



Dubai English Speaking School

# Social Studies Policy



<b>Written by:</b>	Sanam Yaqub	<b>Reviewed:</b>	September 2017
<b>Approved by:</b>	SLT	<b>Next Review:</b>	January 2018

## Statement of Intent

The purpose of the policy is to describe the Ministry of Education requirements for Social Studies. The rationale for this is to provide students with in-depth knowledge, skills and understanding in UAE history, geography and civics, which emphasize the links and relationships between diverse groups, people, science and society. Students will contribute, as responsible citizens and residents of the UAE, to the building of a cohesive society that is inclusive of all, while preserving the UAE culture, heritage and traditions.

## Aim

DESS aims to meet the needs of all children in its care by personalising learning and providing outstanding care and provision; we aim for all our children to receive high quality teaching. Social Studies outcomes will be incorporated across the curriculum from Foundation Stage to Year 6. The main language of instruction will be English, however Arabic may be used when linking Social Studies and Arabic lessons. DESS views Social Studies as a crucial part of UAE education that teaches students how to be well informed, critically thinking citizens of their world.

The following 6 areas will be incorporated:

- Citizenship
- Government
- National Identity
- Individual and society
- National economy
- Values and Ethics

## Learning and Teaching

Social Studies will focus on three domains as stipulated in the MOE documents, namely:

1. **Knowledge of Social Studies component**
  - History
  - Geography
  - National Education
  - Economics
2. **Literacy in Social Studies**
  - Evaluation of Sources and use of evidence
  - Linked to learning objectives in Literacy and Reading
3. **Communication and presentation skills**
  - Communication and presentation of results
  - Linked to learning objectives in the 4Cs - collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.

The above areas will be taught across all areas of the curriculum framework whilst allowing the children an opportunity to follow and lead their own lines of enquiry linked to the curriculum. To support the teaching of Social Studies, a variety of resources will be used such as books, videos, guest speakers and trips to local museums and galleries. DESS also hosts a number of whole school events to raise the profile of the UAE heritage and culture, for example UAE National Day and International Day.

## **Assessment and reporting**

Parents will receive a summary report with reference to Social Studies outcomes. Assessment for Social Studies will be conducted on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Role of the Social Studies Leader**

The Social Studies Leader will:

- Have overall responsibility for Social Studies across the school
- Ensure that the Social Studies outcomes are mapped across the school curriculum.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of Social Studies
- Provide some guidance on resources for Social Studies

### **Role of Class Teachers**

These to include:

- Plan and deliver social studies outcomes to all children through all subjects
- Measure the impact of social studies through observation and questioning of children
- Report outcome to parents in the end of year report
- Assess understanding of Social Studies through AFL
- Engage children with Social Studies through purposeful and relevant topics

### **Role of Children**

- To follow and lead their own interests and passions linked to learning about the UAE
- Engage in the local history, geography and culture of the UAE and feel proud of their contributions to the community