



GEMS

مدرسة جيمس وينشستر

Winchester School

ABU DHABI

Curriculum Policy

UPDATED BY	LAST PUBLISH DATE	MONITORING CYCLE
Ms. M. Hayfron	September 2025	September 2026

WSA Curriculum Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the curriculum framework at WSA, ensuring full compliance with ADEK Curriculum Policy v1.2 and MoE regulations. The curriculum delivers a high-quality, inclusive, and balanced education, nurturing well-rounded learners prepared for global and local challenges. It includes both the formal requirements of the National Curriculum for England and the UAE Ministry of Education, as well as a variety of extracurricular activities and enrichment programs to support holistic development.

2. Curriculum Structure

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Framework: National Curriculum for England (NCfE)

Focus: Prime and specific areas of learning including communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, phonics and early reading, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

In the Early Years, the EYFS Curriculum is designed using the learning statements from the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and is appropriately adapted to suit the individual needs of our diversified cohort of international students. Students and teachers work collaboratively when choosing 6 themes/topics that switch focus every 6 weeks, which encompass all 17 areas of learning through play-based, engaging learning opportunities.

Arabic Language: Students receive a minimum of 240 minutes of Arabic instruction per week (2025/26), with tracks for native and non-native speakers, delivered through play-based and interactive methods. This will increase to **300 minutes per week** in 2026/27, as mandated by ADEK; (200 minutes Native and Non Native Arabic Language, 100 minutes Islamic studies for Islamic A and Islamic B and Integrated UAE Social Studies).

Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 3 (Years 1–9)

Framework:

- National Curriculum for England: Core and foundation subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Computing, Art & Design, Music and Physical Education.
- UAE Ministry of Education Curriculum: Arabic Language, Islamic Education (for Muslim students), Moral Education and UAE Social Studies.

Integration: The curriculum is designed to ensure seamless integration of both frameworks, promoting bilingualism, cultural identity, and global citizenship. Student leadership and wellbeing are actively promoted and considered throughout the school.

Compulsory Subjects: All compulsory subjects are taught for the minimum required time as per ADEK guidelines. No exemptions are permitted.

3. Curriculum Planning and Delivery

Curriculum pacing guides in the form of curriculum maps and schemes work are in line with the NCfE expectations as well as the ADEK requirements. Teaching and learning are personalised to meet the needs of all learners through real life experiences and useful resources.

Formative assessments take place frequently in lessons; summative assessments take place termly and are aligned with both NCfE and MoE standards.

The curriculum at WSA promotes higher-level thinking and social emotional skills, such as critical thinking, mental flexibility, creativity, positive attitudes, ethical reasoning, self-management, growth mindset, and adaptability, as per the *ADEK School Wellbeing Policy*, through the successful implementation of High Performance Learning and World Class school status. Drop Down Days occur throughout the year in the Enterprise Hub, where students can think critically, problem solve and work collaboratively to achieve a common goal.

The curriculum enhances the development of future-ready skills, including collaboration, communication, analysis, synthesis, problem-solving, digital fluency, Artificial Intelligence (AI) literacy, financial literacy, innovation, and transferable life skills, to explore the curriculum across planned programs, including the adoption of a positive school environment as per the *ADEK School Student Behavior Policy* and values such as teamwork, integrity, transparency, innovation, etc. as per the *ADEK School Values and Ethics Policy* and the *ADEK School Cultural Consideration Policy*.

4. Inclusion

At WSA, the leadership team and all teachers ensure that **all students**:

- are taught to enable them to experience success. This will be achieved through scaffolding, personalisation and a range of strategies to meet the student's special educational needs.
- use tools and materials that reflect a range of social and cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping.
- have a common curriculum experience that allows for a range of different learning styles and differences in which they are able to participate fully in class and have same learning experiences as their peers, regardless of any specific educational or medical needs.
- have clear, challenging yet achievable learning targets and outcomes that enable them to succeed.
- review and inform the next stage of learning outcomes by using assessments and tracking records.

5. Option Subjects for Years 8 and 9

To foster student agency and prepare learners for future pathways, WSA offers the following optional subjects in Years 8 and 9:

- Physical Education (PE)
- Art
- Drama
- French
- Music
- Enterprise through eSports: A cross-disciplinary subject integrating business, digital literacy, and teamwork through the lens of competitive gaming and entrepreneurship.

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5. Compliance and Review

This policy aligns with ADEK's expectations as outlined in ADEK Curriculum Policy v1.2.

It will be reviewed annually to ensure continued relevance, compliance, and responsiveness to student needs and educational developments. Parents will be informed of any curriculum changes and encouraged to participate in supporting student learning.