

The British Education System

AAESS is a member of the Association of British Schools in the Middle East and the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (UK). The school has in recent years developed its professional reputation within the UK by achieving official status. It is currently recognised by the UK Government's Department for Education (**DfE 7036082**).

The basic curriculum is that of the **National Curriculum of England**. Compulsory education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland currently lasts eleven years, from the age of 5 to the age of 16 (Scotland has its own, independent education system). Compulsory education concludes at the end of Year 13.

The original model chosen was that of a British system school and that policy has continued to the present day. Students can be admitted in the Nursery class, when they have achieved the age of 3 years by 30 August, and can continue to take A-Level examinations at age 18.

The curriculum is that of the National Curriculum of England. Students take tests at the end of Key Stage One (Year 2), and Key Stage Two (Year 6).

External GCSE and IGCSE exams are taken in Years 10 and 11, and AS/A2-Levels in Year 12 and 13.

Students may also be prepared for Common Entrance Exams, which are the normal means of entry into independent Secondary Schools in UK and elsewhere. **It is a priority of the school that the students are prepared for, and can transfer to, British, American and International Universities.** In keeping with the philosophy of good modern practice, the curriculum of the school is broad, and appropriate to the multinational and multicultural nature of the pupils. Music, Physical Education, Creative Arts occupy secure places in the programme as well as the more academic subjects. The school is committed to offering appropriate courses at all levels in Information and Communication Technology and preparing students for learning in the 21st century.

The school is licensed by the UAE Ministry of Education and complies, according to its directive; a programme of Arabic Language, Arabic Social Studies and Islamic Studies (for Muslim children) is conducted.

The requirements of compulsory education are set out in the National Curriculum, which outlines learning that is designed to equip the student with the knowledge and skills to make good decisions in his/her personal life and to lead a life as a productive citizen.

The core (compulsory) subjects of the National Curriculum are English, Mathematics, Science, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Physical Education. Achievement is measured at the end of Year 11 by public GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams.

Qualifications (recognition of achievement at IGCSE) are awarded according to performance in public examinations. School qualifications are awarded by examining bodies (such as Cambridge International Examinations, AQA and Edexcel), and not by the school. These qualifications are recognised throughout the world. Coursework and internal school examinations are used only to evaluate the student's progress.

Students who have achieved Grade C or above in a minimum of 5 subjects (including English and Mathematics) may elect to progress to courses in years 12 and 13 at AAESS that will prepare them for higher education. It is desirable to have achieved grades B upwards as a good foundation for A level study.

Advanced level study (A level) in the 6th Form normally takes two years. In the first year students will select four AS level subjects which are examined and certificated at the end of the first year. Students can then continue their studies in these subjects but narrowing the choice to three subjects, A2's which are then examined again at the end of Year 13 and combine with the AS to form a complete A level. University entry in the UK requires a minimum of 2 A levels, normally 3 A levels or 2 A levels and 2 further subjects at AS level.

Entry into university programmes is competitive, and more demanding courses and more prestigious universities will require higher levels of passes at A level. Other interests are additionally desirable for many universities; for example, music, community work, Duke of Edinburgh etc.

Progression

Students' progress in the British system in years, starting from Nursery/Reception, and then Year 1 though to Year 13; these year groups are arranged into 'key stages'.

The Foundation Stage – Early Years	This stage covers children from age 3 to 5
Key Stages 1 & 2	These stages are based within the Primary School at AAESS
Key Stages 3 & 4	These stages represent the Secondary School phase of a student's education.
Key Stage 5	These years are the A Level years - in the UK, students in these year groups are historically referred to as being in 'The Sixth Form'.

Curriculum Stage	School Year	Children's Age	Building
Foundation (Early Years)	Nursery & Reception	3-5	Foundation
Key Stage One	Years 1-2	5-7	Key Stage One

Key Stage Two	Year 3-6	7-11	L shaped & Main Building
Key Stage Three	Years 7-9	11-14	Secondary Building
Key Stage Four	Years 10-11	14-16	Secondary Building
Post 16 (A levels)	Years 12-13	16-18	Secondary Building

Which year group should my child be in?

The British System works on September 1st as the key entry date for each school year. It is the age of a child on this date that determines the year group to which they belong.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage includes the Nursery and Reception classes and is the period of education from 3 to 5 years old. At Al Ain English Speaking School, we understand that the early years of a child's life are crucial to their development and their perception of school. The Foundation Stage teachers, along with their learning support assistants, aim to make each child's introduction to school a positive, stimulating and exciting experience.

We understand the importance of seeing each child as an individual and allowing them to grow and develop in different ways and at different rates. We value independence and see each child as an active participant in their learning. We provide them with opportunities to explore and understand the world around them and help extend on their learning

The Foundation Stage curriculum comprises of six areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy (PSRN)
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World (KUW)
- Physical development (PD)
- Creative development (CD)

The children in Foundation Stage have the opportunity to attend specialist subjects within their school week with specialist teachers for Music, PE and Arabic.

We know that children learn to be strong and independent from a base of a loving and secure relationship with their parents. Parents are every child's first teacher and to ensure that they get the best from school it is important to have parents' support and participation in their child's learning. We use our weekly 'Parents and Teachers Home Support' (PATHS) letters as a way to keep you up

to date with our focuses in class and provide you with ideas to support your child's learning at home

Key Stage One

This Key Stage has four parallel classes of Year 1 and year 2. It is our aim to ensure that all students feel secure and content in their classroom environment. We are committed to delivering a curriculum that is stimulating and creative. Our staff, both teachers and support staff are constantly adapting and improving the curriculum to allow each individual student to develop into confident happy life-long learner. We are continuously implementing new initiatives to allow the students the opportunity to build on existing skills. As in the rest of the school, curriculum development is on-going in order to provide the very best opportunities for the children with their unique and varying learning styles and needs. The staff in Key Stage One are excellent classroom practitioners and are committed to achieving the best for every student. We are aware of the importance of parents as partners and strive to ensure every parent feels part of their child's learning experience. AAESS understand that together both teachers and parents can guarantee that each child reaches their full potential.

Key Stage Two

This Key Stage consists of four parallel classes in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. As in the rest of the school, the English National Curriculum forms the core of our curriculum but is enriched by variations appropriate to our location and students. We also provide Arabic classes for all students and Islamic studies for Muslim students.

In addition to daily lessons based on the British National Curriculum, we have interspersed many additional creative and imaginative themed days. Numerous trips are arranged each year in order to support the curriculum as well as many hands on activities which enable students to learn through their multiple-intelligences of kinaesthetic, visual and auditory learning

In KS2, the curriculum consists of lessons in English, Maths, Science, ICT, History, Geography, Art, SEAL, ESD, Music, PSHCE, Arabic, PE and Islamic studies for Muslim students. The children also have sessions in the Library in which they are able to listen to stories, conduct research and choose books to read at home.

In order to enrich the curriculum, the students also have extra curriculum activities once a week. These are after school on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The children select an activity for the term; there are various options and the choices are driven by the student's preferences. Current examples include: ballet, yoga, golf, homework club, book club, arts and craft and jewellery.

The Year six children participate in the Standard Achievement Tasks (SAT's). These are delivered in exactly the same way as the UK but marked internally. At AAESS all children are supported and encouraged to understand the skills being taught and to be able to explain their learning..

Many practical activities are included in all curriculum areas in order that the children have the opportunity to link skills taught in all subject areas into their daily activities

Key Stage Three

Subjects taken at Key Stage Three

Arabic, Art, Biology (Year 9), Chemistry (Year 9), Drama, English Language, French, General Science, Geography, History, ICT, Islamic Studies, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics (Year 9), Spanish, Global Citizenship.

This page outlines the planned programme of learning for students in their first three years with us. We hope it will help parents to talk to their children about the work they are doing at school and to appreciate the progress they are making. It is also a useful background to reports and to discussions with teachers. Your child's tutor is a vital link between subject teachers, parent and child.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum builds on the experiences students have had at their primary school. Our aim is to maintain the strengths of the primary approach as we introduce teaching by subject specialists. In particular, we want our students to use their skills across the curriculum and not to confine them to the subject in which they happen to be learned. Information Technology equips students with skills which are used and reinforced across all subjects.

All students are provided with a Student Planner. We think they will be invaluable to young students, who are faced with the need to organise their day and week at school. We know from experience that the earlier the skills of organisation are learned, the more happily students settle and the greater chances of success at GCSE and beyond.

We ask parents to help their children make effective use of this Personal Organiser and especially at first to share responsibility for it. Students should be encouraged each evening to look forward to the next day, making sure that they have completed homework by the required date and that they have all the equipment they need for the next day's lessons. If parents take an interest in the tasks and targets set, it will make it easier for us to work together. We are always keen to identify any concerns at an early stage so that matters can be put right.

Key Stage Four: IGCSE

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) has been designed for 14 to 16 year olds and aims to prepare students for further academic success, including progression to A and AS Level study, and equip students with the skills needed for immediate employment. IGCSE is equivalent in standard to the British GCSE and is recognised as evidence of ability by academic institutions and employers around the world. Indeed, the terms GCSE and IGCSE are used interchangeably.

At the AAESS we place great emphasis on each student achieving their full potential and in order to do this we aim to work closely with parents and students in choosing the correct balance of subjects to follow in Year 10. We offer a wide range of subjects and the descriptions in this book are to give both parents and students an insight into what the subject will involve

However, before choosing subjects, students should be encouraged to meet the subject teachers and discuss whether a particular subject is the right choice.

Why choose the AAESS?

Over the years, the school has built up a great deal of experience in the teaching of IGCSE subjects and effective preparation for examinations. All our senior staff are experienced IGCSE teachers and we believe that this is vital to ensure that students receive the best preparation for their IGCSE examinations.

However, at AAESS we do not feel that we are just preparing students for examinations. Throughout their time in the school we will work closely with each individual to ensure they achieve their full potential.

What subjects can I study?

At AAESS we are in the enviable position of having high quality staff who are able to teach their specialist subject to the highest level. This allows us to offer a considerable range of subjects as shown below.

A Good Combination

IGCSE provides a broad study programme by drawing subjects from five areas:

- Languages
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Mathematics
- Science
- Creative and Technical

Within the curriculum there is a balanced mix of practical experience and theoretical knowledge. Differing abilities are accommodated with a choice of Core (or Foundation) and Extended (or Higher) papers in most subjects, making IGCSE suitable for all students. Core levels allow achievement at grades C to G, whereas Extended levels cater for achievement at grades A* to E.

Compulsory GCSE Subjects

- English (Language/ Literature/ 2nd Language English)
- Maths
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Optional GCSE Subjects

- Arabic

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- French
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Music
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Spanish

Personal Targets

At the AAESS we regard each student as an individual and expect everyone to reach their full potential. In order to support this process, each student will be set personal targets in each subject they are studying. These targets are based on previous work and scores achieved in assessments at the end of Year 9.

We will then work closely with students and parents to ensure that these targets are met.

Post 16: Sixth Form Education: AS & A Level Examinations

See School Graduation Policy

See further helpful tables below

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KEY STAGE THREE

NATIONAL CURRICULUM LETTER GRADE & US EQUIVALENCY TABLE

Internal Assessment in the Senior School

Levels of Achievement

The National Curriculum sets standards of achievement in each subject for pupils aged 5 to 14. For most subjects, these standards range from Levels 1 to 8. Pupils progress up the levels as they get older and learn more:

- most 11 year olds are expected to achieve Level 4
- most 14 year olds are expected to achieve Levels 5 or 6

NC LEVELS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sub Levels 1c 1b 1a 2c 2b 2a 3c 3b 3a 4c 4b 4a 5c 5b 5a 6c 6b 6a 7c 7b 7a 7+							
English	E	D	C	B	A		
USEq	D	C	B	A			
Maths	E	D	C	B	A		
USEq	D	C	B	A			
Science	E	D	C	B	A		
USEq	D	C	B	A			
ICT	E	D	C	B	A	A*	
USEq		C	B	B	A		
MFL	D	C	B	A	A*		
USEq	C	B	A	A*			
Geography	E/F	D	C	B	A/A*		
USEq	D/E	C	B	A	A*		
History	D/E	C	B	A/A*			
USEq	C/D	B	A	A*			
Ex Arts	E	D	C	B	A	A*	
USEq		D	C	B	A-A*		
PE	E/D	C	B	A	A*		
USEq	D/C	B	A	A*			

All teachers check their pupils' progress in each subject as a normal part of their teaching. The teacher decides which level best describes a pupil's performance in each area of learning in that subject. In certain subjects sub-levels (a,b,c) may be given, with "a" indicating a student who has almost completed this level and "c" indicating a student who has just reached this level.

KEY

	Below Expectations
	At Expected Level
	Beyond Expectations
+	Exceptional

Letter Grades do not necessarily reflect actual Grade a student may achieve at IGCSE

Arabic & Islamic Studies

The levels are made according to the ministry of education requirements

A*	(91% to 100 %)
A	(81% to 90 %)
B	(66% to 80%)
C	(50% to 65 %)
F	Below 50%

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Sub Levels	1c	1b	1a	2c	2b	2a	3c	3b	3a	4c	4b	4a	5c	5b	5a	6c	6b	6a	7c	7b	7a	7+

English	E		D		C		B	A
USEq	D		C		B		A	
Maths	E		D		C	B	B	A
USEq	D		C		B		A	
Science	E		D		C	B	A	
USEq	D		C		B		A*	
ICT	N/A		D	C	B		A	A*
USEq	N/A		E	B	B/A		A	
MFL	E	D	C	B	A	A*		
USEq	F	C	B	A	A*			
Geography	N/A		E	C/D	B	A/A*		
USEq	N/A		D	C	B	A/A*		
History	N/A		D	C	B	A/A*		
USEq	N/A		D	C	B	A/A*		
Ex Arts			D	C	B	A	A*	
USEq	D/E		C	B	A/A*			
PE	E/D		C	B	A	A*		
USEq	D/C		B	A	A*			

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AAESS promotes Inclusion across all key stages therefore the features of this policy are also applicable to our Students of Determination and all those receiving Learning Support services at the School.

Education Systems Comparison to British Educational System

UAE	England & Wales				USA				South Africa			Ireland		New Zealand		
Age	Year Level	University		Age	Year Level		Age	Year Level	University	Age	Year Level	University	Age	Year Level		
Yr 12	17	Year 13	Key Stage 5 (POST 16)	Secondary	SOPHMORE	2nd Year College	Based upon no of credits		Post Matricula	18	Leaving Cert	Secondary	17+	Year 13	NCEA National Cert of Ed Attainment	
Yr 11	16+	Year 12			FRESHMAN	1st Year College		17+	Grade 12 Matricula	17	5th Year		16+	Year 12		
Yr 10	15+	Year 11	Key Stage 4	Secondary	GRADE 12	High School		Senior	16+	Grade 11	Secondary	15	Junior Certificate	15+	Year 11	
Yr 9	14+	Year 10			GRADE 11		Junior	15+	Grade 10	14		2nd Year	14+	Year 10		
Yr 8	13+	Year 9	Key Stage 3	Secondary	GRADE 10	Junior High School		Sophmore	14+	Grade 9	Primary	14	1st Year	13+	Year 9	
Yr 7	12+	Year 8			GRADE 9		Freshman	13+	Grade 8	12		6th Class	12	Year 8		
Yr 6	11+	Year 7	Key Stage 2	Primary Stage	GRADE 8	Elementary School		Middle School	12+	Grade 7	Primary	11	5th Class	11	Year 7	
Yr 5	10+	Year 6			GRADE 7			11+	Grade 6	10		4th Class	10	Year 6		
Yr 4	9+	Year 5	Key Stage 1	Primary Stage	GRADE 6	Elementary School			10+	Grade 5	Primary	9	3rd Class	9	Year 5	
Yr 3	8+	Year 4			GRADE 5			9+	Grade 4	8		2nd Class	8	Year 4		
Yr 2	7+	Year 3	Key Stage 1	Primary Stage	GRADE 4	Elementary School			8+	Grade 3	Primary	7	1st Class	7	Year 3	
Yr 1	6+	Year 2			GRADE 3			7+	Grade 2	6		High Infants	6	Year 2		
KG2	5+	Year 1	The Foundation Stage – Early Years	Primary Stage	GRADE 2	Elementary School			6+	Grade 1	Primary	5	Low Infants	5	Year 1	
KG1	4+ Reception	Nursery			GRADE 1			4	Year 1							
	3.5					5	K	Kindergarten		5	Nursery			3	Early Childhood	
					There is about 6 months overlap last half of 8th Grade=1st half of Year 9 (UK)					16 * Transitional Year						

UK Grade	US Equiv	GPA
A*	A	4.0
A		3.7
B+		3.3
B	A-	3.0
B-		2.7
C+		2.3
C	B	2.0
C-		1.7
D+		1.3
D	C+	1.0
E	C	
F	D+	
G	D	

Al Ain English Speaking School
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