DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Al Barsha

SHARK GUIDE

PRIMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION

2025 - 2026

www.diabarsha.com

diabarsha



Dream. Inspire. Achieve. *Belong*

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Welcome to Dubai International Academy Al Barsha



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Primary School!

As the Head of Primary, I am absolutely thrilled that you've chosen to become part of the DIA family at our Al Barsha campus. Trust me, you've made the best choice by selecting DIA Al Barsha and the IB Primary Years Programme for your child. To our returning families – Hello again! Get ready for another awesome year together.

Now, let's talk about the SHARK GUIDE. It's packed with lots of information to keep you informed and in the loop. Yes, it might require a bit of reading, but hey, knowledge is power! We want to ensure you have all the details you need. And guess what? We're not stopping at just words on a page. We'll also have info videos to keep you updated in an engaging way. Who says staying informed can't be fun?

So, grab a comfy chair, a refreshing beverage, and get ready to dive into the SHARK GUIDE. It's here to help you navigate the waters of our school community and stay connected. We believe that well-informed parents make for an even more amazing school experience.

Of course, if you have any questions or need further clarification, our dedicated teachers and admissions staff are here to lend a helping fin. We want to make sure you have everything you need to feel confident and supported.

At DIA Al Barsha, we're not just a school, we're a thriving community. Our primary goal is to provide a dynamic and academically rigorous program that meets the diverse needs of our students, teachers, and the wider community.

I'm truly excited to get to know each and every one of you and your children throughout the upcoming semester. Remember, you're not alone in this journey. Together, we'll make sure the name of DIA Al Barsha shines brightly across Dubai as the school of choice!

This year, get ready to unleash your inner SHARK at DIA Al Barsha! We are riding the waves of success and thriving like never before. It's time to dive into an extraordinary academic adventure that will leave you feeling fin-tastic! Join us and discover the incredible journey that awaits you. Together, let's make a splash and create unforgettable moments at DIA Al Barsha.

Kind regards,

Candice Combrinck
Head of Primary & Vice Principal
candicec@diabarsha.com

P.S. Make yourself comfortable, because there's lots to read in the SHARK GUIDE. But don't worry, we've got your back. No pop quizzes at the end, I promise! Remember to follow us on Instagram (@diabarsha) and join Toddle. There, you'll find informative videos and witness the incredible fun our students have while soaking up knowledge at DIA Al Barsha! Let's stay connected and make this journey a joyful one.

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Our Mission

To empower students with a holistic, rigorous and international education for success in an ever-changing world.

Our Core Values

- Achievement
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility

Our Philosophy

- To be recognised by the success of our students in achieving their personal goals.
- To make student development the centre of all school decisions.
- To aspire to the highest internationally recognised performance standards.
- To build and celebrate a culture based on internationalism.
- To enable staff to become life-long learners through the development of their professional practice.

Our Approach

- By benchmarking with the highest internationally recognised performance standards.
- By developing each student's individual potential for leadership.
- By empowering students with a global and a local perspective.
- By responding sensitively to the full range of students' educational needs.
- By using technology to enhance learning.
- By utilising the IB curriculum and reinforcing the core of the programme models for our curriculum

Our Beliefs

- We believe that a healthy mind and body, a positive attitude and behaviour help one focus and learn.
- We believe in the pursuit of excellence whilst balancing the academic, aesthetic and athletic facets of education.
- We believe that teamwork between students, teachers and parents is critical to the overall learning process.
- We believe in encouraging students to take pride in their achievements and applaud others' achievements.
- We believe that internationalism is vital for holistic education.
- We believe that effective teaching in a safe, positive school environment enables children to develop academically and socially.
- We believe that the IB Learner Profile leads to the holistic development of students.

Our Motto

What does the **D…I…A…B** stand for?

Dream.
Inspire.
Achieve.
Belong

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Academic Programme

Primary Years Programme (PYP) at DIA AL BARSHA

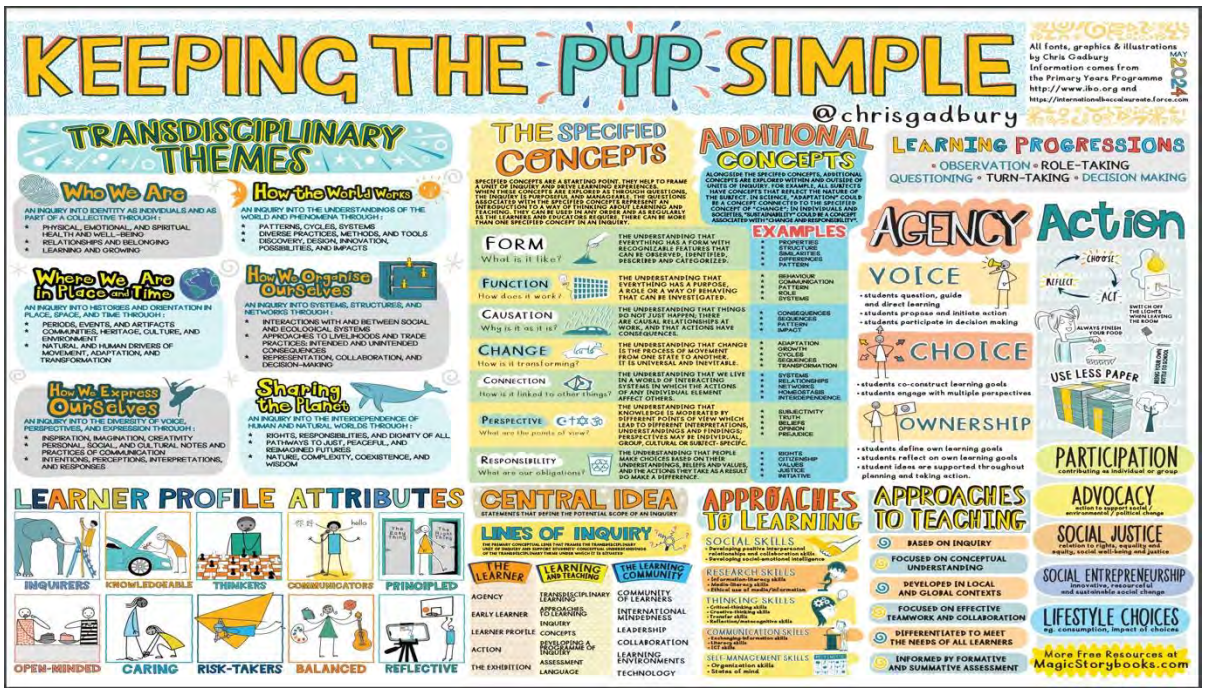
The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) at our school offers a dynamic and encompassing educational framework tailored for young learners aged 3 to 11 years. We've structured our IB PYP into two distinct phases: the **Early Years PYP (EY PYP) for children aged 3 to 6,** and the **Primary Years PYP (PYP) for those aged 6 to 11**. This segmentation allows us to tailor learning experiences to the developmental stages of our students, enhancing their educational journey.

Both phases emphasise the development of knowledge, skills, and attributes needed for students to thrive as active, compassionate global citizens. Through inquiry-based learning, children in the EY PYP and PYP explore a wide array of subjects, fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity. Our curriculum encourages a balanced approach to academics, encompassing language, mathematics, science, social studies, arts, and physical education.

In addition, the IB PYP at our school is uniquely underpinned by the UK National Curriculum, enriching the content component of our IB approach and ensuring a rigorous academic challenge. This integrated framework equips our "**Sharks**"—as our students are affectionately known—with the essential lifelong skills of communication, collaboration, and reflection.

At our school, we are committed to creating a love of learning, empowering students to take ownership of their education, and preparing them for success in an ever-changing world. Through this carefully crafted educational approach, we aim to provide our Sharks with the tools to excel both academically and personally, setting the stage for a lifetime of learning and achievement.

www.ibo.org



What does assessment look like in the PYP? What is it?

Our teachers design ways in which students can demonstrate their understanding and ability to apply particular concepts, content and skills which have been involved in each unit of inquiry or curriculum part with which they are involved.

Assessment in the PYP is multifaceted and goes beyond traditional tests and examinations. **Authentic Assessment**: The PYP values authentic assessment tasks that connect learning to real-life situations. Your child may engage in projects, presentations, performances, and inquiries that allow them to demonstrate their understanding and apply their knowledge and skills in meaningful ways. Here are some key features of assessment in the PYP:

Teachers use pre-assessments at the start of each unit in Maths, Science, and Language to activate and gauge prior knowledge, informing instruction and differentiation.

Formative Assessment: The PYP places great importance on ongoing, formative assessment. Teachers continuously observe and gather evidence of your child's learning through a range of activities, discussions, and tasks. This helps them to identify your child's strengths, areas for growth, and tailor instruction accordingly.

Toddle Class Portfolios/Assignments: In younger grades, class portfolios on Toddle serve as a key assessment tool, capturing your child's learning journey through work samples, reflections, and teacher feedback. In Grades 3–5, learning is shared through Toddle Assignments, allowing parents real-time access to daily tasks—whether completed in books or digitally. Students engage with rubrics, checklists, and visible thinking routines to support their learning.

Self-assessment and Reflection: The PYP encourages students to become self-reflective and take ownership of their learning. Your child will have opportunities to reflect on their progress, set goals, and assess their own learning. This process fosters metacognitive skills and develops lifelong learners.

Collaborative Assessment: Assessment in the PYP recognizes the importance of collaboration and peer feedback. Your child may engage in collaborative tasks and receive input from their peers, promoting social and communication skills while enhancing their understanding of different perspectives.

End of Unit Assessment: While the PYP places emphasis on ongoing assessment, there are also opportunities for summative assessment. These assessments provide a snapshot of your child's understanding at specific points in time. They may include tests, quizzes, or culminating projects that consolidate learning from a unit of inquiry.



Assessment in the PYP supports individual growth, informs teaching, and guides future learning, rather than focusing on grades or rankings.

What does assessment look like in the PYP? What is it?

Throughout the year, you can expect regular communication from your child's teacher regarding their progress, strengths, and areas for improvement. Toddle feedback, Parent-teacher conferences, Learning Snapshots, reports, and informal discussions will provide valuable opportunities for you to engage in your child's learning journey.

We conduct external assessments annually for students in Grades 1 to 5 to monitor academic progress and inform teaching. These include the New Group Reading Test (NGRT), administered three times a year to assess reading development, and the GL assessments in English, Mathematics, and Science, which are conducted in Term 3. These assessments are developed in the UK and provide valuable insights into student progress over time. Results are shared with parents to keep them informed and involved in their child's learning journey. While we prepare students through targeted revision in Terms 2 and 3, we maintain a supportive environment and do not place undue pressure on students during this process.

We hope this brief overview provides you with a better understanding of assessment in the IB Primary Years Programme. If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We value your partnership in your child's education and look forward to working together to support their growth and development.

Based on the philosophy of the IB Programmes, the school focuses on developing a series of desired attributes and traits in our students. Taken together, these characteristics form the IB Learner Attributes. These are also linked with the UAE Moral Education programme.

As an international school, DIAB promotes 'international mindedness'.

We support our students to become:



Subject Areas

PYP schools follow an integrated curriculum however, for clarity, we have separated the subject areas that are covered in the Primary School:

Language

English: This is the language of instruction throughout DIA Al Barsha

EAL: (English as an Additional Language) is required for students who are non-native speakers of English and whose English language skills are not yet sufficient to allow them to fully participate in classroom activities.

Arabic A: Compulsory for Arabic passport holders (Grade 1 – Grade 5)

Arabic B: Compulsory for all students holding non-Arabic passports (Grade 1 – Grade 5)

MFL: All Grade 2 to 5 students will choose between French and Spanish (Modern Foreign Language)

Islamic Studies is compulsory for all Muslim students, from Grade 1 onwards, and is conducted in either Arabic or English, dependent on the students' Arabic class (A or B).

Students will study Language (English, Arabic B and French/Spanish) under each of the following strands:

- Oral communication: listening and speaking
- Written communication: reading and writing
- Visual communication



Mathematics

Students will study mathematics under each of the following strands:

- Number
- Pattern and Function
- Measurement
- Shape and Space
- Data Handling

Subject Areas

Science

Science is taught within the context of the Units of Inquiry and the newly introduced standalone lesson once a week.

• The PYP science curriculum is organised into three main strands:
• Living Things
• Earth and Space
• Physical and Chemical Sciences



Information Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT is seamlessly integrated into our Primary school curriculum, supported by dedicated ICT teachers and two well-equipped ICT labs. Our 1:1 iPad program for students from Grade 2 to 5 ensures that each student must have access to an Apple iPad, enhancing their learning experience. Detailed guidance can be found in the 1:1 iPad program book.



PYP Performing Arts – Dance & Music



Students in KG2 to Grade 5 will study music and dance under each of the following strands:

• Creating
• Responding

Visual Arts

Students will study art under each of the following strands:
- Creating
- Responding

Subject Areas

Early Years Music & Movement

Music and Movement is a study undertaken by PREK and KG1 students. It is a combination of elements of the physical education programme and the music programme. Students will study Music and Movement under each of the following strands:

- Singing
- Playing instruments
- Creating/composing
- Notation (only for KG1)
- Listening and responding
- Body control
- Movement to music
- Games



Arabic in the Early Years (KG1 & KG2)

At DIAB, we are committed to introducing Arabic in a fun, engaging, and age-appropriate way during the early years. In line with KHDA guidelines, our KG1 and KG2 students will have regular opportunities to experience Arabic through play-based and interactive activities. An Arabic-speaking adult will be present during the week to help bring the language to life in the classrooms and through daily routines.



Personal and Social Education

Personal and Social education is integrated in all areas of student studies and is the responsibility of all teachers. Students will study Personal and Social Education under each of the following strands:

- Identity
- Interactions
- Wellness



Physical Education

Students will study Physical Education under each of the following strands:

- Individual Pursuits
- Movement composition
- Games
- Adventure challenges
- Health-related fitness





Subject Areas – UAE Mandatory Subjects

Social Studies (for Arab students – Gr1 to 9)

Arab students at DIAB engage in Social Studies lessons from Grade 1 through to Grade 9. These lessons follow the UAE Ministry of Education curriculum and are delivered in Arabic. The focus is on helping students develop a strong understanding of the UAE's history, geography, and national identity, while also building connections to the wider Arab world and global context. Social Studies is optional in Grade 10.

UAE Moral, Social & Cultural Studies – MSCS (non Arab students – Grades 1-9)

All non-Arab students from Grade 1 to Grade 9 take part in MSC – Moral, Social, and Cultural Education. This is a UAE-mandated subject taught in English and focuses on values, heritage, culture, and social responsibility. At DIAB, the MSC curriculum is delivered as standalone lessons and in addition also integrated into Units of Inquiry to allow for a more connected and meaningful learning experience. MSC is optional in Grade 10.



Moral Education (for Arab students – Grade 1 to 10)

Moral Education is taught to all Arab students from Grade 1 through to Grade 10. The programme promotes values, civic education, and character development, rooted in Emirati culture and aligned with Ministry of Education standards. At DIAB, Moral Education may be delivered as a standalone subject or integrated into Arabic, Islamic, or other relevant lessons, depending on the context and timetable.



Islamic Studies & Arabic

Islamic Studies

Islamic Studies is compulsory for all Muslim students until the end of Grade 11. Failure to attend or achieve a satisfactory grade in Islamic Studies will jeopardise the student's promotion at the end of the academic year and no exception will be given to any Muslim student.

Arabic students, who are Muslim, will study Islamic A in Arabic. Non-Arabic students, who are Muslim, will study Islamic B in English.



Arabic Language

All students at DIA Al Barsha will attend Arabic classes from KG 2. Arabic students will attend Arabic A classes, and non-Arabic students will attend Arabic B classes from Grade 1 onwards. Arabic Language, either A or B, is compulsory for all students until the end of Grade 9 and optional Grade 10 for Arabic B. However, please note below.

Equivalency Certificate

In order to gain admission to several universities within the UAE and other Arabic countries, it is a requirement that the student can provide an Equivalency Certificate. To acquire the Equivalency Certificate:

- Arabic must be studied until the end of Grade 11. This can either be in the form of Arabic A or Arabic B.
- For Muslim students, Islamic Studies must be taken until the end of Grade 11. Please note that this is a compulsory subject for Muslim students until the end of Grade 11 whether they require an Equivalency Certificate or not.

Communication

We encourage regular communication between home and school, both with direct regard to your child but also for more general feedback or suggestions you may have.

At DIA Al Barsha, we use the **iSams school management system** in order to track assessment data, attendance information and for the purposes of reporting to parents. Upon registration, students will be registered on iSams and parents will receive a confirmation e-mail with information regarding log in to the iSams parent portal. Parents can access school reports and other documentation in this way.

The main form of communication in the Primary School is **Toddle** – used for announcements, calendars and notifications. You will receive access details to download the Toddle application for the family. Your child will have a separate Toddle app for their student work – which you can access through the family app.

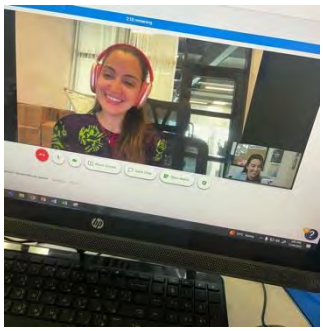
We encourage the use of email communications rather than paper communications being sent home in school bags, so please remember to notify us of any changes to your contact details and email address. On occasion the school will also send SMS notifications to parents so please ensure that the school has your correct mobile number. If you are not receiving any emails from the school, or are not receiving the SMS, please contact us to check your email and other contact details are correct.

If you need to pass on any urgent information concerning your child, please be in contact with a member of staff from the Primary School office who will pass the message on to the teacher of the student. Please ensure you call at least one hour before dismissal to enable messages to be passed on. To make an appointment with a teacher, please send an email to the teacher and mention what it is you would like to meet about.

Feel free to follow us on social media as we share achievements, events and other highlights.

@diabarsha

Conference and Classroom Visits



The Primary School schedules conference days within the school year. Online software (TES cloud) is used to enable parents to schedule their preferred meeting time on these days, and to help coordinate meetings if they have more than one child in the Primary School.



An email is sent from the school to parents before the conference days and this will contain further instructions on how to make the appointments and where these meetings will take place – in school OR online OR hybrid. This communication will also detail the format for the meetings and whether they will be student-led conferences or a PTC. This information will also be published on Toddle.

Should you wish to speak to your child's teacher or any of the specialist teachers at any other time, please feel free to make an appointment directly with the teacher via email. Appointments may also be made through the Primary School office.

Deliveries such as lunches, PE clothes etc. should be brought to the security office to be delivered, unless previously arranged with the teacher. Naturally this is only if in EMERGENCY, as we as we aim to minimise disrupting lessons.

Principal / Head of School



Should you wish to speak with the Principal, Head of Primary or the Deputy Heads, please email or telephone to arrange an appointment. If it is a classroom matter, we would advise parents to first schedule an appointment with the teacher concerned before contacting the Head. If in any doubt, please speak with the Primary School office about your concerns and they will be able to advise you.

School Doctor, Nursing Staff and Medication



DIA Al Barsha has a nursing team to attend to students who may feel unwell during the school hours. Students will be seen by the school nurses and when appropriate and possible, parents/carers will be informed by phone and email.

The Clinic has a record of each student's medical form which is completed at the stage of admission and updated each year. This form specifies any illness/allergies a student may have and also the parent/carer consent form. DIAB will maintain a written record of the administration of any medication given to each student. The completed form will be placed on the student's file. This information will be filed, for future reference by the school medical department. Any updates on the medical record of the student must be communicated to the school in a timely manner.

The following medical services are provided by the school clinic:

- Basic First Aid Care
- General medical check up
- Vaccinations will be given according to DOHMS (Department of Health and Medical Services), and only after parental consent has been given.
- Medication will only be dispensed by the school nurse.

Parents will be provided with Medical Information and Consent forms to complete when your child joins the school. Please ensure that these are returned promptly to the clinic.

Parents are required to collect their children within one hour of being notified of an illness. If students are unwell, they will be provided with a quiet place to rest in the medical facility. A staff member will remain with the student until the parent(s) arrive. In the case of a possible Covid related illness, we follow the DHA guidelines and place the student in the isolation room (not a fan of the name, but this is what we have been instructed to refer to it as, by DHA). A camera is in the room for the clinic to monitor the student.

If for any reason your child's medical details change at any time throughout the year, please communicate this to the School Nurse.

Head Lice Prevention

From time to time, all schools experience cases of head lice. We ask that parents remain vigilant and take immediate action should head lice be identified in their child's hair. Further information on head lice may be shared by the school medical staff where necessary.

Class Information and Updates

All class teachers will post information about classroom activities and upcoming class events and other useful information on our Primary School application called TODDLE. Here you can access school information, the calendar and view snapshots of your child's work. Toddle allows you to be part of the learning journey and to be informed.

Please feel free to email your child's teacher if you have any questions about activities occurring in the class. Toddle and iSams are the main communication tools used to inform parents of important changes to dates or times, so please take the time to read it. All can be found under the announcements section.

Home Learning

Co-Curricular activities and time for constructive play are as important to children's development as home learning activities and therefore provision should be made to accommodate all three of these general areas during the school week. Children should spend at least 20 minutes each afternoon reading, preferably aloud and to an audience (parent, sibling, even pets). Any other time spent on home learning should be carefully monitored. A parent information session about home learning will take place at the start of the year, to share our approach to this very talked about topic.

What parents can do:

- Talk about school work at home with your child.
- Show an interest in your child's work and give regular encouragement - be active on Toddle.
- Give feedback on work, via Toddle, as requested.
- Provide a quiet place at home for study.
- Monitor use of the home computer – have clear rules about this in your home and model them too.



Inclusion (SEN / EAL / G&T / Wellbeing)

At DIA Barsha, we are proud to be an inclusive school that supports all students in reaching their full potential. Our Inclusion team works closely with teachers, students, and families to provide tailored support for students with additional learning needs, emotional or behavioural challenges, as well as those who are learning English as an Additional Language (EAL).

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, progress, or feel they may benefit from additional support—academically, socially, or emotionally—please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact **Lisa Moley, Head of Inclusion**, or **Rand Al-Doori, our Lead Learning Support Teacher**, who also oversees our **Gifted and Talented (G&T)** programme.
If your child is identified as G&T based on school data and teacher observations, Ms Rand will notify you directly and share information about the support and enrichment opportunities available.

At DIAB, many of our students are in the process of learning English as an additional language. Our **Head of English Language Learning**, **Ms Amale Yatama**, leads our EAL programme. Once a student is identified as needing English language support, they will complete an assessment, and parents will be informed of the level of support provided.

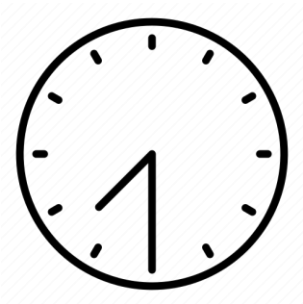
We are also deeply committed to the holistic development and wellbeing of every student. Our **Wellbeing Counsellor**, **Ms. Rumaisa**, is available to support students facing emotional challenges. She works with students who may need help with:

- Settling into a new school
- Adjusting to a new environment or multicultural setting
- Developing positive friendships and peer relationships
- Coping with emotional changes or difficulties
- Identifying learning or emotional support needs
- Recommending external specialists when required
- Collaborating closely with students, parents, and teachers



We value open communication and strong partnerships with our families. Together, we can ensure your child feels supported, confident, and empowered to thrive at DIA Al Barsha.

Daily Timings



Our school hours are between **7:30am – 2:50pm in KG2 to Gr 5,** and **7:30am – 1:30pm in PreK and KG1**. Please note, Homeroom lesson at 7:30 is an actual lesson. Students must be on time, please.

In the first week of school, our PreK and KG1 students have settling in times – 08:00 to 11:00. This is to help them (and parents) to get settled into school life and slowly adjust to longer school hours. It important to notify the class teacher prior to the start, who will be coming to school by bus and going home by bus.

***Friday**

Pick up time for **all students is at 12pm**.

****PreK and KG1 specific**

Pick up times on a Monday through to Thursday will be shared by the teachers

*****Ramadan Timings**

During the Holy month of Ramadan, school timings may change as per guidance from the UAE government and KHDA.

PreK & KG1 (Mon – Thurs)			
Homeroom	7:30	7:50	0:20
Lesson 1	7:50	8:45	0:55
Lesson 2	8:45	9:40	0:55
SNACK	9:40	10:05	0:25
Lesson 3	10:05	11:00	0:55
Lesson 4	11:00	11:55	0:55
Lesson 5	11:55	12:50	0:55
LUNCH	12:50	13:15	0:25
Pick Up	13:15	13:30	0:15
CCA	13:30	14:30	1:00

KG2 – Grade 3 (Mon – Thurs)			
Homeroom	7:30	7:50	0:20
Lesson 1	7:50	8:45	0:55
Lesson 2	8:45	9:40	0:55
SNACK	9:40	10:05	0:25
Lesson 3	10:05	11:00	0:55
Lesson 4	11:00	11:55	0:55
LUNCH	11:55	12:50	0:55
Lesson 5	12:50	13:45	0:55
Lesson 6	13:45	14:40	0:55
Lesson 7	14:40	14:50	0:10
CCA	14:50	15:50	1:00

Grade 4&5 (Mon – Thurs)			
Homeroom	7:30	7:50	0:20
Lesson 1	7:50	8:45	0:55
Lesson 2	8:45	9:40	0:55
SNACK	9:40	10:05	0:25
Lesson 3	10:05	11:00	0:55
Lesson 4	11:00	11:55	0:55
Lesson 5	11:55	12:50	0:55
LUNCH	12:50	13:45	0:55
Lesson 6	13:45	14:40	0:55
Lesson 7	14:40	14:50	0:10
CCA	14:50	15:50	1:00

PreK & KG1 (Friday)			
Homeroom	7:30	7:50	0:20
Lesson 1	7:50	8:45	0:55
Lesson 2	8:45	9:40	0:55
SNACK	9:40	10:05	0:25
Lesson 3	10:05	11:00	0:55
Lesson 4	11:00	11:55	0:55
Pick Up	11:55	12:00	0:05

KG2 – Grade 5 (Friday)			
Homeroom	7:30	7:50	0:20
Lesson 1	7:50	8:45	0:55
Lesson 2	8:45	9:40	0:55
SNACK	9:40	10:05	0:25
Lesson 3	10:05	11:00	0:55
Lesson 4	11:00	11:55	0:55
Pick Up	11:55	12:00	0:05

Students and Classroom Management

Our method of classroom management is based on respect. Respect for self, respect for others and respect for our environment. Our classrooms have 3 common goals for all students:

Self direction

We want students to learn for the joy of it - not to please adults. Our mission is to spark the natural curiosity within each individual, creating enthusiastic inquirers.

Feeling of community

Our students are encouraged to express themselves politely and confidently and to display excellent interpersonal skills. We assist and teach them to solve problems and conflicts, so that eventually they work with minimum assistance from adults.

Independence

Children and young people want and need to experience the world on their own. We give them the necessary tools, guidance and opportunities to develop independence and self-reliance in a supportive, caring environment.

These complement the school's Core Values and the IB Attributes, which applies throughout the school and across programmes.





Snack



Food guidelines for all students

To support student health, safety, and inclusion, please follow these important reminders:

- All students are asked to bring **healthy and nutritious snacks and drinks** to school each day for the break period.
- All classes are **nut-free environments**. This includes any food items containing **nuts, nut oils, or even traces of nuts**.
- Please **do not send items that require refrigeration or heating**, as these cannot be stored or prepared at school.
- Food should be packed in containers that your child can easily open on their own.
- Take a moment to check how much your child is eating so you can adjust portions as needed.
- Our advice: **save treats for home** — the focus at school is on balanced meals and healthy snacks.
- **No sweets, chocolate, or sugary treats** should be packed.
- **Students may not share food**, in order to respect allergies and different family food choices.
- And yes, we do need to say this: **takeaway food deliveries are strictly not allowed** for students at school.

Thank you for helping us create a safe, inclusive, and health-focused environment for all our students.

Water Bottles

All students are required to bring their own reusable water bottles from home. Plastic water bottles can be bought from vending, in case you have forgotten yours on the day. As an eco-school we are seeking to reduce the use of plastic so large, reusable water bottles are preferable. Our advice, have spare dirham coins in your child's bag, so that it can be used if necessary. Water dispensers are available across the school.



Stationery



Below is a list of stationery recommended by the teachers for the start of the school year. Other items may be requested in the future, and your child may have special requests to add to their pencil case.

Please note that PreK, KG1 and KG2 do not require any stationery – the only item we require is a blue, DIA Reading Bag, which can be purchased from ZAKS.

Grades 1 to 3	Grade 4 and 5
1 box of HB2 lead pencils	1 box of HB2 lead pencils
Washable colour marker pens	Pencil case
Coloured pencils	30 cm ruler
Scissors	2 x glue sticks
Pencil sharpener	Geometry Set
Eraser	12 colour pencils
Pencil case	3 x White board markers
30 cm ruler	Set of thick coloured markers
2 x glue sticks	Set of highlighters
Geometry Set (Grade 2 & 3)	Scissors
A4 size whiteboard	1 flip file with a minimum of 40 pages
3 x White board markers	A4 size whiteboard
An apron/old large T-shirt as protective clothing for art lessons	Pencil sharpener
	‘post it’ notes –normal colour pack
	An apron/old large T-shirt as protective clothing for art lessons
iPad (Apple product only) for Grade 2, 3, 4 & 5 students (see specifications in separate document) and your OWN headphones (any brand).	

Information Technology @ DIA Al Barsha

The technology programme at DIA Al Barsha is developed to enable, energise and enhance education. Although DIA Al Barsha provides access to various hardware and software resources, as well as to the internet, we do need to be mindful that sharing of these, as in the past, will now need to be revisited. The Information Technology policy at DIA Al Barsha is intended to allow the appropriate use of the technology resources of the school. Students are encouraged to make use of the internet to support curriculum and research activities, either individually or as part of a group. Students will also be able to access a variety of information sources to which the school has acquired including news, selected information databases and holdings from other libraries. It is important to note that we still make use of books at school. There is a balance between technology and writing/copy books.

Specifications are in a separate document – 1:1 iPad Programme Guide

Grade level	iPad guideline
Grade 2 to 5	All Grade 2 to 5 students must have an iPad at school. No other devices will be permitted. See device policy shared with you in the 1:1 iPad Programme Guide.
Grade 1	No devices allowed at school. iPads are used in class, as given by the teacher. They are used to access our online reading application and some closely guided research. iPads are also used to take pictures of work done in class, to upload to Toddle.
PreK, KG1 and KG2	No devices allowed at school.

DIA Al Barsha believes in the educational benefits of having access to the internet for both students and teachers. All students are required to comply with the Acceptable Usage Policy - see separate document in SHARK STUDIES padlet.

Accessing Information Technology Equipment

It is expected that all students will respect the Information Technology equipment with which they have been provided, and realise that using this equipment is a privilege, not a right.

Students are encouraged to use the school's computers, network and internet connections for educational purposes. Students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner at all times. Unauthorised or inappropriate use of the resources, including violations of any of the guidelines below, may result in cancellation of the privilege and further disciplinary action being taken.

Acceptable Usage Policy

- Students may not enter a computer room unless a teacher is present or unless they have been given permission to do so.
- The computers may not be used for any other purpose other than as directed by the teacher in charge. Students are responsible for their behaviour and communication whilst using the internet.
- Students may not play games or use any other software unless the teacher has given specific permission for this.
- The network and computers may not be used for commercial or profit-making purposes, advertising or political lobbying.
- Students should not tamper with the setup of the computer system or network, and should not seek to cause damage or engage in any unlawful activities, or develop or use any programmes that harass other users, infiltrate other computer systems, or cause disruption to the school's network and computing resources.
- Students should avoid intentionally wasting storage, printing, connectivity or processing resources.
- Students should not seek access to restricted areas of the computer network from within or outside of the school.
- The equipment provided should not be swapped, for example, the changing of keyboards, mice or other equipment from one computer to another is not allowed.

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Acceptable Usage Policy

- Transmission or storage of any material in violation of any law or regulation or school policy is prohibited, including but not restricted to, pornography or other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to children of any age.
- Privacy of communications over the internet and the school network cannot be guaranteed, and may be monitored, reviewed and inspected. Files stored on the school's network may also be subject to review and inspection.
- All communications and information accessible via the internet should be assumed to be privately owned property and subject to copyright. Correct attribution of authorship and reference must be observed at all times, without violation of copyright or other contracts.
- Students must not make use of another person's account/id/username/password, and should not allow other users to utilise theirs, or share this information with other people.
- Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette:
    - Be polite, courteous and respectful in all communications, and use language appropriate to a school situation at all times while using the school's resources.
    - Do not reveal names, addresses, phone numbers, other identifying content or passwords of yourself or other people when communicating on the internet, unless approved by the teacher.
    - Do not agree to get together with someone you 'meet' online without prior parental approval.

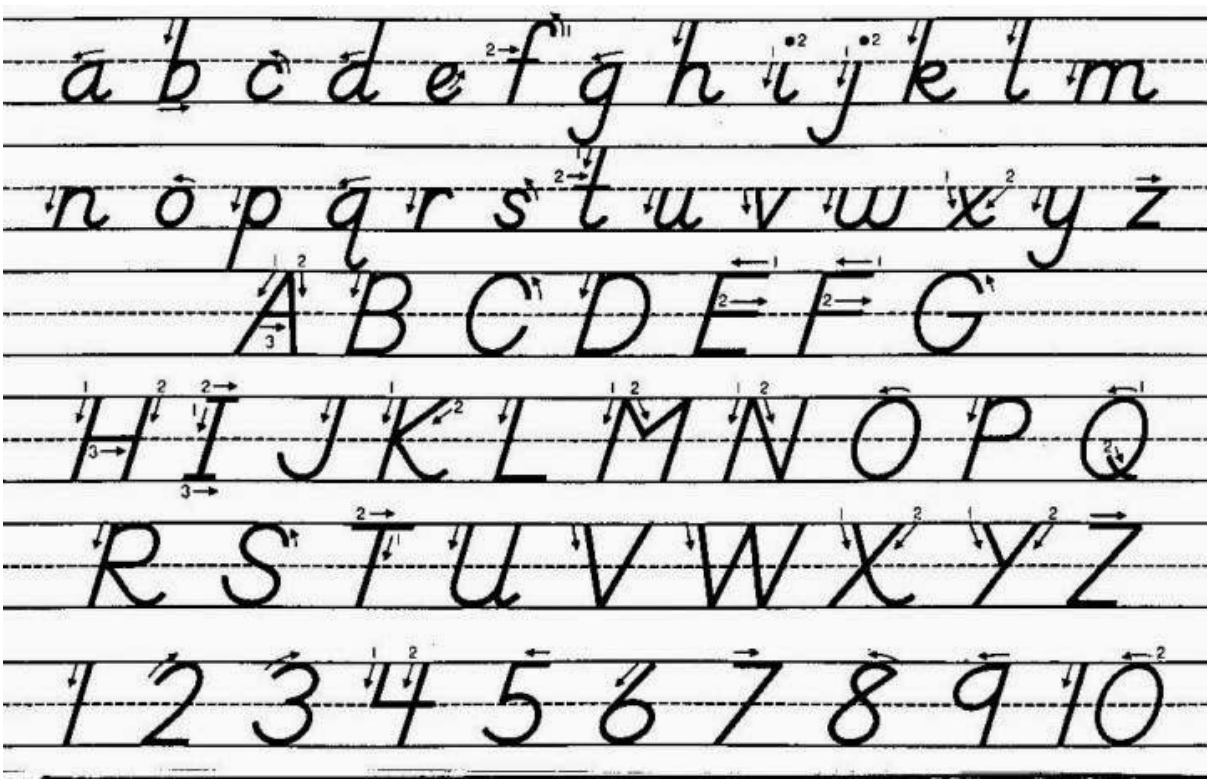
Microsoft Office

The DIA Al Barsha IT Department issues each student with a Microsoft account. This enables you to download Microsoft to 5 devices – no need to purchase the package. Microsoft Teams will become your 'friend' and life saver, as we share work, meet on Teams and complete assignments – all using Microsoft.



Handwriting

It is the aim at our school that every child should be enabled to develop a fluent, legible style of handwriting. Capital and lower-case letters should be used appropriately, and the letter size should be consistent. We will provide opportunities for children to develop, practice and perfect skills and provide targeted support to any child having trouble. We follow the Nelsons Handwriting scheme at DIA Al Barsha. Students use pencils and are promoted to using a pen, by being awarded a pen license. We are mindful that students changing curriculum and/or country, might have a different style of writing.



Mobile Phones and Smart Watches (any smart device)

For safety reasons, students are allowed to bring their mobile phone to school, but it must be switched off during the school day. If they are seen or heard, they will be confiscated. The phone will be returned at the end of the day. If the phone is taken for a second time, it will be returned to parents only following a meeting and agreement on the parameters of future use.

Students may bring smart watches to school, but they must not use them to call parents or receive calls during the school day. Any misuse of smart watches will result in the same consequences as mobile phones: the device will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Repeat offenses will involve a meeting with parents to agree on future use parameters.

If students need to contact their parents during the school day, they MUST NOT use their mobile phone, smart watch or iPad, even if they think that it is an emergency. They should inform their teachers who will arrange for the students to contact home should it be appropriate. We ask parents to please support this – should they need to contact their child during school hours, e.g., change of transport arrangements, please email the class teacher AND school secretary. This should be done in a timely manner, so that we receive and act upon the request.

If a student is unwell, they must go and see the school Nurse in the first instance with prior permission from their teacher. If the Nurse feels that it is necessary for the student to go home, they will contact their parents and arrange for the student to be collected.

The school cannot take any responsibility for damage to or loss of such items which should be insured by the home and identifying numbers recorded and kept safely.





Personal Possessions

iPads, mobile phones, jewellery, and other valuable items brought to school by students is done so entirely at the student's own risk. The school does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage that may be incurred. Where students are in 1:1 classes and iPads are required, these will be kept in their classroom when not in use. The care and security of these devices remains the student's responsibility.

Personal electronic devices and phones

Break and lunchtimes are community social times and should be vibrant with positive interactions (while keeping social distance in mind). The use of gaming consoles or similar electronic devices during school hours is not permitted, and their presence in school is discouraged and may lead to confiscation.

The school understands that mobile phones provide both parents and students with security and there may be occasions when they are needed for communicating before or after school. During school hours the use of mobile phones is not permitted. Students seen using phones without permission during school hours may have them confiscated.

If parents need to contact the school or their child urgently during the school day, this should be done through the Primary School office or main reception. If your child does send you a personal message kindly direct them to their teacher, Head of School, school clinic or the Secretary who will assist accordingly.

Money

It is inadvisable for students to bring in large sums of money without good reason. Our accounts department uses online payments – links shared with families. Any payments required at the canteen, can be done so using the Student ID card.

Field Trips

DIA Al Barsha is fortunate to be located in a uniquely innovative city, and this offers our students additional educational enhancement beyond the classroom.

We encourage our teachers to seek opportunities for their classes to actively engage in educational experiences that support class learning. Within the clear curricular objectives, field trips provide an authentic and real context to units of inquiry and extend and stimulate student interest by connecting classroom based learning with the world outside. Our Grade 4 and 5 students attend an annual camp. A parent information session is usually held to share details of the 3 days/2 nights trip.

Prior to a field trip, all parents will be sent a letter from the school, requesting their consent for their child to attend, further information on the trip and an indication of cost. Consent forms must be completed and returned to the teacher before the field trip, together with any required payment.



Attendance (including late arrival / early dismissal)

Our student's safety is always our priority and therefore we ask our parents to assist with the following school protocol:

Absentee

If your child will be absent, kindly complete our easy absentee form to notify our school secretary. If this form is not completed your child will be marked as absent and a follow up e-mail will be sent to enquire on the reason. Your homeroom teacher would appreciate an e-mail from you too, but unfortunately will not necessarily be able to access the communication first thing when they welcome everyone.

Absent Link

Late Arrival

If you child is late (after 07:30) kindly ensure that he/she reports to the Secretary first to ensure they are marked as present, before going to class.

Early Collections

Kindly complete the early dismissal request as per the ABSENT LINK. This will ensure a smooth exit for all. We have set times for early collection, this way it is more manageable and not a running up and down, collecting students – using time effectively. Timings are set at 9:55am , 12:40pm and 13:35, please ensure appointments are arranged around these timings.

Parental Supervision

The school is one part of the student's development; we work closely with parents for matters relating to student development. Parents are expected to know about school drop off and collection timings. Should parents anticipate being away from home for extended periods, the school should be informed in writing.



In the interests of student's safety and security, the name of the adult assuming responsibility for the child's welfare must be given to the school along with contact details. During the upcoming year we will be asking for parental cooperation concerning the movement of parents around and throughout the campus, in accordance with DHA/KHDA guidelines. Specific guidelines will be issued before the beginning of the school year and we do ask for parental help and cooperation.

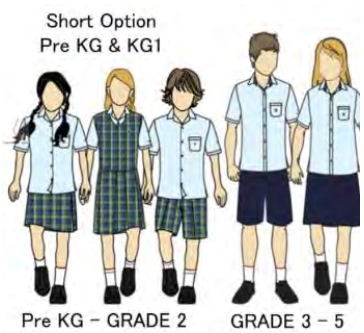
PYP School Reports

All students in the Primary School will be issued with digital reports during the year – 4 x Learning Snapshots (G1 to Gr5) and a Mid-Year and End of Year report. If parents have any questions regarding their child's report, they may schedule an appointment with the class teacher. All subjects will be included on the report, with a descriptor indicating achievement and comments from the class teacher and other subject teachers. Our Learning Snapshots contain feedback on the Core Subjects and share attainment and progress of your child during their Unit of Inquiry.

The report, addressed to the parents, will be uploaded on to iSams. If you do not receive your child's report for any reason, please contact diab.helpdesk@diabarsha.com.

School Uniform

Grade	Boys	Girls
PREK, KG1, KG2, Grade 1 & 2	Regulation plaid shorts Sky blue shirt	Regulation plaid tunic dress or plaid skort Sky blue blouse
Grades 3, 4 & 5	Regulation navy shorts or trousers	Regulation navy skirt or culottes or trousers
	Sky blue shirt with plaid inside collar	Sky blue blouse with plaid inside collar
Swimming	Speedo or mid-thigh shorts Swim cap	One-piece swimsuit Swim cap
PE	This will be available at ZAKS. Please be sure to know the HOUSE (Air, Water, Fire or Earth) your child is in, as the house logo and name is on the sleeve of the PE shirt. (Be sure to have the SHARKS logo on the shirt and shorts).	
Footwear	Black shoes with non-marking soles with the school uniform. When wearing the PE kit, trainers are to be worn (these may be any colour – could even be the colour of your HOUSE - Air, Water, Earth, Fire) PreK and KG1 – we encourage Velcro style shoes, unless your child can independently do their laces.	
Cap	It is recommended that all students wear a cap when playing outside. The new school cap has been approved – this can be purchased from PADIAB (PADIABoffice@gmail.com). Navy cap will still be accepted.	
Bag PREK and KG1	DIA Al Barsha navy blue book bag	
Bag KG2 to Grade 5	Any appropriate bag into which schoolbooks and other school day items can be fitted.	







School Uniform Policy

Dress code

Parents and students are respectfully reminded that dress on school premises should always be sensitive to the cultural expectations of the host country. The school's decision on whether dress and/or appearance is appropriate is final. Parents and students are required to familiarise themselves with the dress code notices and be mindful of the expectations of the host nation about both dress and behaviour.

School uniform and attire

All students are required to comply with the school uniform policy. We recommend that each child has a minimum of two complete sets of uniforms. Parents are responsible for purchasing the school uniform from our designated uniform store before their child begins attending school (details provided below).

It is expected that all students neatly present themselves, wearing the correct school uniform. This fosters a professional work ethic and reflects positively on our school community. Students should understand that these expectations extend beyond school hours when wearing the school uniform in public. Parents are encouraged to support their children in meeting these expectations.

If a student fails to adhere to the uniform requirements the school will report it to the parents directly. Continued non-compliance without a valid explanation may result in the school refusing attendance until the uniform code is observed. **You will need to purchase school uniforms from the supplier directly: ZAKS Store -** branches located in Al Barsha 1, Circle Mall JVC, Oasis Mall, and Uptown Mirdif Mall Stores are open 7 days a week, but with differing opening hours – please check the website www.zaksstore.com Email: info@zaksstore.com Uniforms can be viewed and bought **online** (free home delivery by ZAKS) **Please see below the description and images of the school uniform for the academic year 2024-2025**





Expectations for school uniform

- Uniforms should ONLY be purchased from the designated supplier ZAKS (see address above) to ensure uniformity of style and fabric. Substitutes are not acceptable.
- Students should be clean and neat in their appearance at all times.
- **Skirts –** skirts should be at least to the knee. Trousers should not be tight-fitting, no shortening of hem-lines and students should ensure ankles are covered.
- **Socks –** white.
- **Shoes –** smart, black footwear. No boots, i.e. no footwear should be above the ankle. Shoes must be completely black with no coloured stripes, swishes or logos. Shoes must be firm and supportive and students must keep their shoes in good condition.
- Girls PE shorts should be knee-length and not tight-fitting.
- Shirts should be worn with no more than one button open and sleeves should not be rolled up on short-sleeved shirts.
- **'Hoodies'** – are only allowed for Primary and Secondary 'seniors' (Grades 5 & 12) and only school-branded hoodies are permitted.
- Make-up, such as false eyelashes, lipstick, eye-liner and nail varnishes are not permitted and will be removed by the student on the instruction of staff members. The only exception is for IBDP/ grade 11-12 students who may have clear polish or French manicure only. Coloured polish or nail art is not allowed.
- **Jewellery -** Items of jewellery which are not in line with the policy will be confiscated. If ears are already pierced, only one small, plain pair of gold or silver studs worn in the conventional position in the ear lobe is allowed. Multiple earrings, nose studs and piercings in other parts of the body are not permitted. Friendship bands, ankle chains, etc. must not be worn. If any of the above items are worn to school, they must be removed immediately and at the request of any member of staff. The school does not accept any responsibility for any lost jewellery.
- **Hair –** should not be outlandish in style or colour and no brightly-dyed/multi-tonal hair is permitted. Students coming to school with extreme colours such as purple, red or bleached hair will be sent home and required to restore their hair to an acceptable colour before being allowed to return to school. Heads must not be shaved – as a guide, a number two cut is the shortest permitted and there should be no tramlines or patterns shaved into hair.
- Hair that is touching the collar for either boys or girls, should be tied back for the student's safety.
- In winter, girls may wear black tights during cooler months. Warm fleeces and tracksuit pants are available for purchase from our uniform supplier. If, after reminders from staff, a student does not respect the school dress code, parents will be notified.
- Items of religious significance may be worn with the prior written permission of the head of grade only, following written parental request.

School Uniform

PE Days

Your child's timetable will indicate on which days PE lessons will take place. Primary School students should wear their PE Kit to school on these days but should wear the normal uniform on all other days. Our admissions team will have shared your HOUSE name (Air, Water, Fire or Earth) with you in a separate email so you know which PE kit to purchase.

Requirements

- School uniform, only available from our uniform supplier, ZAKS, is obligatory for ALL students from PreK to Grade 5. Any alterations to the school design will not be accepted.
- The shirts/blouses for Grade 3 to Grade 5 and for PreK to Grade 2 boys are designed to be worn outside the waistband.
- Students should always be clean and neat in their appearance.
- **Jewelry**, consisting of a simple chain necklace inside the school shirt (not visible) and one pair of earrings of a stud or small loop style is permitted. The school does not accept any responsibility for any lost jewelry items.
- Exaggerated or extreme hairstyles are not allowed. Hair that is touching the collar for either boys or girls must be tied back for the student's safety.
- Any artificial change in hair colour should have a natural appearance. Natural hair highlights, which are subtle, will be allowed, but no complete change of hair colour will be permitted even if it is a colour change that looks natural. Students coming to school with extreme colours such as purple, red, etc., or bleached hair will be sent home and required to restore their hair to an acceptable colour before being allowed to return to school.
- Hair accessories should be plain and functional, kept to a minimum, in keeping with the uniform.
- **Nail varnish** on hands, transfers, and tattoos are not permitted.
- Facial makeup, such as lipstick and eyeliner, is not permitted and should be removed by the student on the instruction of staff members.
- In winter, girls may wear black or dark blue tights during cooler months. DIA warm fleeces and tracksuit pants are available for purchase from ZAKS.
- If after reminders from staff, a student does not respect the DIAB dress code, parents will be notified.
- **Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with the student's full name and class (not just initials) so that if they are misplaced, they can be found by, or returned to, their owner.**

School Uniform

Uniform Supplier

ZAKS is located in Al Barsha in the building next to Al Zahra Hospital. Please see the school website for a more detailed map.

- **Phone Number:** 04-379 2575 or 800-ZAKS (9257).
- **Opening Hours:** 10:00 AM – 06:30 PM, Saturday – Thursday
- DIA Al Barsha Uniforms can be viewed and bought online at www.zaksstore.com
- A free home delivery service is offered by ZAKS.

Preloved School Uniform

Some school uniform items are available at the PADIAB office. These are preloved school items. Please contact PADIAB directly, should you have a query.

Care of School Property

All buildings, equipment, supplies, materials and books are considered the property of Dubai International Academy Al Barsha. Any act of wilful damage to school property is considered a major offence. This includes writing or defacing furniture, walls, text and library books, or any other school property or equipment, as well as causing any other damage, destruction, or defacement to the school's property. Students who cause such damage will be responsible for all costs to cover repair or replacement, in addition to other disciplinary action which may be taken.

Conduct on School Buses

Whether the students have paid to use the daily school bus service to and from school, or whether they are using them for transportation to an after-school activity, sports events, excursion or field trip, the expectations detailed in the DIA Al Barsha Code of Conduct and Behavioural Expectations section apply. In addition, students must ensure that:

Code of Conduct on School Buses:

- ✓ Respectful and Inclusive Attitude: Students are encouraged to demonstrate respect, kindness, and inclusivity towards their fellow students, bus staff, and the bus driver.
- ✓ Safety First with Seatbelts: Ensuring safety for all, students are required to wear their seatbelts at all times during the bus ride, ensuring a secure and comfortable journey.
- ✓ Cooperative Compliance: Students are expected to promptly follow instructions provided by the bus driver and/or bus monitor, contributing to a smooth and efficient bus experience.
- ✓ Nourishment Outside the Bus: To maintain cleanliness and a pleasant environment, students are encouraged to enjoy their meals and snacks before boarding the bus, with the exception of bottled water.
- ✓ Cleanliness Contribution: Each student plays a vital role in maintaining a clean bus environment. They are encouraged to remove any litter upon leaving the bus and responsibly dispose of it, helping create a positive space for everyone.
- ✓ Being Responsible: Students are entrusted with the care of the school bus. They are encouraged to treat it with respect and mindfulness, understanding their financial responsibility for any damage they may inadvertently cause.

By adhering to the above, students contribute to a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable bus journey for all passengers.

School transportation is provided by Arab Falcon - Csr.dia@arabfalcondubai.ae

View TRANSPORT information on our school website – School Bus Service

24 HR CCTV CAMERAS

CCTV is used for surveillance to ensure the safety of our students and staff. In order to ensure a secure learning environment the school offers:

- Supervision of play areas at break and lunch times
- Regular practice of emergency procedures
- High expectations of student behaviour and self-discipline
- External CCTV monitors
- Staff to supervise arrival and departure times

The cameras have recording facilities so that 'footage' can be played back to determine what happened during any incidents recorded. The recording may be used as evidence. The recordings are the property of the school and can only be viewed on application to the School Principal and at their discretion.

DIA Al Barsha Code of Conduct and Behavioural Expectations

Rights and Responsibilities

Every member of the DIA Al Barsha community has rights and responsibilities that enable members of the community to coexist, and to realise his or her goals. It is through mutual acceptance of responsibilities that rights exist. A right exists only to the extent that there is a responsibility on the part of others to respect that right. Based on this view, DIA Al Barsha holds the following to be true:

Every student has a RIGHT to quality education. Every student has a RESPONSIBILITY to:

- ✓ take appropriate materials to class
- ✓ complete and submit assignments on time
- ✓ give every task his/her best effort

Every student has a RIGHT to a positive learning environment. Every student has a RESPONSIBILITY to follow class rules by:

- ✓ being seated by the time class starts
- ✓ listening attentively
- ✓ following directions
- ✓ giving others an opportunity to learn
- ✓ remaining in class until dismissed by the teacher
- ✓ moving through the buildings in an orderly, quiet and safe manner

Every student has a RIGHT to be safe and secure in the school community. Every student has a RESPONSIBILITY

- ✓ to respect the security of others
- ✓ to deal with conflict in an appropriate manner

Every student has a RIGHT to expect reasonable and socially responsible behaviour from others.

Every student has a RESPONSIBILITY to treat himself/herself and others with respect by:

✓ speaking and acting in a socially responsible manner

Every student has a RIGHT to be part of a school of which he/she can be proud. Every student has a RESPONSIBILITY to take pride in the school by:

✓ keeping his/her own appearance neat

✓ following the school dress code

Every student has a RIGHT to his/her good name. Every student has a RESPONSIBILITY to respect the reputation of others.

Any behaviour that is inconsistent with the school's philosophy of personal integrity and respect for each and every person within the community will be met with appropriate consequences. In all cases, efforts will be made to provide the student with opportunities to 'right' a 'wrong' as well as to be punished for their actions.

Minor Offenses

The following are examples of minor offences:

- Lateness
- Failure to conform to DIA dress code
- Disruption of a class
- Using a mobile phone or personal music player during class

Disciplinary consequences for minor offences may include the following sanctions:

Teacher will notify parents via email or by phone

- Writing a letter of apology to people affected
- Moving the student to another place within the room
- Removal of the student from the session, under the supervision of another teacher, or administrator
- Contact parents by phone and/or request a meeting with them

Major Offenses

The following are some examples of major offences:

- Consistently not acting to correct minor offences
- Unexcused absences from lessons and activities
- Bullying, disrespectful or demeaning language (See Bullying and Harassment Policy)
- Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism)
- Repeated lying
- Smoking
- Theft
- Use or possession of illegal drugs and alcohol
- Major disruption or on-going misbehaviour in school, in the playground or on school buses
- Actual or intended injury to another person
- Abuse or vandalism of school property
- Possession of weapons
- Deliberate abuse or misuse of the school's computers or email access. (See IT Policy)
- Use of inappropriate language or gestures

Disciplinary consequences for major offences may include the following sanctions:

- Drawing up a student contract which is a formal and documented agreement detailing what the school, student and parents will do to resolve an on-going problem; and the consequences that will ensue should the terms of the contract not be met

- Detention, suspension or expulsion

Exclusion of Students

Under the Private Education Law, the student registered in the school shall be excluded in the following cases:

For disciplinary reasons

a. If he/she is being sentenced a final judgment for a crime or misdemeanour which is against honour or honesty or if he/she assails one of the personnel working in the School or in the Ministry.
b. If he/she commits deeds against honour and honesty or religious values inside the school.
c. If he/she deliberately damages school property.
d. Provided that the cases referred to in the above items should be proved by an official investigation. The judgment in the previous cases shall be made by a decision from the Director of Education Area, and the judgment decision shall be notified to the Parents, School and the Competent Department. Such matters should comply with what is stated in the procedures and regulation of student conduct, and guidance in the school society.

The judgment in the previous cases shall be made by the School Principal in consultation with Innoventures Education and shall be notified to the parents and the Education Area Department of KHDA.

Suspension of Students

The school reserves the right to suspend students if required. This can be as a result of behaviour OR tuition fee is not paid, in accordance to the Ministry of Education rules and regulations.

Suspension may be for an agreed period and may be ‘internal’ i.e. supervised isolation within school, or ‘external’, where the student spends the agreed period at home or at another place as agreed with the parents, e.g. to provide a period of intensive counselling or assessment to help determine the next steps.

Bullying and Harassment Policy

The members of the Dubai International Academy Al Barsha community: students, parents, faculty, staff and guests are expected to demonstrate respect for each other at all times. The community members will be respectful of the customs and traditions of other cultures and religions, personal feelings and genders. All community members are to contribute to maintaining an environment where everyone is free to learn, teach and work. This environment is based on mutual respect and trust and is safe and non-threatening to all members. All members are responsible for their own behaviour and are expected not to interfere with the right to learn and work in a safe environment.

Dubai International Academy Al Barsha does not tolerate bullying or harassment. All members of the school community are committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment, based on the school's values of learning, respect and cooperation.

Parents are actively encouraged to support the policy through:

- discussion of its meaning and implications with their children
- accepting the School's actions when their children are found to be involved in harassment
- work in partnership with the School toward resolution of these difficulties

There are many forms of bullying and harassment, including:

Physical:	hitting, pushing, tripping, spitting on others
Verbal:	teasing, using offensive names, ridiculing, spreading rumours
Non-verbal:	writing offensive notes or graffiti about others, rude gestures
Exclusion:	deliberately excluding others from the group, refusing to sit near someone
Extortion:	to take someone's possessions, food or money
Cyber bullying:	using information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated hostile behaviour

Procedure for dealing with Bullying and Harassment

DIA Al Barsha has a zero-tolerance policy with regards to the bullying of members of the school community at any time. This includes on or off school premises, threats, intimidation and abuse whether physically, verbally or in writing or online 'cyber bullying' that is directed at students, teachers or other staff members.

Any community members involved in bullying will be disciplined and will receive appropriate counselling and support from the school. Repeated offences from students will result in suspension or eventual expulsion.

DIA Al Barsha also has a zero tolerance for abusive language and actions or communications in any medium which promotes intolerance, prejudice or disrespect for a person's gender, ethnic origin, faith community and human rights.

A student subjected to bullying or harassment should instigate the following procedure:

- Tell the person that they object to the behaviour, and do not want it to be repeated
- Report the incident to their parent or to a member of staff, for example, their teacher, Counsellor, Deputy Head/s or Head of Primary who will advise on strategies for dealing with the issue

DIA Al Barsha takes displays of anti-social behaviour very seriously and encourages students to work together to eliminate bullying in our school. DIA Al Barsha expects all instances of bullying to be brought to the attention of a staff member without delay.

The following procedure will apply to the person whose behaviour constitutes bullying:

- Through discussions with the teacher, Counsellor, Deputy Head/s or Head of Primary, the student is encouraged to understand the offence caused by his/her behaviour and to cease it immediately.
- In the absence of a satisfactory response, appropriate disciplinary action involving the Deputy Head/s or Head of Primary/Principal will be undertaken.
- An agreement will be drawn up and signed by parents and students.

Disciplinary action includes student contract or monitoring, suspension or expulsion depending on the nature and severity of the bullying or harassment.

Important Contact Details

Important Contact Details

Principal	Mr Ian Thurston	**IanT@diabarsha.com**
Head of Primary	Ms Candice Combrinck	CandiceC@diabarsha.com
Deputy Head	Ms Andrea Allmark	AndreaW@diabarsha.com
Deputy Head	Mr Tom Dymond	TomD@diabarsha.com
Head of Inclusion	Ms Lisa Moley	LisaM@diabarsha.com
PYP Coordinator	Ms Sonali Gupta	Sonalig@diabarsha.com
Primary School Secretary	Ms Natasja Dames	psecy@diabarsha.com
Admissions	Admissions Team	admissions@diabarsha.com
Accounts Department	Accounts Team	accounts@diabarsha.com
School Clinic	School doctor Nurse Pamela Salvan	doctor@diabarsha.com PamelaS@diabarsha.com
Arab Falcon Bus Company	Bus Manager	Csr.dia@arabfalcondubai.ae
Helpdesk	Support to access IT platforms ie iSams Parent Portal, Toddle	Helpdesk@diabarsha.com

Shark
Summer Studies

Access to some activities and work over the long summer break is available, but it's important to remember to take a break and recharge. Below, you will find some links that provide information regarding summer reading and activities. Please click on the appropriate link for the grade your child will be starting in the 2024-2025 school year. Our staff has also shared some inquiry topics for your consideration.

Take a look:

GRADE in 2025-2026	LINK TO PADLET – Shark Summer Studies
NEW TO PREK 2025-2026	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/ztc5ui8s823d3t52
KG1	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/4xqlniwxe8ygbxq8
KG2	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/6izxcal86t0oyr48
Grade 1	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/6k97jn5k3c6ejdt7
Grade 2	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/q46089ekfc9nfamc
Grade 3	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/kmky0bpwqvd342sp
Grade 4	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/6rqg607suhigy8fe
Grade 5	https://diabarsha.padlet.org/subscriptions47/n1o7wvht6q0o46nh

Feel free to explore these resources and engage in activities that spark your child's curiosity and learning during the summer break. Remember to find a balance between productivity and relaxation. Enjoy the break!

innoventures education