



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at DESS

Please contact the school directly for more details.

Joining DESS

I would like to book a Tour of DESS	Please click here to book a Tour. If you have any queries or would like to request a call back, please email admissions@dessc.sch.ae
How do I apply for a place for my child at DESS?	<p>To apply for a place for Foundation 1 and 2, please follow the 'Pointsto Note' above our application form which you can access by clicking here</p> <p>To apply for a place for Years 1 to 6, please follow the 'Points to Note' above our application form which you can access by clicking here</p>
What is the current fee structure?	You can view our fee structure and Accounts Department details by clicking here
Is there a sibling discount?	You will find information on sibling discount by clicking here
What are the opening hours of the Uniform Shop?	You can find our Uniform Shop opening hours and additional information on our uniform by clicking here .
Where can I find a copy of your BSO and KHDA reports?	Please click here to view our reports.

<p>Where can I find your PIRLS and TIMMS results?</p>	<p>Please click here for more information and to view our results.</p>
<p>My child is integrating from a different system where the school year is different to yours. What do you do in these circumstances?</p>	<p>Several factors would be considered - your child's date of birth, current curriculum being followed, school reports, reference and work samples would determine which year group your child would be best suited. Our Admissions Department will be happy to discuss any concerns you may have. Please click here for the contact details of our Admissions Department.</p>
<p>Teaching & Learning</p>	
<p>What are the class sizes at DESS?</p>	<p>There are 20 places in FS1 and from FS2 to Year 6, there are 25-27per class.</p>
<p>How will I know what my child is learning in class?</p>	<p>You will receive a 'Learning@DESS' newsletter every fortnight to inform you of what your child has been learning, and what is coming up next. You are also welcome to join your child's Open Afternoon session each week, where you can share and celebrate your child's learning in their classroom. This takes place after school on a given day. In some lessons, we use a platform called Seesaw, so on occasions, you may have a window intowhat your child works on in class via the parent app. We also use Ladders at Home which gives you live access to your child's current targets, progress, and attainment.</p>
<p>How will I know my child's Targets?</p>	<p>Children from FS2 to Year 6 have individual targets that the class teachers will share with you on a regular basis. Targets will also be discussed andshared in the bi-annual Parents' Evenings and in written reports. When logging into Ladders at Home, you can also see what broader objectives your child is working towards, or achieving, at any given time.</p>

<p>When do children start to learn Arabic?</p>	<p>Children begin to learn Arabic from FS2 at DESS. The number of lessons increases once the children enter Year 2 as the subject is compulsory from this point. We divide the children into Arabic A and Arabic B from Year 2. In FS2 they begin with learning vocabulary and visually what the letters look like. They begin with classroom commands, songs, counting and colours to prepare them for Year 1. All children are exposed to a variety of Arabic vocabulary through play and the wider school environment. All class teachers use various classroom commands and greetings. For more information, please click here.</p>
<p>We are non-Arabic speakers; how can we best support our child?</p>	<p>Simply by engaging in what your child is learning; attending parent meetings, asking about their day and what they are learning, challenging them to use some of their Arabic learning in the real world.</p>
<p>When do children start to learn French?</p>	<p>At DESS, we offer French lessons for Years 4 to Year 6 for 50 minutes per week. From Term 2, the children in Year 3 begin their French lessons. Children also have the possibility to attend our popular French Club. For more information, please click here.</p>
<p>How much homework can we expect?</p>	<p>Home learning tasks will vary depending on the Year Group. As a non-negotiable and where appropriate, children are expected to invest time in reading to an adult at home each evening and learning their weekly spellings (which are posted on Seesaw). Home learning tasks are recorded in your child's Home Learning Diary. You can find more information about home learning tasks, including those for Arabic A and Islamic learners, in our Home Learning Policy.</p>
	<p>Students and staff at DESS can use ICT and technology to access and research online information globally.</p> <p>At DESS, we have embedded the use of technology throughout our curriculum to enhance our teaching and learning methods. Our</p>

<p>Where can I find information on your Technology Provision?</p>	<p>approach to using technology allows for greater interactivity, processing of information, access to information, and innovation in the way children create and share their learning. We have a 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) Policy in Years 2-6 to allow opportunities for Own Device' (BYOD) Policy in Years 2-6 to allow opportunities for greater enhancements to learning, as well as access to a Computing Lab. Please click here for more information.</p>
<p>Do you have a high turnover of staff?</p>	<p>We do not as we take care of our staff. Our staff love working at DESS. We have staff that have worked at DESS for over 20 years.</p>

Physical Education & Swim Lesson

<p>Does my child have to change for PE?</p>	<p>All children will wear their PE kit to school and will wear it for the whole day if they have PE or a Sporting ECA.</p>
<p>If my child doesn't make teams / squads the first time around could they moved to the team later in the term/year?</p>	<p>The PE team are continually assessing the students during PE lessons and ECA. Students are moved around the teams at any point during the year. They will also be given areas to work on by the PE team to improve their skills.</p>
<p>Will my child be required to remove earrings for PE?</p>	<p>Earrings should either be removed or not worn to school on PE days. If ears are newly pierced and removing is an issue, the earlobes may be covered with microporous tape.</p>
<p>Do you offer Sport Scholarships?</p>	<p>At this point in time, no we don't. However, this may change in the future.</p>

<p>My child excels in a specific sport (e.g. swimming). How will you encourage this?</p>	<p>We have several squads that your child can try out for, as well as a variety of sporting ECAs.</p>
<p>My child is not the best at sport. Will they still be able to compete in matches or is that only for the top sports children?</p>	<p>We are proud to offer a variety of ability teams. Whereas most schools only offer A and B teams, we also offer C and D teams, and we seek opportunities with other schools where we can. Your child will also be assessed during this time so will have the opportunity to move up the teams.</p>

Pupil Assessment & Reporting

<p>When do we receive pupil reports?</p>	<p>Parents will receive the following Pupil Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Year (End of Feb) • End of Year (Mid-June)
<p>Which other Pupil Assessments are taken, and by which year groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We use ongoing teacher assessments to track children's attainment and progress. • CAT 4: This is compulsory for children from Years 4 - 6. • GL progress tests (PT) are compulsory for children from Years 3-6. Children take PT English, Maths and Science tests. The PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) test is taken by all children from Year 1 - 6.

Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs)

<p>Does DESS have an ECA programme?</p>	<p>(Please contact us for more information)</p> <p>Yes, we run a very comprehensive programme of ECAs ranging from Art & Crafts to Music and Sports to Photography. ECAs run before school 7:00 - 7:35, during the lunchtime snack break and After School 14:45 - 15:30.</p>
<p>How does the system work?</p>	<p>(Please contact us for more information)</p> <p>Essentially, your child makes the choice for each day. Once the sign up has closed the system randomly allocates places.</p>

<p>Can my Foundation Stage (FS) child take part in ECAs?</p>	<p>(Please contact us for more information)</p> <p>Children in FS have a limited number available. We find that FS children are tired after a busy day at school. When children move to Year 1 the available options increase greatly.</p>
<p>How often can my child select ECAs?</p>	<p>(Please contact us for more information)</p> <p>The programme runs on a termly cycle.</p>
<p>If my child joins DESS during the year, can they join ECAs?</p>	<p>(Please contact us for more information)</p> <p>Absolutely! Your child will be able to join ECAs at any point during the year. Chelsea Cuddihy will be able to help you with this. Please email her at dessparentrelations@dessc.sch.ae</p>

School Buses

<p>Where can I find information in regards to buses?</p>	<p>Please click here to view our bus information.</p>
<p>Can I use the Bus Service for one way only?</p>	<p>You can opt to get the bus one way; however, the full cost will be chargeable due to the bus seats allocated to each child and registered with the KHDA.</p>
<p>Is there a Bus available after ECAs have finished?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, for logistical and financial reasons, this is just not possible. DESS has 10 buses which go across Dubai departing DESS at 14:30. They would not be back at school in time to run a 'Late Bus'.</p>
<p>Who should I contact regarding Bus queries?</p>	<p>Please address your queries to Tracey Savage on dessbuscoordinator@dessc.sch.ae</p>
<p>Communication</p>	
<p>I am having trouble with the iParent App (iSAMS)</p>	<p>Please see our DESSC Parent Portal/App support documents by clicking here If you have any questions in regards to the DESSC Parent Portal/App please contact: Wendy Booth on portal@dessc.sch.ae</p>
<p>SchoolsBuddy looks quite confusing, can you help please?</p>	<p>At DESS, we use SchoolsBuddy for Extra Curricular Activities. Please email Chelhsea Cuddihy for more information dessparentrelations@dessc.sch.ae</p>

<p>I am having trouble logging in / using Seesaw.</p>	<p>If you need help with Seesaw, please email dessparentrelations@dessc.sch.ae</p>
<p>What other social media accounts can I follow?</p>	<p>Please follow us on: Facebook: www.facebook.com/DESSDubai / Instagram: @dubaienglishspeakingsschool Twitter: DESSDubai YouTube: Dubai English Speaking School</p>
<p>I would like to help at school when I have some spare time, who should I contact regarding volunteering?</p>	<p>Please email Sophie McLean, our Marketing & Communications Manager on dess_parentsinpartnership@dessc.sch.ae</p>
<p>Do you have a Parent Representative for each class?</p>	<p>There are no official class reps at DESS because we want to encourage a direct relationship between every parent and the school. Please also be aware that there are no official WhatsApp groups organised through school, and we do not send out any school information through that channel.</p>
<p>How do I organise a non-Parents' Evening meeting with my child's teacher?</p>	<p>Please contact Chelhsea Cuddihy dessparentrelations@dessc.sch.ae who can discuss this with you.</p>
<p>There are so many forms of communication, where do I begin and what should I be following?</p>	<p>At DESS, we are working hard to ensure that our communication are as clear as possible. The main vehicle we use for any important information you need is our DESSC Parent Portal/App. Please always go there first if you are unsure of timings of events and for information from your class teacher etc. Engaging with our social media is optional.</p>

<p>How do I report my child absent?</p>	<p>For sickness and medical reporting, please report this via the DESSC Parent App as follows: please select > Information tab > scroll down to Useful Websites & Absence Reporting > Report My Child Absent (DESS). Please complete the details and submit the form.</p> <p>If the absence is not sickness/medical related or your child will be late to school, please email dess_absence@dessc.sch.ae before 8:00am, confirming your child's details and the reason for absence. When calling the school, please leave a message, providing your child's name, class and details of absence.</p> <p>Tel: 04 3371457 - select option 1</p>
<p>School Premises</p>	
<p>Does DESS have a student café on site?</p>	<p>DESS students are required to bring packed lunch to school. However, we do have a pre-ordering service available for Years 3-6 and parents and children can buy snacks / drinks after school.</p>
<p>Do you have designated parking for People of Determination?</p>	<p>Yes we do, the parking space is situated at the front of the school.</p>