



THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, DUBAI

TWS CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

POLICY FOR	Curriculum Review
PERSON RESPONSIBLE	Heads of Teaching, Learning and Assessment
REVIEW DATE	June 2023
REVIEWED BY	TLA Team
APPROVED DATE	20 th June 2023
APPROVED BY	ELT
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	May 2024
RELATED POLICIES	Teaching learning policy, Assessment Policy, Reading Policy

Executive Principal / CEO



The Westminster School, Dubai has designed its curriculum to empower the learners and create their future. Primarily, we offer the National Curriculum for England; however, we also incorporate the goals and values of GEMS Education and the rich national influence of the UAE. This results in students being offered a modern, exciting, and educationally advanced curriculum. a vibrant & creative learning environment.

Core Curriculum: **National Curriculum for England**

Language of Instruction: **English**

The National Curriculum for England is a broad and balanced curriculum applied in over 150 countries across the world. It is based on a structured and broad framework that outlines expected levels of achievement through all stages of a student's school life.

In Foundation Stage 1 and 2 students, follow the new framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage program.

In Years 1 to 8, the students' progress through the National Curriculum for England.

Integration of STEAM, coding into the curriculum are intrinsic features of learning across the school from FS 1 to Year 8.

In Year 9, the students do a Pre IGCSE programme where they explore a broader variety of subjects before they make an informed choice of subjects for IGCSE.

Years 10 and 11 students' study IGCSE subjects, Years 12 and 13 AS and A level subjects.

The curriculum lays the foundation for students to pursue university levels of education or professional career paths suited to their abilities, talents and interests. All IGCSE, AS and A level qualification awards are recognized worldwide. The Westminster School students move on to higher education across the world, many to prestigious universities.

In addition to the development of specific skills and competencies, the curriculum emphasises innovation, enquiry, creativity, analytical evaluation, and other 21st century skills needed to meet the challenges of the future.

Through innovative styles of teaching, workshops, projects and experiments students are given the opportunity to explore aspects of the curriculum and develop a variety of practical skills. Under the guidance of their teachers, students learn aspects of management, instruction and leadership, enhancing their knowledge, confidence and skills, so that they can make more defined career choices.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Foundation Stage 1 (FS1) AND Foundation Stage 2 (FS2)

Ages: 3 to 5 years

Early Years Foundation Stage comprises Foundation Stage 1 and Foundation Stage 2. Initiation into the school through fun-filled and stimulating activities by caring teachers helps each student to view schooling very positively, an attitude which contributes immensely towards developing lifelong learning skills.

This ensures that the transition from home to school is easy and enjoyable. Learning in a safe, secure and happy environment leads to healthy, personal and social development, greater self-esteem and good development of basic cognitive and motor abilities.

The key areas of learning and development covered at this stage are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The new Early Years programme in the Foundation Stage ensures that children are suitably prepared for literacy and numeracy. Phonic methods and well-graded writing patterns follow a comprehensive foundation-building programme focusing on enhancing the skills in reading, speaking writing and listening. Children in the Foundation Stage mainly learn by playing and exploring, being active and creative learners both indoors and outdoors. The programme is geared for a holistic development of every individual child, developing their self-esteem, social and communication skills. Activities for children are planned around the 7 areas of learning according to the needs and interests of children. Learning takes place directly through formal teaching, using ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and Music. The focus is on both individuals as well as group activities.

The use of the International Early Years Curriculum (IEYC), helps the integration of theme-based learning and STEAM learning into the EYFS curriculum.

Arabic Language: Students in the Foundation Stage are introduced to the Arabic language and dedicated lessons are delivered by Arabic specialists from FS2.

By the end of Foundation Stage, students become confident and comfortable in the school environment and gain basic knowledge of core concepts in order to prepare them to begin the British National Curriculum.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) and Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6)

Ages: 5 to 11 years

In these years of school, students lay a solid foundation for learning that they will use for the rest of their lives. The National Curriculum for England has a very structured flow of learning that challenges and assesses students to ensure development in key academic areas is being met.

Subjects at this level:

- Islamic Education (in Arabic and in English)
- Arabic for Arabs
- Arabic for Non-Arabs
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Moral Social Cultural Studies
- Geography
- Personal Social Health Education (PSHE)
- Computing
- Physical Education (PE)
- Art
- Music
- Moral Education (Year 2 onwards)
- French /Urdu (Year 3 onwards)

Within the Primary School, academics is integrated with opportunities to enable children to achieve their full potential and develop skills of reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking. Learning ensures that all of our students are enthused by what they are learning, and our teachers are passionate about what they are teaching. Students pursue academic and non-academic prospects through various activities. Socially preferred behavior patterns are inculcated through a focus on etiquette and values that will lay the foundation for students' social interaction and development. Common Sense Media lessons and Sustainability lessons are integrated into the curriculum. The students of Upper Key Stage 2 are also exposed to Robotics and augmented reality resources to enhance their learning skills.

Students of Key stage 2 are provided with the opportunities to develop their leadership skills by sharing class and school responsibilities that nurture organizational skills, accountability and team spirit.

The Primary School is the stage of enhanced learning, where the students are constantly evolving and growing, intellectually and emotionally.

Students in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will appear for the UAE International Benchmark assessments as prescribed by the KHDA.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Secondary School covers the ages of 11 to 16 years.

Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and Year 8)

The Years 7 and 8 curricula, integrating STEAM, Robotics and Sustainability inspire students and meet the unique needs of their teenage brains during a time when many, overwhelmed by the combination of the transition from Primary to Secondary education.

At this stage, the learning goals seek to encourage the holistic development of internationally-minded learners. Rigorous and deep learning is represented under the categories of knowledge, skills and understanding through enquiry, research and problem-solving learning.

Opportunities to experience and practice individual qualities and dispositions like resilience, morality, communications, thoughtfulness, respect and adaptability are built in the learning tasks within the curriculum.

Subjects at this level:

- Islamic Education (in Arabic and in English)
- Arabic for Arabs
- Arabic for Non-Arabs
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Moral Social and Cultural Studies
- Life Skills
- Computer Science
- French / Urdu
- Physical Education (PE)
- Art
- Music
- Global Perspective

Key Stage 4 (Year 9 to Year 11)

Key Stage 4 prepares students for the IGCSE Examination. In Year 9, the students are introduced to IGCSE curriculum. Years 10 and 11 students' study IGCSE subjects as per their choice made at the end of year 9. Assessment in Key Stage 4 is carried out according to the IGCSE grading system.

Our students are inspired to learn through a range of interesting skills like Independent thinking, research, resource collection and effective communication.

Opportunities for individual experiences are encouraged as they communicate and actively participate in the world around them; these include work experience, university seminars and workshops, and other relevant activities that we feel will add value to student development and preparation.

Core Subjects

Core subjects at this stage consist of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Arabic (for Arabic students)
- Islamic Education (for Muslim students)
- Computer Science or Information Communication Technology
- Physical Education
- Moral Social and Cultural Studies

Electives

Furthering our commitment to individual student-development, we offer a variety of elective subjects for students to select from when designing their curriculum. These electives include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Economics
- Business Studies
- Accounting
- Geography
- French
- Urdu
- Combined Science
- Art and Design
- English Literature
- Psychology
- Enterprise
- Travel and Tourism
- Global Perspectives
- Environmental Management
- IGCSE Physical Education
- Online Courses- Self-study Online courses are provided to expand the curriculum for students who have completed the board exams through early entry provisions.

Skills Programme

We offer a range of skills programme in Year 9. Students can choose any one skill from the list given below:

- 3D Printing
- Public Speaking
- Debate
- Music
- Home Economics
- Computing
- Financial literacy

After school Enrichment programmes are offered in sports and skill based activities:

- Basketball
- Cricket
- Football
- Karate
- Badminton
- Dance
- Public Speaking (MUNs/Debate/TEDx)
- Art Skills
- Music
- Robotics

Key Stage 5 (Year 12 & 13): A-Levels

Post 16 curriculum is built on teaching and learning principles that regard the student as a full person who is interconnected to one another. The curriculum methods strive to make learning a self-improvement process that explicitly identifies the self and the social context of learning and teaching, as well as identifying the requirements of the individual learner in the interaction. It emphasizes the learner's emotional, social, and cognitive well-being evenly.

Post 16 educational system remains effective while also being relevant to the advancements we are making every day. For improved performance, our teachers combine technology with textbook learning. The usage of technology is inextricably linked to the concept of an innovation school.

The skills programme in KS 5 promotes a flexible, future-oriented curriculum and platform for lifelong learning thus building a link between skill development and broader education, employment, and growth.

Subjects Offered at Post 16

- Islamic Education A (For Muslim Arab Students)
- Islamic Education B (For Muslim Non-Arab Students)
- Arabic A (For Arab Students)
- English

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Accounting
- Psychology
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Computer Science
- IT
- Geography
- Sociology
- IPQ

Skills Programme

We offer a range of skills programme in Sixth Form. The Students can choose any one skill from the list given below:

- IELTS
- Fashion Designing
- 3D Printing
- CBT
- Basics of Programming
- Digital Marketing
- Expert in Python
- Internet-of-Things
- Microsoft Skills
- Life Skills