

ARABIC LANGUAGE AND ISLAMIC EDUCATION POLICY

Arabic language

At Deira Private School we believe that learning to speak more than one language is deeply empowering. In UAE, Arabic is considered as a core subject by KHDA, and is mandatory. We support and endorse this, as it helps children to integrate in their host culture if they ex-patriate, and to develop their natural skills if they are Emirati or Arabic speaking. Supporting an understanding of Arabic (our host country language) enriches our pupils' personal development and is crucial for promoting UAE cultural identity, understanding and empathy. We offer the Ministry of Education (MoE) curriculum to support native Arabic speaking and nonnative speakers.

For Arab students, learning their mother tongue (Arabic Language) is very important since language is deeply connected to notions of culture and identity. Arab students may perform better academically when their language and culture is actively recognized by the school. At home, Arab parents are encouraged to continue the use of Arabic through reading stories and writing emails, listening to radio and television and doing internet research in this language. In addition to building language, it helps the child maintain social-emotional ties with Arab culture and society.

Arabic language offerings in DePS include Arabic Language for mother tongue (native) students and Arabic as a New Language for Arabic language learners (non-native speakers) from FS 2 upwards. Years 2 to 8 Arabic languages comply with KHDA guidelines and use the UAE MoE curriculum.

From FS2 to Year 8 the Arabic Faculty focus on the child's acquisition of accurate Arabic Language through the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Our qualified and experienced Arabic Faculty provide all children with high quality learning experiences supported by 21st century pedagogy. Our talented Arabic faculty ensures that high standards of Arabic language are achieved by following the UAE MoE curriculum and that students are developing 21st century skills.

Islamic Education

In Deira Private School we believe in the importance of nurturing a religious and Islamic consciousness within our Muslim students. Our qualified and experienced Islamic Education Faculty provides children with the opportunity to develop through 21st century pedagogy and role modelling of beliefs. DePS considers the Arabic Language and Islamic Education to be distinct subjects from each other yet of equal value with other core subjects.

We introduce Islamic education from FS2 and Year 2 to Year 8 Islamic Education complies with KHDA guidelines for Arab as well as non-Arab Muslims and uses the UAE MoE curriculum. The curriculum aims to provide a clear understanding of Islamic teachings, moral behaviour and Islamic etiquette. Students will be able to share detailed information about mosques and Islamic celebrations. They will be able to provide examples of how Islamic values are integrated into the daily lives of all people in Dubai. Teaching the Holy Qur'an is a very important focus of the Islamic

Education Faculty. The students are prepared through various programs to ensure they reach the highest levels of proficiency in reading and reciting the Quran. Children of all levels have the opportunity to participate in Quran competitions.

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.

Assessment

Internal assessment for Arabic languages and Islamic education 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 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 standardized 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 and Islamic Education

Arabic Language									
Year	FS2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arabic as a first language	1 lesson per week	4 lessons per week (160 Minutes)	6 lessons per week (240 Minutes)			5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)			4 lessons per week (160 Minutes)
Arabic as an Additional Language	1 lesson per week	4 lessons per week (160 Minutes)	6 lessons per week (240 Minutes)			5 lessons per week (200 Minutes)			4 lessons per week (160 Minutes)
Islamic Education									
Year	FS2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arab Muslim students	1 lesson per week	2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)	3 lessons per week (120 Minutes)			2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)			2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)
Non-Arab Muslims	1 lesson per week	2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)	3 lessons per week (120 Minutes)			2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)			2 lessons per week (80 Minutes)

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