

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES POLICY

At Deira Private School, our aim is to equip every student with the knowledge, character and learning power necessary for success at school and beyond. The provision of a stimulating, rich and varied extra-curricular programme of activities which builds on and extends the taught curriculum, broadens students' educational opportunities and expands their horizons is vital in enabling us to achieve our ambitious goals. Involvement in enrichment activities can improve students' attitude to school, increase students' engagement with learning and improve educational outcomes.

Enrichment opportunities contribute to students' personal and social development and support the development of their BRIDGES' learning dispositions, for example, developing leadership skills through engagement in an Eco Club, exploring creativity in a Drama club or fostering self discipline through practising a musical instrument. In addition, the skills, experience and character gained through engagement in enrichment activities are an excellent foundation for a successful life at school and beyond.

The objectives of our extracurricular activities programme are to:

- Encourage students to explore and develop new skills and interests.
- Promote physical, emotional, and social well-being.
- Enhance teamwork, leadership, and cooperation among students.
- Provide opportunities for students to interact with peers and staff in a non-academic setting.

The ECA programme runs in three distinct terms, enabling students to attend a greater variety of activities over the course of the year:

Term 1 – September – December Term 2 – January – March

Term 3 – April - July

Responsibilities of students

All students are expected to participate actively in at least one enrichment activity each week. They were also encouraged to contribute to the enrichment programme by becoming involved in leading or supporting staff in the delivery of activities.

Students are encouraged to participate in the enrichment programme however it is not a compulsory expectation, unless they are required to attend a subject intervention.

Behaviour when attending activities

Children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner when attending activities. Parents will be informed of any inappropriate behaviour with the child receiving a warning regarding future conduct. In exceptional circumstances of repetitive or extreme inappropriate behaviour, school reserves the right to request that the child no longer attends activities, either for a set time or for the remaining sessions. In such cases, there will be no refund for any missed sessions.

Our STUDENTS COUNCIL links to Enrichment activities

Every child is a leader' and we at Deira Private School work passionately to offer our students ample opportunity to practise an array of leadership skills in a supportive, dynamic, learning and social environment.

Through the student council initiative, our pupils are exposed to a diverse range of leadership opportunities that portray the unique and individual fusion of interests within the school and wider community.

The myriad of leadership opportunities include academic and subject leaders, innovation and environment representatives, head of pupil voices and grade-level captains, to name but a few.

We aspire to encompass the interests and aspirations of each pupil and a sense of belongingness amongst all our students is paramount within this framework.

Furthermore, it encourages and promotes communication skills, critical thinking, problem solving and planning, all of which are fundamental in the development of 21st century skills and are embedded in the National Curriculum of England.

The responsibilities of the student leaders include: organising activities and events, raising awareness through service and action, sharing valued opinions and visions and proactively supporting peers and families within the school and wider community.

The contribution and impact of the student council initiative is bountiful and serves as an essential component in the prosperity of our school and of all within.

Responsibilities of parents

Parents are expected to ensure that their child attends at least one enrichment activity each week. They are also encouraged to contribute to the enrichment programme by becoming involved in leading or supporting staff in the delivery of activities.

Attendance

Children should attend activities each week they are enrolled in , unless absent from school. If, due to exceptional circumstances, a child misses a session, parents should ensure the activity leader is informed.

Staffing

Activities are conducted by both internal and external staff to ensure a wide range of expertise and experiences:

- Internal Staff: Teachers and support staff who volunteer to share their skills and interests.
- External Staff: Qualified professionals and coaches from reputable organisations.

Responsibilities of staff

Every full time member of staff at DePS contributes to the enrichment programme by either leading or supporting extra-curricular activities. Teaching staff are expected to lead at least one enrichment activity per week. Each enrichment has a maximum of 2 members of staff, unless health and safety requires more staff due to the nature of the enrichment. This provides an opportunity for staff to be involved in activities outside their formal role at school and to form positive relationships with the students in the school's community. In leading enrichment activities, staff

act as positive role models for students by emphasising the importance of having interests and hobbies and by actively demonstrating the fulfilment that they can bring.

Invitation –only clubs may be offered to support lower attaining students or to stretch higher attaining students but care needs to be taken to ensure that invitation-only activities do not dominate the enrichment timetable. For every invite-only enrichment, a department should offer an open access-enrichment. The Lead Teacher for Enrichment will monitor the impact of invite-only enrichments on student choice.

Departments with sufficient staffing capacity are expected to offer our students only subject related enrichment to support fostering students' passion and love of a subject.

Safety and Supervision

- All activities are supervised by qualified staff to ensure the safety and well-being of students.
- External staff are vetted through a rigorous process, including background checks and verification of qualifications.
- Risk assessments are conducted for all activities to identify and mitigate potential hazards.

Cancelling Enrichment

On rare occasions staff may need to cancel enrichment. This may be due to a known absence, for example offsite training. If there are two members of staff involved in running the enrichment the second member of staff will lead the enrichment. If there is no one supporting that group then the enrichment will be cancelled. In these circumstances the member of staff must inform the SLT line manager for Enrichment and the Lead Teacher for Enrichment that enrichment will need to be cancelled. The member of staff must then notify parents and students that the enrichment has been cancelled to provide ample notice.

If staff are absent through unforeseen circumstances such as an illness they should inform the SLT for Cover when they call in so that arrangements can be made to contact parents that day.

Should enrichment need to be cancelled for any other reason than an absence, then the member of staff must seek authorisation from the SLT line manager for Enrichment. Should this be granted then the member of staff must then notify parents that the enrichment has been cancelled

If all enrichments need to be cancelled for a whole school event then the Lead Teacher for Enrichment will, in consultation with SLT inform parents and staff of this.

Responsibilities of the Lead Teacher for Enrichment

The Lead Teacher for Enrichment, is responsible for organising and promoting, and monitoring and evaluating, the Academy's enrichment programme. The role includes:

- Consulting with all school staff prior to the start of each term regarding the extracurricular activities they would like to offer
- Consulting with students and parents/carers regarding the extra-curricular activities they would like to see offered or would wish to lead.

- Drawing up and publicising a programme of activities for each term, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team
- Monitoring the uptake for and attendance at each activity
- Evaluating the activities and their impact on a termly basis with staff, students and parents/carers
- Encouraging students and parents to become involved in the delivery of extra-curricular activities
- Advising staff of possible enrichment activities they could offer to meet student demand
- Liaising with external agencies offering extra-curricular activities to encourage usage of the Academy's facilities and involvement of the Academy's students
- Supporting cross-phase enrichments through primary and secondary.

Feedback and Evaluation

- Regular feedback will be sought from students, parents, and staff to assess the effectiveness and enjoyment of the activities offered.
- Adjustments will be made based on feedback to continuously improve the program.

Communication

- Information about extracurricular activities, including schedules, enrollment procedures, and updates, will be communicated through newsletters, the school website, and parent-teacher meetings.
- Parents are encouraged to stay informed and support their children's participation in extracurricular activities.

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