

Arabic Language, Islamic Education and Moral Education & Social Studies Policy

Arabic Language

At Deira Private School, we believe that learning multiple languages is empowering and essential for holistic development. In the UAE, Arabic is recognized as a core subject by the KHDA, and its study is mandatory. We fully support and embrace this policy, as it helps children integrate into the local culture, whether they are expatriates or Emirati/Arabic speakers. Understanding Arabic, the language of our host country, enriches our students' personal growth and is crucial for fostering a deep appreciation of UAE cultural identity, understanding, and empathy.

We offer the Ministry of Education (MoE) curriculum tailored for both native Arabic speakers and non-native learners. For Arab students, mastering their mother tongue is vital, as language is intrinsically linked to culture and identity. Research shows that Arab students tend to perform better academically when their language and cultural heritage are acknowledged and supported by the school. We encourage Arab parents to continue nurturing Arabic at home through activities like reading stories, writing emails, listening to Arabic media, and conducting research in the language. This not only strengthens language skills but also maintains the child's social and emotional connection to Arab culture and society.

At DePS, Arabic language instruction is divided into two tracks: Arabic Language for native speakers and Arabic as a New Language for non-native learners, starting from FS2 and continuing through Year 9. From Years 2 to 9, our Arabic programs comply with KHDA guidelines and are based on the UAE MoE curriculum.

The Arabic Faculty at Deira Private School emphasizes the accurate acquisition of Arabic through listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Our experienced and qualified Arabic educators ensure that all students receive high-quality learning experiences, enhanced by 21st-century teaching methodologies. Our dedicated faculty is committed to achieving high standards in Arabic language education, ensuring students develop proficiency while acquiring essential 21st-century skills.

Islamic Education

At Deira Private School, we recognize the importance of nurturing a strong religious and Islamic consciousness in our Muslim students. Our qualified and experienced Islamic Education Faculty offers students the opportunity to grow spiritually through modern pedagogy and role modeling of Islamic principles. While Arabic Language and Islamic Education are distinct subjects, DePS values them equally alongside other core academic subjects.

Islamic Education is introduced from FS2, with a curriculum extending through Year 9 that complies with KHDA guidelines for both Arab and non-Arab Muslims, using the UAE MoE curriculum. The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of Islamic teachings, focusing on six key learning

areas: divine revelation, creed, Islamic values and morals, Islamic rulings and purposes, the biography of the Prophet (Seerah), and Islamic identity.

Students learn to share detailed information about mosques, Islamic celebrations, and how Islamic values are integrated into daily life in Dubai. A significant emphasis is placed on teaching the Holy Qur'an, with students prepared through various programs to achieve high levels of proficiency in reading and reciting the Qur'an. All students, regardless of their proficiency level, are encouraged to participate in Qur'an competitions, providing them with opportunities to showcase their learning and deepen their connection to their faith.

Arabic language curriculum

The UAE MoE Arabic curriculum development shifted some time ago from the behavioural to the constructivist approach and this influences the school's curriculum design. The behavioural approach relied on the behaviour of the student with a learning process based on associations between stimuli and responses through a largely didactic model (perhaps focusing on grammar rather than skills). Underpinning the constructivist MoE Arabic curriculum is the vision that the teacher and student are two active parties in the educational process. It relies on a well-informed and highly competent teacher that is fully aware of the latest developments and ideas in the field of teaching languages, and that is keen to develop his/her potential and teaching methods.

Islamic Education curriculum

The Islamic Studies curriculum is a sequential programme for Muslim children; both Arabs and Non-Arabs. In Deira Private School, the Muslim students from FS2 onwards attend Islamic Studies. At each year level the students build upon their knowledge from their previous year of study. The programme aims to enrich the learner with a strong foundation of knowledge and values. While teaching Islamic Studies, we effectively challenge questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about Allah, self, and issues of right and wrong. At every year level, the Ministry of Education (MOE) curriculum develops knowledge and understanding of Islamic faith, jurisprudence, Quran teachings, Islamic history and traditions to which the people of the UAE have a strong belonging. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances awareness and the understanding of religious theology, ethics and beliefs, teachings and practices. Islamic Studies also explores forms of religious expression, as well as the influence religion has on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

new social studies & MSC & Moral Education curriculum

Social Studies, Moral Education, and MSC Curriculum at Deira Private School

At Deira Private School, we are currently and actively implementing the Social Studies, Moral Education, and Moral, Social, and Cultural (MSC) curricula in line with the UAE Ministry of Education guidelines. These programs are delivered as sequential and structured educational tracks designed to meet the needs of children, both Arabs and Non-Arabs.

1. For Emirati and Arab Students:

- Social Studies is taught in accordance with MoE standards, with a focus on Arab and Islamic values, culture, and heritage.
- Emirati and Arab students are not placed in MSC classes designed for non-Arab students.
- We have adapted and modified the curriculum delivery to ensure culturally appropriate and relevant instruction is provided, ensuring that all Arab and Emirati students have full access to the content as mandated by the UAE MoE.
- These students receive Moral Education as a distinct subject, aligned with the official MoE Moral Education Curriculum, delivered in Arabic, and tailored to reinforce national identity, civic values, and ethical development.

2. For Non-Arab Students:

- Non-Arab students are taught Moral Education as an integrated part of the MSC subject.
- The content is delivered in English or in the language of the school's licensed curriculum, making it accessible and appropriate for non-Arab learners.
- The curriculum is based on MSC framework standards, which include moral reasoning, community awareness, respect for others, and cultural appreciation.
- We ensure that non-Arab students receive comprehensive exposure to UAE values and societal expectations in a way that respects their cultural backgrounds.

3. Curriculum Compliance and Differentiation:

- Our school fully complies with MoE requirements and differentiates instruction to meet the specific educational needs of both groups.
- Teachers are trained to understand and implement these distinctions, and classroom groupings are organized accordingly.
- Curriculum planning and lesson delivery are reviewed regularly to ensure that all students, regardless of background, are appropriately engaged and achieving the intended learning outcomes

Assessment

Internal assessment for Arabic languages and Islamic education & social studies & MSC & Moral Education curriculum complies with KHDA guidelines and the UAE MoE curriculum. The shift in UAE MoE Arabic curriculum development from the behavioural to the constructivist approach also influences the assessment practices chosen by Deira Private School Arabic and Islamic Faculty in the building of Arabic language and Islamic education courses. The UAE MoE Arabic and Islamic curriculum and social studies & MSC & Moral Education with its constructivist approach encourages the ongoing monitoring of student performance through continuous assessment. These practices will provide students' with intellectual development tools that

ultimately increase their Arabic language proficiency. Continuous assessments give both teacher and student interim feedback on how well the student is learning and provides indicators of strengths and areas requiring more attention.

External assessments provides standardised assessments built based on the international standards for Arabic and Islamic and cover all the four skills for Arabic (Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking) and all the six elements of Islam (The Holy Qur'an and Hadeeth, Islamic values and Principles, Islamic law and Etiquettes, Seerah and Islamic figures, Faith and Identity and Belonging)

Our Aims:

- Provide all students with the opportunity to understand the beauty of the Arabic language and Arab world.
- Support each child to reach their full potential in language learning in oral, written, and visual skills.
- Develop individual self-expression and self-confidence via a broad and balanced language curriculum.
- Enable children to communicate effectively with others in school, public life and internationally.
- Promote and support the use of technology/ multimedia resources.
- Ensure the international culture and diversity of the school is reflected.
- Encourage the use and development of classical Arabic
- Develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people
- Develop young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
- Expose children to a range of literature that is rich, influential and full of experiences of people from different countries and times.
- Develop children as enthusiastic and critical readers of fiction, non-fiction and media texts.
- Display children's work to celebrate success and the joy of the learning journey
- Display vocabulary and symbols, charts and rubrics to support learning.

Teaching and learning methodology:

We strive to ensure that we:

- Provide a variety of meaningful and authentic language learning opportunities.
- Cater for different learning styles.
- Foster supportive, positive and reflective language learning environments
- Allow learners to be risk takers.
- Develop competency, creativity and independence
- Make links with our school and wider community
- Expose students to the habits and traditions of Arabic culture through many different ways.
- Provide clear, challenging and thought provoking tasks
- Promote independent and critical thinking
- Encourage discussion and reasoning skills.
- Deliver language programmes through a variety of methods and strategies, linking closely with an emphasis on inquiry.

Scope and Sequences:

- Prepare lesson plans to achieve the lesson objectives.
- Integrate cooperative learning.
- Generate bespoke material to support MOE curriculum.
- Provide feedback on assignments and tests.
- Use differentiation during instruction to meet the needs of students at varying levels of knowledge acquisition.

Time allocation requirements for the subjects of Arabic Language, Islamic Education and Moral Education & Social Studies

Arabic Language										
Year	FS2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arabic as a first language	5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)	5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)	6 lessons per week (240 Minutes)					5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)		
Arabic as an Additional Language	5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)	5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)	6 lessons per week (240 Minutes)					5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)		
Islamic Education										
Year	FS2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arab Muslim students	2 lessons per week (90 minutes)	2 lessons per week 90 Minutes)	3 lessons per week (120 Minutes)			2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)				
Non-Arab	2 lessons per week (90 minutes)	2 lessons per week (90 Minutes)	3 lessons per week (120 Minutes)			2 lessons per week (80 Minutes) Muslims				
Social Studies, Moral Education (MSC)										
Year	FS2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arab students	integrated	integrated	2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)							

Non-Arab students	integrated	integrated	2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)

MOE Mandatory Subject Guides in Private fs2:

<https://www.moe.gov.ae/WebsiteFiles2025/Mandatory%20subjects/Mandatory%20Subjects%20Guide%20in%20Private%20KG-En.pdf>

KHDA Mandatory Curriculum Requirements for Private Schools in Dubai AY 25-26:

<https://web.khda.gov.ae/getattachment/About-Us/Whats-New/Policy-on-Arabic-Language-Provision-in-Early-Child/Mandatory-subjects-En.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

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