Eid al Fitr
Sunday 30 th May 2021	Staff PD (students not in school)
Thursday 1 st July 2021	Last day of the Academic Year

*Actual dates are subject to change. Please do not book any holidays until dates have been confirmed by the school.

All dates are subject to change and approval by the Ministry of Education / KHDA

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

5

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



Our DIS Expectations

At Deira International School, we aim to create a culture of learning where students are happy, enthusiastic, motivated and ambitious. It is important to provide a secure, caring and stimulating environment for all students, and encourage mutual respect, support and collaboration between all adults and students. We have therefore designed a **Home-School Agreement** to ensure that we all understand our responsibilities and can agree to work collaboratively towards the same goals to continue to develop our culture of learning constructively.

THE SCHOOL WILL:

- Care for students' safety and well-being.
- Endeavour to challenge and meet the needs of all students so that they achieve their full potential.
- Maintain a high standard of education, exceptional teaching within a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Communicate curriculum overviews and provide strategies for supporting progress at home through parent engagement workshops and documentation.
- Monitor and report students' progress and effort throughout each academic year.
- Arrange Parent Teacher meetings to discuss progress and effort.
- Contact parents if there are concerns or cause for congratulation regarding attendance, attainment, progress, behaviour and attitude to learning.
- Provide information to parents about school policies, news and activities through iSAMS and the iSAMS and the website, including regular newsletters, open days, ZOOM calls, annual school events and opportunities to become involved in school life.
- Respond to enquiries within 24 hours during the working week.

AS A PARENT, I WILL:

- Support my child's academic and social development by following their progress at school, discussing what they are learning and monitoring any homework as per school policy.
 - Check the student planner weekly to ensure that my child is organised with current work and record any concerns or praise as appropriate.
 - Attend Parent Teacher meetings to discuss progress and targets for improvement.
 - Maintain the highest possible level of attendance for my child, with a minimum of 97% per term.
 - Support the school's policies regarding attendance, uniform, equipment, homework and behaviour.
 - Attend and support school events, wherever possible.
 - Ensure that school fees are paid on time.
- Ensure that my child arrives at school on time (at the latest 7.50am) and is picked up

"Forever learning, forever achieving"

6

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



- promptly at the end of the school day or after ECA's have finished.
- Ensure that I (or the adult collecting the child) wear the DIS parent visitor badge whilst on site.
- Ensure that all school fees are paid on time.

AS A STUDENT, I WILL:

- Maintain the highest possible level of attendance, with a minimum of 97% per term and be punctual to lessons.
- Bring all of the equipment I need for each day including a **charged digital device** for learning.
- Complete my class work and home learning to the best of my ability.
- Share what I am learning with my parents at home and discuss any concerns.
- Follow the school's behaviour policy both in school and in the community.
- Be interested to learn about and respect other people's cultures, beliefs, customs, festivals, traditions and feelings.
- Embody the DIS Core Values and be the best DIS students I can be...
- Speak to a trusted adult if I am worried, unhappy or in difficulty for any reason.
- Deliver any communication between my parents and school without delay.
- Leave all personal valuables at home or take full responsibility for their safe-keeping if brought into school.

Our DIS Code of Conduct

Aims and expectations:

- The aims of the school are reflected in our school Behaviour Policy which is accessible from our school website.
- We value each child as an individual and aim to promote self-esteem and encourage respect for others. We challenge and support all students to actively display and demonstrate our core values, respect, collaboration, integrity and excellence.
- We aim to be a happy, caring community and to provide a welcoming supportive environment in which everyone involved with DIS can feel proud.
- We aim to provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum where our expectations encourage each child to recognise and achieve his or her full potential.
- We aim to utilise children's natural enthusiasm and curiosity and promote positive attitudes to learning, through quality teaching.
- We aim to demonstrate and develop tolerance, kindness and consideration for others in all our relationships.

Our code of conduct ensures that our students show respect for one another and the environment they work in. The rules emphasise the importance of consideration for others and the need to strive to do our best at all times.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

7

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Teachers are largely responsible for the behaviour of students within the classroom and will formulate a set of 'ground rules' for their own class which will form the basis for acceptable behaviour, within the school's code of conduct. The high standards of behaviour we expect at DIS require self-discipline and an understanding that the atmosphere we wish to create demands mutual respect and is the responsibility of all of us involved and especially during the times of COVID19.

We encourage the students to develop sensible attitudes and to think about others as they learn within the classroom and move about the school site remembering to adhere to social distancing measure for their continued safety.

Whilst there may be rare cases of misbehaviour, we ensure that the student understands why their behaviour is unacceptable. Our staff are guided in their dealings of misconduct by the school's behaviour policy which is available on the school website. Parents are informed if behavioural problems are causing concern and are asked to work together with us so that any problems may be resolved as soon as possible. Incidents of positive and negative behavior are tracked by the school and reported to parents through iSAMS.

A wide use of incentives and rewards for students will be used this year at DIS, including:

- In class and across the school leadership opportunities
- The School Council
- Celebration assemblies
- Subject Certificates
- End of Year prize giving
- Principal Awards
- House Points
- Communication to parents (e.g. phone calls, emails, messages on students' work).

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

8

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



School Day

Period Timings – Sunday to Thursday			Lesson Breakdown
Registration	08:00 – 08:10*	Period	
Lesson 1	08:10 – 08:55	1	45 minutes
Lesson 2	08:55 – 09:40	2	45 minutes
Break	09:40 – 10:00	Break	20 minutes
Lesson 3	10:00 – 10:45	3	45 minutes
Lesson 4	10:45 – 11:30	4	45 minutes
Lesson 5	11:30 – 12:15	5	45 minutes
Lunch	12:15 – 13:05	Lunch	50 minutes
Lesson 6	13:05 – 13:55	6	45minutes
Lesson 7	13:55 - 14:45	7	45minutes
**End of the School Day			

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

9

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



Primary School Teaching Staff- 2020-2021

Designation	Leadership Team	Email address
Head of Primary	Gaynor Dale	gdale@disdubai.ae
Primary Deputy Head Teacher	Sarah Marshall	smarshall@disdubai.ae
Primary Assistant Head Teacher	Sarah Smith (Year 1-3)	showard@disdubai.ae
	Lisa Wright (Year 4-6)	lwright@disdubai.ae
Head of Foundation Stage	Fiona Ryan	fryan@disdubai.ae
Head of Inclusion	Aisling O'Connor	aconnor@disdubai.ae

Department	Teacher	Class / Designation	Email address
Foundation Stage 1	Wesal Adham	FS1 Camel – Year Group Leader	wadham@disdubai.ae
	Kathrine Kelly	FS1 Dhow	
	Lyn Butler	FS1 Oasis	
Foundation Stage 2	Sarah Nolan	FS2 Camel – Year Group Leader	snolan@disdubai.ae
	Amanbir Kaur	FS2 Dhow	
	Shelley Hughes	FS2 Oasis	
	Dapindaur Kaur	FS2 Palm	
	Sarah-Jayne Duncan	FS2 Burj	
Year 1	Ciara McKenna	1 Camel – Year Group Leader	cmckenna@disdubai.ae
	Katie O'Leary	1 Dhow	
	Shauna Marron	1 Oasis - Science & STEM Lead	
	Ashna Patel	1 Palm	
	Jenna Tomlinson	1 Burj	
	Rachel Hogan	1 Wadi	
Year 2	Niall Crowley	2 Camel – Year Group Leader	ncrowley@disdubai.ae
	Jessica Broadhurst	2 Dhow	
	Victoria Marquess Judge	2 Oasis	
	Ciara McKenna	2 Palm	

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

10

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae

	Claire Heylin	2 Burj - English Lead	
	Cally Rees	2 Wadi	
Year 3	Claire Houghton	3 Camel – Year Group Leader	choughton@disdubai.ae
	Aoibheann Minnock	3 Dhow	
	Jennifer Kennedy	3 Oasis	
	Conor Carthy	3 Palm	
	Laurie Elder	3 Burj	
Year 4	Charlotte Tibbetts	4 Camel – Year Group Leader	ctibbetts@disdubai.ae
	Aled Jones	4 Dhow	
	Simranjet Jeerh	4 Oasis	
	Abigail Gardener	4 Palm	
	Colby Williams	4 Burj	
Year 5	Rebecca Harrison	5 Camel – Year Group Leader	rharrison@disdubai.ae
	Siobhan Kelly	5 Dhow	
	Bethany Johnson	5 Oasis	
	Rebecca Anderson	5 Palm - Maths Lead	
	Enda O'Connor	5 Burj	
Year 6	Jane Sherring	6 Camel – Year Group Leader	jsherring@disdubai.ae
	Kate Mulhall	6 Dhow – Social Studies/Moral Education & Sustainability	
	Claire Hooker	6 Oasis - House Lead	
	Terry Gibson	6 Palm	
	Rachel Davies (Buckle)	6 Burj	
PE	Andrew Hodnett	HoD Primary PE	ahodnett@disdubai.ae
Inclusion	Sarah Te Hiko		
	Tara Shikalislami		
	Laura Pearson		
Islamic	Marwa Tarabichi (B)	HoD Primary Islamic	mtarabichi@disdubai.ae
	Ola Saleh (A/B)		
	Widad Abuaisa (A)		

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

11

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae

Arabic A	Yasser Ghazal	HoD Arabic A	yghazal@disdubai.ae
	Hana Rashad		
	Nour Al-Qaissi		
	Montaha Al Labaid		
	Rania Merched		
	Mohammed Lutfi		
Foundation Stage: Arabic	Wafa Tibi		
Arabic B	Rania Abu Ghush	HoD Arabic B	rhindiye@disdubai.ae
	Fatima Naser		
	Dana Raslan		
	Fatema Daadouch		
	Sabry Ramadan		
	Rana Shawish		
	Rima Jandali		
	Sharifa Ahmad		
Computing	Kieran Birrell	Head of Computing – Digital Education Lead	kbirrell@disdubai.ae
Performing Arts/Music	Deborah Heveran	HoD Primary Performing Arts	dheveran@disdubai.ae
	Melina Selenic		
	Sec Support TBC		
French – Secondary MFL Dept	Asma Oulghazi		
	Marie-Clemence Jacobs		
Library	Michaela Magdolen	Librarian	mmagdolen@disdubai.ae

Contacting the school

There will be times when you need to contact us, and any member of staff will be happy to make an appointment with you at a mutually convenient time. Your child's class teacher is your first point of contact. If you have any worries regarding academic, behavioural or any other issue affecting your son or daughter please call or email the teacher in the first instance. If the teacher feels it is appropriate, they will pass on your concern to the relevant staff member.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

12

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



WHO TO CONTACT...

If you have a question or concern about your child, this is the procedure to follow: -



Registration

Morning registration starts at 8:00am – punctuality and lateness is recorded and monitored.

Student Drop Off Times

To ensure we can adhere to social distances measures, we are staggering the number of students and families entering the school site in the morning by asking families to arrive according to their House Group. These times are as follows:

Oryx: 7.20 -7.30am
Tahr: 7.30 - 7.40am
Saluki: 7.40 – 7.50am
Falcon: 7.50 – 8.00am

Where siblings are in different House Groups, the **older sibling** will dictate the House to use as the arrival time. By the end of this academic year, all siblings will be organised into the same House.

Late Arrivals

We expect students to arrive punctually at school and we place great importance on developing punctuality as a sign of respect towards others in the community. Persistent lateness will be followed up by the senior leadership team and where needed, the school Head Teacher. We understand that there may be infrequent situations when you are unavoidably delayed and if this is the case, please call the school by 7.50am to inform our reception team of your child's lateness.

If your child arrives after 8am he/she must go to the Reception desk to collect a 'late slip' before going to join his/her class. This ensures that the Reception Team marks the child as 'present' in the Register so that we always know how many students are on site in case of an emergency. If the child arrives at class and does not have this 'Late Slip' from Reception, the teacher will ask him or her to return to Reception to collect one; this ensures all students are accounted for.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

13

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae

Absences

Students are expected to be present throughout the year to fully participate in the academic programme. Extended holidays and vacations interrupt and impact the student educational progress and routine.

Sickness

If your child is unwell, please keep him/her at home until he/she is well enough to cope with a busy school day.

Please call the school office on **04232 5552 before 7.50am** explaining your child's illness/reason for absence or email pabsences@disdubai.ae.

If a student is absent, a medical certificate is to be provided to the Primary School receptionist. As part of our first response procedures, should you not have called us by the time we have taken registrations we will call you asking where your child is and why they are absent.

We ask that for attendance and safety reasons that all parents inform us immediately of any change to their personal or work details by emailing us at registrar@disdubai.ae

All students do Physical Education unless there is a valid medical reason for missing out in which case a doctor's note should be provided. Should a note not be provided via the correct communication channels, children will be expected to take part in the lesson.

Please note that currently due to COVID 19 and directives from the KDHA, **swimming is not allowed.**

The KHDA recommends that a students' annual minimum attendance should be 94%, however, at DIS we aspire for students to achieve a minimum attendance of 97% or above so that students maximize the learning opportunities made available to them. We will reward students annually for 100% attendance.

"Forever learning, forever achieving"

14

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



95%	-	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	-	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	-	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	-	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

Fact – Good attendance makes a difference!

Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, which are good for their mental health, and consequently sets them up for a strong and successful future

Planned Absences Other Than School Holidays:

Planned absence from the school is actively discouraged.

Medical appointments for example should be scheduled outside of school hours. Applications for absence for more than 3 days should be made to the Head of School by completing a Request Form Leave form well in advance. These can be obtained from the iSAMS Parent Portal.

The leave form should be handed into the school reception desk at least two weeks before the leave has been planned otherwise it will be considered as unauthorised absence. The Head of School will consider the request by reviewing current educational performance and attendance information. Permission will only be given for valid reasons such as a serious medical issue or a family bereavement. Other requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis. A student's attendance record will be monitored closely and included as part of the interim and end of year reports. If a student's attendance record falls below 96% then a member of the Senior Leadership Team will arrange an appointment with the student's parents

Leaving the School Site

For Health and Safety reasons, it is vitally important that students leave the school site promptly at the end of the day this is so that the we can adhere to social distances measures and complete the daily sanitization of the school.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

15

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



If students have a scheduled appointment during the school day, parents must inform the primary receptionist, Emma Goodbody (egoodbody@disdubai.ae), before 7.50am on the day. This is vitally important in the current climate, as we need to ensure that students are able to leave the building safely as parents are not allowed to enter the school buildings unannounced.

Birthday Celebrations

Due to current restrictions birthday treats are no longer permitted.

Bags

A rucksack is most suitable for students. Trolley bags (bags with wheels) are **not** allowed for safety reasons.

School Transport Services

DIS use Maverick Passenger Transport LLC who are very much familiar with school and our parents' expectations. Maverick strictly follows RTA & KHDA rules and regulations. Maverick operate in some of the premium schools in Dubai. MAVERICK services over 1,000,000 stops a year, on time, every school day.

WHY MAVERICK?

Their number one priority is the safety of the students they transport. They work tirelessly to ensure the peace of mind of those who have entrusted their children to them. Safety, above all, is the cornerstone on which they build everything. All MAVERICK Systems and Procedures are designed to ensure the safety of their staff, children and road users.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

All of their staff is well-trained on Preventive Measures against COVID-19. Rest assured that Maverick buses are sanitized and disinfected before every trip and they strictly follow protocols and guidelines from local authorities including Dubai Municipality and Roads and Transport Authority. Please see a short film explaining how they have revised their service to ensure students are kept safe: https://www.maverickrental.com/our_blog/covid-19-protocols/

To register your child for school transport, you must complete the online registration form - <https://www.maverickrental.com/>.

For any support with regards on how to register online, you may directly contact itsupport@maverickrental.com

House System

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

16

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



All students and staff when joining DIS are assigned to a House. Siblings will join the same house too.

At DIS we have four houses:

1. Falcon
2. Oryx
3. Saluki
4. Tahr

Throughout the school year students will try and gain points for themselves and their House during lessons and in a range of House competitions.

We are looking forward to seeing some healthy competition throughout the school with the House System. A wide range of exciting events, pursuits and challenges will be available next academic year. The House System is fully inclusive of all curriculum areas and all student abilities, with all students able to contribute and participate. Between the Student Agency Forums and House System, more than one fifth of our students will have the opportunity to lead others.

Parent Portal

ISAMS Parent Portal is our secure parent website that can only be accessed by enrolled parents, and a unique username will be issued to parents. ISAMS Parent Portal is a source of a lot of useful information to keep you up to date with communication from the school. ISAMS Parent Portal can also be downloaded as an application.

Parents can register at <https://iparents.disdubai.ae>.

Curriculum

Early Years Foundation Stage

The EYFS Curriculum is uniquely designed encompassing the learning statements from Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012) and is appropriately adapted to suit the individual needs of our diversified cohort of International students. Students and teachers work collaboratively when choosing six umbrella topics, which encompass all 17 areas of learning through play-based, engaging learning opportunities. Placing the students at the centre of the planning for learning process allows them to build a more meaningful understanding of the abstract skills and concepts they will acquire in FS.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

17

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae



Lessons are planned accordingly to suit all students' cultural beliefs and experiences through choice of multicultural books and literacy links, by celebrating all festivals (Ramadan/ Diwali etc.) and through our 'Around the World' lesson. Active learning and Guided Discovery lay the foundations for innovative, outstanding practice in EYFS. Both Indoor and Outdoor provision is enhanced to suit the individual needs and interests of each child, based on their unique learning style. Students use key skills and knowledge acquired within a classroom setting and apply them in specific zones, which provide unlimited independent opportunities for inventiveness, imagination and resourcefulness.

Students become facilitators of their own learning allowing them imbed skills such as building, creating, designing and analysing through play-based practice. Students naturally grow into confident, risk-takers and build up resilience to change. Lifelong learning skills develop as students investigate and experiment with their own ideas and theories in an environment where Problem Based Learning (PBL) encourages a growth mindset.

The National Curriculum for England

Deira International School offers the National Curriculum of England. Our curriculum is firmly rooted in providing each student with rich and innovative learning opportunities. We are committed to delivering a broad and enriched curriculum programme that provides the best possible education to meet the needs of all learners. Our curriculum promotes enthusiasm, enjoyment and mastery with a range of life-enhancing activities within a culture of innovation. We provide learners with vibrant, creative learning environments encouraging challenge and promoting curiosity and interest. Students at Deira International School are active learners, immersed in a student-centered learning with an emphasis on ensuring all learners experience challenge and success.

The National Curriculum for England is a broad and balanced curriculum applied in over 150 countries across the world. It is based on a structured and broad framework that outlines expected levels of achievement through all stages of a student's school life. In addition to development of specific skills and competencies, the curriculum emphasises critical-thinking skills, enquiry and research skills and creativity, the skills needed to meet the challenges of the future.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

18

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Deira International School delivers the UAE Ministry of Education's curriculum for Islamic Education, Arabic Studies and Social Studies. The subjects taught in Primary are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE
- History
- Geography
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Computing
- Arabic
- Swimming (Not until further notice)
- Islamic Education
- Moral Education
- Social Studies

INCLUSION

Deira International School is proud to be a fully inclusive school that caters for all Students of Determination. Full commitment towards an inclusive education for all, including pupils with SEND and students with exceptional ability will be catered for. Bespoke support will be provided based on the varying needs of our students. Based on the Level of support required, Students of Determination will either have Level 1, 2 or 3 support.

From September with our approach to blended learning, Students of Determination will be supported in a variety of ways.

For example:

- **Level 1:** In class Quality First Teaching and differentiation, modification and challenge for all which will be closely monitored by the Inclusion Team.
- **Level 2:** In class support from a member of the Inclusion team (Inclusion Support Teacher and/or Inclusion Support LSA) whilst maintaining social distancing and taking all precautionary measures. Level 2 students will be equipped with a specialist pack of resources to access which will not be re-distributed or re-shared with others.
- **Level 3:** 1:1 LSA Support with a full-time LSA which is parent funded. 1:1 LSAs will work with one allocated student and will not break their allocated bubble throughout the day, 1:1 LSAs might be closer than 1.5 metres at times IF parent agrees and signs a waiver in order to fully consent to this.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

19

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Home Learning

Home learning is an important part of a student's working week and will add a wider dimension to their learning. Our aims of Home Learning at DIS:

- To provide students with opportunities to consolidate, reinforce and revisit their learning
- To provide students the opportunity to learn prior to a lesson enabling a deeper learning experience
- Ensure a variety of approach in learning key skills between home and school
- To foster independent learning, to inspire students and enhance classroom learning
- Encourage pupils to develop long term strategies for future needs
- To extend learning and challenge beyond the classroom

Home Learning will be uploaded onto the following platforms for students to access:

Foundation Stage 1&2	Tapestry
Year 1-5	Seesaw
Year 6	Microsoft TEAMS

Educational Visits

At the is the current time educational trips will be very limited due to COVID19.

However, in normal circumstances, each student will have the opportunity to participate in a range of educational and experiential learning opportunities. These are mapped against the curriculum. Some trips are fully booked within days of the letter being issued as almost all trips are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Educational trips outside the school grounds enhance the curriculum and connect our children with real life contextualised learning. All field trips are purposeful, cost effective and planned. Safety is always at the heart of any trip, along with well-prepared plans and communication from DIS staff. Parents are given consent forms to sign to give permission for their child to attend the field trip.

Further information about school trips will be provided to parents through the ISAMS portal as the year progresses.

Parent & Teacher Consultation Meetings

Parent & Teacher Consultation Meetings take place in Term 1 and Term 3. This is an opportunity to discuss the current attitude to learning, attainment and next steps in a child's learning, directly with their teacher.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

20

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



During the Covid-19 period, we moved our PTCs online. This was a great success and allowed parents to access the same quality interactions remotely, from all around the country. It was significantly more convenient for a large proportion of our parent community. We will continue to host our PTCs online during the pandemic and will seek parental feedback about how to approach future PTCs (whether online or in person) when the pandemic is over.

Teaching and Learning – Our Blended Learning Approach

The school has set an ambitious plan to meet the needs of all our learners and the context of every DIS family during COVID 19. For the start of the new term teachers will teach a mixed class of face to face and distant learning students through a blended learning model.

Parental Engagement

Parental engagement is a crucial factor in enhancing a child's learning. We see parents as a key partner in the educational journey and together we will strive to develop each child's knowledge, skills and understanding to an exceptional level.

Throughout the academic year there are two reporting cycles, mid and end of year as well as Parent Teacher Consultation events to provide parents, teachers and students with the opportunity to reflect on progress and discuss how to further improve. In addition, Primary students have the opportunity to invite their parents to look through their books with them and celebrate their learning; these take place immediately before the Parent Teacher Consultations.

Throughout the year, regular parent workshops are run by teachers to inform and support parents in the pedagogy and content of the curriculum being taught. In addition, visiting speakers and our Well-being/Pastoral team also host events to support parents.

DISPA, our parent group are very active and engaged within the school community providing opportunities to students and parents to be active members of the DIS community.

Parent Volunteers are warmly welcomed at DIS, undertaking a multitude of roles within Classes and Departments. Please either attend the sessions that are hosted throughout the year or contact the Primary Office, if you are interested.

The Head of Primary hosts regular informal sessions with parents to discuss topical themes.

Student Leadership

Student leadership builds confidence and raises aspirations. Student agency connects students to their school and presents students with the opportunity to:

- Represent the views of the student body
- Promote effective communications within the school

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

21

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



- Assisting with the induction and/or mentoring for new students
- Contributing to the development of school policy
- Help with whole projects and events

Co-Curricular Activities

At DIS we run an extensive Co-Curricular Activities programme, which compliments and broadens our curriculum.

Our CCA programme fosters team spirit, personal endeavor, exploration, and most importantly develops each students' potential, confidence and Character Strengths.

- Sport, recreation and fitness
- Creativity
- Performance
- Strategy and Games
- Academic Pursuits
- Well-Being

Lost Property

Inevitably some students occasionally leave items at home or misplace them around the school.

For items that are left at home but required that day at school, parents may arrange for them to be delivered to the reception area where they will be delivered to the student. All belongings must be clearly labelled. Items misplaced in school, once handed in, will be stored in the lost property area adjacent to the reception area.

School Clinic

Our medical team is led by fully qualified doctor and full-time registered nurses who administers first aid, should students be taken ill or involved in an accident, they also provide routine health screenings.

Health records are kept in school for every student in accordance with UAE Department of Health. Medical examinations are non-invasive and carried out by the nurses and the Doctor during students' first year at the school. Vaccination advice can be offered and the school, however, travel vaccinations are not.

Our school clinic is fully compliant with DHA regulations. We have established an isolation unit to deal with any students who may show symptoms of COVID-19.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

22

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



What Will Happen in the Event of Suspected Infection?

The school is prepared for any eventuality and we have rehearsed the process should an infection be discovered. If an infection is suspected on site: If anyone on site is found to be displaying any of the symptoms of Covid 19, this will immediately trigger a three-stage response, as follows:

1. Isolation

- The person will be immediately taken to isolation in a designated “Isolation Room” in the school clinic.
- If symptoms are detected when arriving school, the person will not be allowed onto the site but will be taken from outside the school to the back gate and then into the isolation room.
- Once isolated, the medical team will conduct an initial investigation to establish the severity of the case. The team will be in full personal protective equipment.

2. Reporting

- Parents/guardians will be notified immediately and asked to come to school. Head of School will also be immediately informed.
- If the case is deemed to be sufficiently serious, an ambulance will be called. The patient will be accompanied by an adult wearing full PPE when transported to the hospital. Contact with parents will be maintained throughout.
- If a patient is deemed to have stable case of illness with a mild respiratory illness the DHA hotline number 800342 will be contacted, as is a mandatory requirement. This will then be referred to hospital for their advice.

3. Protection

- Anyone suspected of contracting COVID-19 will be required to take a PCR COVID 19 test before returning to the school. The test result will need to be reported to school clinic before being permitted to return.
- If the test is negative and the patient displays no symptoms, then the person can resume school.
- If the test is negative but symptoms remain then the person will be required to complete a 14- day quarantine.
- If the test result is positive for COVID 19, the person will have to stay at home or hospital as advised by their doctor. The patient can report back to school only when they receive medical clearance and have finished 14 days of isolation and are fever-free for last 3 days without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- If the result is positive, the traced contacts of the patient will be established and informed. All will be required to complete a 14-day period of quarantine.
- All areas the patient has been present in (classroom, isolation room, waiting areas for transportation used will undergo deep cleansing and disinfection

If an infection is suspected outside of the school premises

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

23

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



- If a member of the school becomes aware, they have been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19, they are required to report this to the school. In addition, they are not to report to school and must get tested for PCR.
- If tested is negative they should remain in quarantine for 7 days from the day of exposure to the infected individual.
- If tested positive, they should complete a 14-day isolation and will be allowed to return to school once they have a DHA/medical clearance certificate and Negative PCR test.

Character Strengths Information

DIS introduced the VIA Character Strengths whole-school in September 2019. Understanding and focusing on the strengths that we have is scientifically proven to improve happiness, not just of ourselves but of others too. There are 24 Character Strengths including the main strengths of Kindness, Hope, Perseverance, Gratitude and Self-Regulation. Children learn about what each of the strengths mean and how they can apply them in their daily lives. The Character Strengths link very closely into Mindfulness and it is something that is being very much imbedded into primary classrooms to promote Wellbeing and happiness.

We look forward to continuing to develop Character Strengths and Virtues at DIS as we continue our journey of Positive Education.

Whole School Behaviour Policy

At DIS, we set high standards of behaviour to create an environment in which effective learning and teaching can take place and students can mature in harmonious and safe surroundings. The following principles and guidelines are designed to support this aim:

- Positive behaviour will be recognised and rewarded
- Respect, politeness and co-operation towards everyone within the school environment and beyond is a core expectation.
- Willingness to work to the best of your ability is the standard.
- Positive behaviour, both in and on the way to and from school is expected of all.
- We expect high standards of personal appearance and dress at all times.
- Consideration of other people and respect for their property and feelings is a must.
- Students should go out of their way to support and help their peers, younger students and guests to the school.
- Coarse or inappropriate language is not to be used in school.
- Compliance with the UAE law is expected at all times.
- Parents will be kept fully advised of any concerns and the school will seek to involve parents in strategies to support students experiencing difficulties.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

24

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae

- Behaviour that jeopardises the learning, safety or sense of security of other students or which brings the school into disrepute, will not be tolerated.
- All members of the school community should strive to make the most of every opportunity to develop and grow as learners and individuals.

Behaviour Management

Through our Positive Education Model, students are encouraged to develop a love for learning and acquire skills for personal growth. A consistent approach to behaviour management is required.

- Where student behaviour is not positive, or does not meet expectations, the school will use a range of strategies to mentor and support students.
- Where a student does not accept mentoring or support, the case will be referred.
- Serious incidents will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- Crucial to our approach is that mentoring and support is offered, and that our response is reasonable, rational and restorative.

As a school, we will recognise and celebrate student's positive contributions to school, in a variety of ways, throughout the academic year.

Anti-Bullying

Bullying is the intentional hurting of one person by another. It is usually repetitive or persistent, although some one-off attacks can have a continuing harmful effect on the target. Bullying behaviour is not tolerated at DIS.

Wellbeing and Safeguarding

Our first priority is to ensure that our students are safe and happy at school and know who to go to if they have any worries or concerns.

Our safeguarding team in the primary school is led by Mrs. Wright (Assistant Head), who is the designated safeguarding lead. Miss. O'Connor is the deputy designated safeguarding lead.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

25

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Personal presentation and uniform

Why do we wear a school uniform?

We are all proud to be a part of the DIS community and our uniform allows us to celebrate this. Our uniform reflects the high standards that we set for ourselves on a daily basis and through this it supports positive attitudes to our peers and our learning. Developing an understanding of how to dress in a smart and professional manner at a young age helps to create good habits for when students leave education and enter the world of work. Uniform also protects children from social pressures, for example, to dress in a particular way which adheres to current fashion trends. It is for these reasons that we insist not only on having a school uniform, but that it is adhered to at all times. We appreciate your support in helping our students be the best that they can possibly be.

All students accessing Distance Learning must be wearing full school uniform. A full uniform list for all Primary students is provided in the link below: -

Please be prepared for children's clothing to get dirty. Foundation Stage children have many opportunities for messy play and creative work. You can provide your own apron or an old t-shirt if you wish. Furthermore, we request that a spare set of clothing is supplied in case of accidents or a need to change.

Uniform

All children in Foundation Stage must wear school uniform which can be purchased online and in school from Sumeru.

In addition to this they will need:

- A backpack – No bags with wheels are allowed!
- Large Water bottle
- Stationary kit
- A Healthy Snack and a Fruit or Vegetable Snack (please be aware that we are a 'Nut Free' school due to children having severe allergies.
- Sun hat (Children without a hat will have to miss out on valuable outside play)
- Spare labelled mask

Please make sure that all belongings are clearly named.

Jewellery

Students may wear a watch. Students may wear one small stud in each ear lobe, and these should be removed for PE and swimming. No other piercings are permitted. Jewellery items of religious significance may only be worn with prior approval by the school, following a formal written parent request.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

26

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Henna Tattoos

These are only acceptable for religious/cultural reasons.

Hairstyles

- Girls – Hair should be tied back fully off the face. The sensible use of hair accessories is acceptable to keep hair orderly and neat e.g. Alice band, hairband, clips, slides, elastic bands, scrunchies etc. as long as they are plain white, dark blue or black.
- **Make-up and all nail polish may not be worn by any student.**
- Boys - Hair must be well off the collar at the back and off the ears and face, no shorter than a number 2 barber cut. Shaved heads are not acceptable. We request no coloured gel, wax or mousse etc. be used when styling hair and no exaggerated styles.
- All students – We request that hair must be of a natural colour rather than unnatural. We also request that the hair style itself is neat and modest (not extreme).

If the students' hairstyle contravenes any of the above requirements the student will be requested to amend this with immediate effect and if this is not possible, they will be required to remain at home until such time as their hair has returned to an acceptable condition.

<https://www.disdubai.ae/home/admissions/Uniform+Policy>

Parent School Contract

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) recently introduced an initiative called The Parent/School Contract. This contract has been introduced to ensure that through clarity and transparency, schools and parents are aware of their duties and responsibilities towards each other and towards their children. It benefits both schools and families by clearly identifying agreed terms and conditions in the form of a contract; these terms and conditions stipulated in the contract will also be a reference for dispute resolution.

KHDA will uphold the agreement stipulated in the contract when a party refers a matter to KHDA for deliberation and endorsement. Families are encouraged to read the contract carefully and seek clarification regarding any queries prior to signing it.

The school will prepare the contract for each new student and it will be forwarded to parents in digital format to read and sign, once registered with the KHDA.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in completing the contract signing.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

27

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Essential Documents

- Documents required by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA)
- Original Transfer Certificate (For students joining from outside Dubai only)
- Copy of Student's passport x 1
- Copy of Student's Residence Visa x 1
- Emirates ID card (front and back of both parents and students) x 1

Please note we are required to submit all registration documents to the Ministry of Education within ONE month of your son/daughter's admission, we have been informed that no extensions will be granted and students will be asked to leave school if we have not received the required documents.

This is by instruction of the Ministry of Education and is not a DIS decision.

News and information

Communication between parents and school is a high priority at DIS.

We check parent contact details regularly.

Parents receive information throughout the school year via D6, Head Teacher's fortnightly newsletters and a host of social media celebrations. We also offer a wide range of parent events and we are actively championed and supported by DISPA (Deira International School Parent Association.) Exhibitions, cultural and UAE celebrations, coffee meetings, competitions, sports events, workshops (Parent learning), and Parents Information (parent focused), are all good examples.

Mobile Electronic Device

MED's are used in Primary School from Years 1-6 and used in the classroom only.

MEDs should be used respectfully, purposefully and thoughtfully. In order for students to use their devices in school the Primary School MED Policy must be signed electronically on the link below.

[Primary School Mobile Electronic Device Policy 2020-21](#)

MEDs are student's responsibility. We highly recommend a protective cover.

The school is not answerable for loss or damage.

DIS reserves the right to inspect any device if it is suspected that the device has been misused.

"Forever learning, forever achieving"

28

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151

www.disdubai.ae



Device specifications



All devices **must**:

- Have a camera
- Have a durable cover protector (house colours are recommended)
- Have the child's name on the cover and on the lock screen
- Be fully compatible with Office 365 Apps

As of September 2019/20, we have standardised the iPad models we use in the primary school. This is to guarantee that all students have access to the same level of technology and can access learning content in the same way.

The device that we recommend is the **iPad 7th generation, 10.2 inch, 128GB Wi-Fi only model**, specifically designed for education.

You may compare this model against others here:

<https://www.apple.com/ae/ipad/compare/>

To use the device to its full educational potential, it is highly recommended that:

- A stylus is provided for tablets for writing and drawing (digital inking)
- There is both a front and rear camera for taking photos
- The device has a keyboard (attached or detachable)
- The device has the capability to run Windows applications (i.e. Microsoft Teams)

Cover specifications

We highly recommend your child uses a suitable protective case as well as a hard cover to protect their device.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

29

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae

Cafeteria

Normally the school provides a cafeteria where you can eat your food with friends in a clean and safe environment. There is also a cafeteria service that allows you to purchase a range of healthy foods with cash. However, due to Covid-19 the cafeteria will be using the new safety protocols required by the Municipality. This means parents will have the option to select, order and pay for a meal plan for their child via the Abela online portal. Abela will deliver the lunch to each student's classroom.

Security

DIS has security on site 24/7. Guards assist pupils, parents and staff at the crossing area at pick-up and drop-off times

Car Parking

Parents dropping off students can park in car park 1. Please always drive with caution and very slowly in the DIS car park. Parents are not permitted on the school site whilst the school is implementing social distancing measures due to Covid-19.

“Forever learning, forever achieving”

30

P.O. Box 79043, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Tel: +971 4 2325552 Fax: +971 4 2325151
www.disdubai.ae

