



Home of Irresistible Learning

Dubai English Speaking School

Admissions Policy & Procedure



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Approved by:	Andrew Gibbs	Next Review	September 2024

DESS is an inclusive school, which welcomes applications for admission from all families regardless of nationality, ethnicity or religion. We fully welcome applications from Emirati families and families with Children of Determination.

Once an application is processed, a range of different age-appropriate assessment strategies take place and offers are made based on the outcome of these assessments and the school's ability to meet the needs of the child.

DESS is appropriate for parents who seek a teaching programme which is determined by the English National Curriculum and one which seeks and achieves high standards in line with The UAE National Agenda.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to identify and admit children to DESS who will benefit from receiving their education here and who will contribute to and benefit from the ethos and activities of the DESS Community.

Admissions Criteria

English Language Instruction and Support

English is the language of instruction at DESS and we aim for all students to be able to read and write at level for their age. We cater for all children who have an understanding and command of the English language that allows them to operate in the classroom environment.

Arabic Language Requirements

All students from Years 2-6 are required to learn Arabic as per the UAE Ministry of Education by-laws. Classes are differentiated for native and non-native speakers and the programs incorporate the Ministry of Education syllabus within the curriculum. DESS believes that an early start in Arabic is beneficial and therefore begins its Arabic instruction two years early in Foundation Stage 2.

Islamic Education requirement

In accordance with the UAE Ministry of Education by-laws, students who are Muslim (as identified on their passport or during the admissions process via the "religion" option) must take Islamic Education. Students may take Islamic A (in Arabic) or Islamic B (in English) regardless of their nationality based on their Arabic language proficiency. The Islamic A and B courses incorporate the Ministry of Education syllabus for Islamic Education within the curriculum.

Please note that although we aim to minimise the scheduling impact that the additional Islamic Education requirements have on students, in line with ministry requirements, lessons are compulsory and must take place within the school.

Inclusion and Special Educational Needs

DESS caters for children with a range of additional learning needs and ensures they are not refused admission based only on their experience of SEND. Every application is looked at on a 'case by case' basis and is **not** dependent on there being a medical diagnosis. Places are offered, based on our guiding principle that we are able to meet a child's learning needs to enable them to achieve their full potential. DESS ensures that children with SEND needs will receive 'sibling priority' in line with the school policy.

DESS is committed to ensuring every child accesses learning and the curriculum equally, at a level that meets their individual needs, alongside peers of the appropriate age. As an inclusive school, we adapt our provision to meet individual needs, including the content of this policy.

Emirati Families

In line with the Emiratisation Decree Number 2, DESS fully welcomes applications from Emirati families.

Admissions Process

Sibling Priority

Siblings are given priority for entry in all year groups at DESS. All siblings must fulfil the school admissions criteria. Please note we cannot guarantee places for siblings when we are oversubscribed.

If we are oversubscribed, offers will be made when a place becomes available that matches the profile of an applicant, so that we are able to maintain a balance of students.

How to apply for a school place

Application forms are available from the [Admissions Area](#) of our [school website](#). Parents are welcome to take a tour of the school with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and can apply online.

An application fee of AED525 is payable for applications received for Yr1-Yr6. Due to the high volume of applications we receive for Foundation Stage, an application fee is **only** payable if we are in a position to progress your application and invite your child to attend one of our Taster Sessions. If a place is offered, you will have 7 days to pay a non-refundable deposit of AED3,500 to secure your place. The deposit will be deducted from the first terms fee payment.

For Foundation Stage children, it is best to apply a full year in advance of the proposed starting date. Occasionally staff may visit nursery schools to determine the child's individual learning needs.

For children transferring from other schools in Dubai or from overseas, applications are invited as early as possible prior to starting.

Entrance criteria

For children entering Foundation Stage, it is expected that they are school ready.

For all children a report from their current school is expected and the child's strengths and weaknesses across all curriculum areas will be used to inform targets. Wherever possible the child will also be invited in for a taster session to ensure that DESS is a suitable learning environment for them.

Admissions Procedure

1. Application is submitted online via our [website](#)
2. Completed application is sent to the relevant SLT member, then Headteacher for review
3. Admissions will contact you regarding the status of your application (Offer Letter or placed on our waiting list).
4. Our Registrar will consult with the relevant SLT member regarding placement of a child in class and available House space.

For children applying to Foundation Stage, the initial list of successful applicants will be formalised by the Admissions Department and FS Leader. The list will be finalised after discussion with the Headteacher.