



مدرسة ديرة الدولية
DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
FESTIVAL CITY

—
Al-Futtaim Education Foundation

PRIMARY PARENT HANDBOOK

2023-24

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.

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Introduction

The purpose of the Handbook

Welcome to the Primary School Parent 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 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: Emma Gibbons egoodbody@disdubai.ae

Primary School Reception: Jennel Martin jmartin@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

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 19th year, the DIS community will have on roll over 1880 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 now, an established leader in 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 our first full year as a KHDA-rated 'Outstanding' school. Please do stop to chat when and as you feel you need.



Best Wishes
Gaynor Dale



Primary Head Teacher
GDale@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"

Deira International School Calendar Dates 2023/2024

TERM ONE	
Monday 28 th August 2023	New students induction
Tuesday – Thursday 29 th to 31 st August 2023	First day for all students (tbc)
Friday 29 th September 2023	Prophet's Birthday (<i>Government holiday</i>)
Thursday 12 th October 2023	Staff PD 1
Monday – Friday 16 th to 20 th October 2023	Half Term Break (school closed)
Friday 1 st December 2023	Martyr's Day (<i>Government holiday</i>)
Friday 8 th December 2023	Last Day of Term
TERM TWO	
Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	Start of Term 2
Wednesday 17 th January 2024	Staff PD 2
Monday - Thursday 12 th to 15 th February 2024	Half term (School closed)
Friday 16 th February 2024	Staff PD 3
Monday 11 th March 2024	Staff PD 4 *Ramadan Begins
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Last day of Term
TERM THREE	
Monday 8 th April 2024	Start of Term 3 – Staff PD 5
Tuesday – Friday 9 th to 12 th April 2024	*Eid al Fitr (<i>Government holiday</i>)
Wednesday 15 th May 2024	Staff PD 6
Monday – Tuesday 17 th to 18 th June 2024	*Eid al Adha (<i>Government holiday</i>)
Friday 5 th July 2024	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.

This calendar is approved by KHDA, but subject to changes following Government directives.

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 email iSAMS Parent Portal and the website, including regular newsletters, open days, 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 7.45am) and is picked up promptly at the end of the school day or after CCA'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.
- Regularly check my platforms for any school communication.

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 the equipment I need for each day including a **charged digital device** for Learning (Years 1 to 6 only)
- 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 student 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.

Teachers are largely responsible for the behaviour of students within the classroom and will formulate a set of class rules and expectations 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.

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 measures 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
- Headteacher Awards
- House Points
- Learner Attribute Awards
- Communication to parents (e.g. phone calls, emails and platform messages on students' work).

School Day

Period Timings – Monday to Thursday			Lesson Breakdown
Registration	07:30 – 07:45	Period	
Lesson 1	07:50 – 08:50	1	1 hour
Lesson 2	08:50 – 09:50	2	1 hour
Break	09:50 – 10:10	Break	20 minutes
Lesson 3	10:10 – 11:10	3	1 hour
Lesson 4	11:10 – 12:10	4	1 hour
Lunch	12:10 – 13:10	Lunch	1 hour
Lesson 5	13:10 – 14:10	5	1 hour
Wellbeing time & staggered finish	14:10 - 14:30		20 minutes
Bus 1 & CCAs	14:30 – 15:30		1 hour

Period Timings – Friday			Lesson Breakdown
Registration	07:30 – 07:45	Period	
Lesson 1	07:50 – 08:35	1	45 mins
Lesson 2	08:35 – 09:20	2	45 mins
Lesson 3	9:20 – 10:05	3	45 mins
Break	10:05 – 10:20	Break	15 minutes
Lesson 4	10:20 – 11:05	3	45 mins
Lesson 5	11:05 – 12:00	4	45 mins

“Forever learning, forever achieving”



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



Primary School Teaching Staff- 2022-2023		
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	Charlotte Tibbetts (FS & Y1)	ctibbetts@disdubai.ae
	Sarah Gray (Y2 & Y6)	sgray@disdubai.ae
	Sarah Smith (Y3,Y4 & Y5)	showard@disdubai.ae
Head of Inclusion	Lisa Boer	lboer@disdubai.ae
Head of Arabic	Iman Fattoum	ifattoum@disdubai.ae

Department	Teacher	Class / Designation	Email address
Foundation Stage 1	Michelle Farrell	FS1A – Year Group Leader	mfarrell@disdubai.ae
	Lynn Butler	FS1B	
	Jennifer Carson	FS1C	
	Aoife Maher	FS1D	
Foundation Stage 2	Claire Heylin	FS2A – Year Group Leader	cheylin@disdubai.ae
	Caoimhe Flanagan	FS2B	
	Dapinder Kaur	FS2C	
	Sarah Garbutt	FS2D	
	Shauna Gibbons	FS2E	
	Wesal Adham	FS2F	
Year 1	Jenna Tomlinson	1A – Year Group Leader	jtomlinson@disdubai.ae
	Amanbir Kaur	1B	
	Catherine Margrie	1C	
	Daniel Sayer	1D	
	Naomi Jones	1E	
	Sophie Francis	1F	
Year 2	Vanessa Evangelista	2A – Year Group Leader	mevangelista@disdubai.ae
	Victoria Judge	2B	
	Aled Jones	2C	
	Amreen Chaudhry	2D	
	Rachael Hogan	2E	
	Kate Jeffrey	2F	

Year 3	Terry Gibson	3A – Year Group Leader	tgibson@disdubai.ae
	Simranjit Jeerh	3B	
	Jaime Wilson	3C	
	Yasmine Spencer	3D	
	Emma Crosby	3E	
	Ria Bell	3F	
Year 4	Jessica Broadhurst	4A – Year Group Leader	jbroadhurst@disdubai.ae
	Ciara McKenna	4B	
	Sophie King	4C	
	Christopher Stewart	4D	
	Aimee Thomas	4E	
	Hannah Smith	4F	
Year 5	Peter McLoughlin	5A – Year Group Leader	pmcloughlin@disdubai.ae
	Jane Sherring	5B	
	Dan Muller	5C	
	Claire Hooker	5D	
	Joe Lynch-Beddows	5E	
	Abigail Gardiner	5F	
Year 6	Daniel Thomas	6A – Year Group Leader	dthomas@disdubai.ae
	Andrew Bailey	6B	
	Rebecca Anderson	6C	
	Bethany Johnson	6D	
	Luke Clayton	6E	
	Rebecca Harrison	6F	
PE	Andrew Hodnett	HoD Primary PE	ahodnett@disdubai.ae
	Emma Whiting		
Inclusion	Siobhan Doyle		
	Asma Faisal		
	Siobhan Kelly		
	Suzanne Munn		
	Vera Van Den Heuval		
	Megha Jootla (Counselor)		
	Sarah Te Hiko (ELL)		
Islamic	Marwah Tarabichi (B)	HoD Primary Islamic	mtarabichi@disdubai.ae
	Ola Safwat Saleh (A/B)		
	Widad Abuaisa (A)		

	Mohammed Khalaf		
Arabic A	Yasser Ghazal	HoD Arabic A	yghazal@disdubai.ae
	Nour Al Qaisi		
	Hanan Rashad		
	Rania Merched		
	Safa Afaneg		
	Georgei Salloum		
	Wafa Tibi		
Arabic B	Iman Fattoum	HoD Arabic B	lfattoum@disdubai.ae
	Fatima Naser		
	Rima Jandali		
	Fatema Daadouch		
	Dania Al Zoubi		
	Rana Shawish		
	Dana Raslan Sharifa Ahmad Ali		
Computing	Kieran Birrell	Head of Computing – Digital Education Lead	kbirrell@disdubai.ae
Performing Arts/Music	Stuart Gibson	HoD Primary Performing Arts	sgibson@disdubai.ae
	Kelsey Checklin		
French (Years 3-6)	Steve Jeanne-Rose		
Art	Harriet Chambers		
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.

Who to contact

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

1. Teacher 2. Year Group Leader 3. Assistant Head 4. Deputy

**Head of
Primary**

Registration

Morning registration starts at 7:45am – punctuality and lateness is recorded and monitored.

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 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 7.45am to inform our reception team of your child's lateness.

If your child arrives after 7:45am they must go to the Reception desk to be added to the late book, before going to join their 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 has not been added to the late book, the teacher will ask him or her to return to Reception to add their name; this ensures all students are accounted for.

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 them at home until they are well enough to cope with a busy school day.

Please call the school office on **04 232 5552 before 7.45am** explaining your child's illness/reason for absence or email pabsences@disdubai.ae.

If a student is absent for 2 consecutive days, 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 (including swimming) 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.

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.



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. Please note that vacations will be marked as an unauthorised absence. 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.

If students have a scheduled appointment during the school day, parents must inform the primary office before 7.40am on the day.

Birthday Celebrations

Due to children with various medical needs and allergies, **birthday treats are no longer permitted and therefore cannot be shared in the school**

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 we are very much familiar with school and our parent's 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.

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

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 gain points for themselves and their House during lessons and in a range of House competitions and special assemblies.

We are looking forward to seeing more fantastic competitions throughout the school year. A wide range of exciting events, pursuits and challenges will be available. You will receive regular updates about House events and the House point scores in our Newsletters. We hope you will support your child by cheering on their House!

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 (2020) and is appropriately adapted to suit the individual needs of our diversified cohort of International students. FS Staff at DIS follow a bespoke DIS FS Curriculum, 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. Teachers use a hybrid 'Montessori and Curiosity Approach' to teaching and learning, where Independence is encouraged from an early age.

Lessons are planned accordingly to suit all students' cultural beliefs and experiences through choice of multicultural books and literacy links, celebrating all festivals (Ramadan/ Diwali etc.). Through our 'Around the World' lessons, we explore the different countries of our classmates and listen to stories in their native languages. 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. IB learner attributes are represented in the form of mascots such as Have-a-go-Hamdan and Trying Troy, where students are encouraged to be risk-takers and to be open-minded from the very start of their learning journey at DIS. Lifelong learning skills develop as students investigate and experiment with their own ideas and theories in an environment where Inquiry Based Learning encourages a growth mindset.

Subjects taught in the Foundation Stage:

- English
- Maths
- Phonics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Science & STEM
- Around the World

Other areas of learning include yoga, mindfulness, circle time (PSHE), wake-up and shake-up.

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.

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

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE
- History
- Geography
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Computing
- Arabic
- Swimming
- Islamic Education (if applicable)
- Moral, Social, Cultural Studies (MSCS)

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, including those who are new to English. 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.

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

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, Term 2 and Term 3 (optional). This is an opportunity to discuss the current attitude to learning, attainment and next steps in a child's learning, directly with their teacher.

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. We do encourage parents to chat informally with teachers at the end of the school day, where small queries are concerned.

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.

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
- 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 (CCAs) programme, which compliments and broadens our curriculum. Children are encouraged to take part in CCAs, which in turn will contribute towards CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service)

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

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

CCAs are run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Children who have Secondary siblings must be signed up to a CCA each day, unless parents are picking up at the regular collection time.

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.

Any items not collected at the end of each term will be disposed of.

School Clinic

Our medical team is led by a fully qualified doctor and 2 full-time registered nurses who administer 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 Dubai Health Authority (DHA) where all scheduled vaccinations, annual check-ups (height, weight, BMI, BMI percentile) are all recorded. Medical examinations are non-invasive and carried out by the nurses and the Doctor during students' first year at the school, Foundation Stage 1, Years 2, 5, 8 and 11. Routine vaccination sessions are conducted once in each term for children who are due or overdue for their age with prior consent of parents, 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.

1. Students of staff who test positive for Covid should inform the School Clinic.
2. Positive cases should isolate for 5 days and return to work after completion of isolation period if asymptomatic.
3. Symptomatic close contacts should get tested and if they return positive, need to isolate for 5 days. Asymptomatic close contacts need not to quarantine.

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.

A full uniform list for all Primary students is provided in the link below. Trainers are not permitted, unless being worn for PE:

Foundation Stage and Primary Uniform

Under current KHDA protocols, students are required to arrive at school wearing their PE kit on the days they have PE lessons. Any students who do not arrive in PE kit, will not be allowed to participate.

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 or in store from Threads.

In addition to this they will need:

- A backpack – No bags with wheels are allowed!
- Large Water bottle
- Stationery kit – **to be replenished regularly**
- 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)

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.

Henna Tattoos

These are only acceptable for religious/cultural reasons.

Hairstyles

- Girls – Hair should be tied back fully off the face and should be of a natural hair colour only. 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.

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.

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 platforms, 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.

[Electronic Device and Digital Citizenship fair usage Policy - Primary School - 2023-24](#)

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.

Device specifications



iPad - 10.2inch

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

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 10th generation, 10.2 inch, 64GB, 128GB or 256GB Wi-Fi only model**, specifically designed for education.

You may compare this model against others here: <https://www.apple.com/ae/ipad/compare/>

In order 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.

Cafeteria

The school provides a cafeteria where you can eat your food with friends in a clean and safe environment. 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 before lunch begins. Additionally, students are invited to bring their own healthy, nutritious and balanced packed lunch to school. We do not accept food deliveries.

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.