



Home of Irresistible Learning

Dubai English Speaking School

Admissions Policy & Procedure



Admissions Policy and Procedure

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 1- 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 a year 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, lessons in other subject areas may be affected.

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.

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.

How to apply for a school place

Application forms are available on the school website. These can be filled in and forwarded to the registrar electronically. Alternatively, parents may visit the school and deliver the forms in person. Parents are welcome to take a tour of the school with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and can apply online.

A registration fee of AED 500 is payable upon submission of the application which includes consideration of all paperwork and an assessment which may be deemed necessary. A deposit of AED 5,000 is required to guarantee a place, together with a "non-refundable" administration fee (enrolment fee) of AED 500. The deposit will be deducted from the first 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. **Please see the additional FS1 Admissions Policy.**

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.

Class sizes are 25 but may be increased up to 26 to accommodate siblings or the transition of families.

Admissions Procedure

1. Application is received by the Admissions Department and dated (receipt given)
2. Application is entered into the administration computer system
3. Application form and school report copied and sent to the relevant SLT member, then Headteacher for review
4. Application form returned to Admissions Officer for actioning
5. The Admissions Officer 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.