



Gulf British Academy

Curriculum Policy

Whole School

Introduction

At Gulf British Academy, we strive to deliver creative and interactive academic programmes. These are based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework for our Pre-KG, KG and Reception classes, and the new National Curriculum in England for Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) and Years 3 to 6 (Key Stage 2).

All subjects are taught in English except for the Arabic programme, which is prescribed directly by the Ministry of Education in Kuwait. Staff also receive continuous in-house and outsourced professional development to ensure that teaching remains focused and effective, and best adapted to meet our pupils' needs.

Curriculum aims

We encourage and promote a creative and cross-curricular approach in order to form a deeper understanding of topics and foster:

- a love and passion for life-long learning
- a sense of wonder / respect for the world we live in
- the ability to problem solve
- academic excellence
- a sense of pride in their own and others' achievements
- social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness
- independence
- freedom of expression
- high expectations of themselves and others
- respect, trust and empathy

Curriculum values

We believe:

- all children have a right to learn
- all children have a right to be safe and happy
- all children are unique
- all children should be listened to and treated fairly
- all children should be respected
- we should respect and value others' opinions and beliefs
- parents play an important role in their child's education
- we are all part of a wider community which is an integral part of our pupil's development
- excellent teachers create excellent learning

English

We implement various teaching strategies to enhance our learners' experience. This includes using Talk for Writing, a strategy created by Pie Corbett supported by Julia Strong, which develops children's writing and speaking skills. Talk for Writing enables children to imitate language structure orally before writing independently.

Alongside this, we use strategies from Alan Peat, a leading educationalist, to further develop our children's writing and speaking skills. This includes using his 'sentence types' within writing. During their time at Gulf British Academy, learners will become familiar with these and use them effectively.

All our teachers are aware of the emphasis we place on phonic knowledge from an early stage in order to develop word reading, spelling and language skills and we base our phonics programme on the Jolly Phonics approach. Pupils who require more general language help will have access to our English Support Programme to help them adapt.

Our teachers also use Guided Reading as a strategy to strengthen and develop pupils' reading and comprehension skills. During Guided Reading sessions, teachers work with a small group of pupils to coach and guide them as they use problem-solving techniques to read and comprehend texts. Guided Reading promotes and encourages children to become confident and independent readers.

For more information, please see our Reading and Writing policies.

Mathematics

At GBA we use Busy Ant Maths by Collins for the teaching of mathematics from Reception to Year 6.

Busy Ant Maths is an inspiring mathematics programme that not only ensures complete coverage of the National Curriculum but also teaches mastery of the subject through the use of interactive activities, real life examples and games. As part of this programme, pupils are regularly assessed in lessons to allow any gaps in knowledge to be filled.

The Busy Ant Maths Calculations Policy shows you how each concept and calculation is taught in school at primary level. This policy ensures consistency across year groups enabling children to become more confident.

We encourage parents to use this guide for consistency at home too.

Science, Social Studies, ICT, Art and P.E.

At GBA, Science, Social Studies, ICT, Art and P.E. are all taught practically. Social Studies in Years 4, 5 and 6 follow a programme of study that covers the Geography and History concepts relating to the GCC countries as supplied by the Ministry of Education. For more information on this, see our Social Studies Policy.

Children are given the resources and knowledge to develop their skills and explore the world around them. The curriculum at GBA aspires to be a child-initiated, inquiry based and holistic curriculum where children can become confident and independent learners.

Curriculum enrichment

To enhance our school curriculum and enrich children's learning experiences, we provide varied and exciting activities and events throughout the school year.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Pre-KG, KG and Reception classes follow these prime areas of learning and development:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

You can find out more about our Foundation programme in our EYFS Policy.

Arabic programme

Curriculum accommodation is made for studies required by the Ministry of Education in Kuwait:

- Arabic for Arabs
- Arabic for non-Arabs
- Islamic Studies for Muslim students with Arabic as a first language
- Islamic Studies for Muslim students with Arabic as an additional language
- Quranic Studies for Muslim Kuwaiti students (optional for non-Kuwaiti Muslims)
- Social Studies of Kuwait.

Close monitoring and personalisation

- Pupil progress is continuously assessed in each curriculum area throughout the year and we make regular use of standardised testing and assessment resources in order to monitor pupil progress.
- Formal exams are set in Years 6 in accordance with Ministry of Education requirements.
- Parent/teacher conferences, feedback, progress reports and student information are given out at regular times during the year.
- Frequent curricular adaptations are made to attend to the needs of our most able students and those who encounter difficulties accessing the curriculum.

Homework

At Gulf British Academy, we understand the importance and value of homework in creating healthy learning habits. We encourage children to see that learning doesn't stop once you leave the classroom.

Homework at GBA formally starts in Year 1 and gradually increases as children move up to Year 6. Alongside academic homework, we strongly encourage parents to allow lots of time for playing and relaxing – this is just as vital in a child's development.

Reviewed: September 2019
To be reviewed: Annually by September
Responsibility: Senior Leadership Team