

The National Curriculum for England

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 addition to development of specific skills and competencies, the curriculum emphasises critical-thinking skills, enquiry and research skills and creativity, the skills needed to meet the challenges of the future. In Foundation Stage we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. In Key Stage 1 - 3 (Year 1 - 9) our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum for England with adaptations to contextualise learning within our international setting. At Key Stage 4 (Year 10 - 11) a wide range of GCSE, IGCSE and BTEC Level 2 courses are offered. Wellington International School delivers the UAE Ministry of Education's curriculum for Islamic Education, Arabic Studies and Social Studies. In the Primary phase, students will study the following subjects:

English

At GEMS Wellington International School we not only teach the fundamental skills of reading but also nurture children's reading attitudes with the aim that all children read for pleasure and have access to a wide range of high interest texts. To encourage every child's engagement in reading, the school arranges author visits and drama productions which are then incorporated into lesson planning to make every child's learning come to life. The school also arranges whole school reading opportunities with our Drop Everything and Read whole school initiatives. Every child has the opportunity to access a wide range of books available in the school library with the support of our specialist library staff.

Pupils are encouraged to become confident, articulate writers who understand that writing is a means of learning, shaping experience, exploring ideas and expressing feelings. The teaching of writing is delivered in a creative, stimulating and cross-curricular way linked with each topic. Children are taught through a writing process where they are introduced to the different types of writing (genres) through a stimulus which could be a text, extract or even film clip. From this stimulus children are able to unpick the key features in order to plan and create their own piece of writing. The teaching of grammar is also an integral part of all English lessons and children are taught how to punctuate and structure their writing correctly, becoming fluent and using the relevant terminology. They make use of note-taking and word-processing as they work towards finished products which will be in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes. Key to all this is an ever deeper understanding of the impact of word choice and linguistic structures, which are to be used and enjoyed for their own sake as well as for specific effects. Once a child has created a piece of writing, they then develop the skills needed to analyse and edit their work: constantly working towards taking those next steps to improve their writing. Children are also provided with opportunities to use drama techniques and opportunities to orally share their writing.

Maths

We are dedicated to promoting enthusiasm and enjoyment of mathematics through the provision of a range of experiences which enable all children to achieve and which develop, maintain and stimulate their curiosity and interest. We place great emphasis on encouraging children to talk about their ideas in mathematics and to reason mathematically, using a wide range of vocabulary. Developing the children's confidence and accuracy with their understanding of different calculation strategies and recall of mathematical facts and knowledge is important. The application of these skills and concepts to real-life problem solving contexts, using a mastery approach is also at the heart of our learning and teaching at GEMS Wellington International School.

Science

The Primary Science Curriculum builds on children's natural curiosity, by providing experiences which foster and stimulate their interest about their environment. During lessons, children are presented with practical opportunities, so that their learning journey is one of discovery and is both meaningful and relevant to them. They are provided with the scientific terms and concepts to help them understand themselves and the world around them better, and through research and investigation, children continue to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for scientific inquiry. Throughout Key Stage 1 and 2, the topics covered are revisited, in order to build on previous knowledge and skills.

Computing

At GWIS, we are proud to offer a Computing Curriculum in line with the latest standards through high quality technology resources. Students across the Primary school have access to iPads, laptops and desktop computers to give them a range of experiences with technology. The curriculum gives students the opportunity to explore concepts such as programming, coding, network engineering and app development to name just a few. A combination of practical and theory based lessons ensure that students develop solid computational thinking and application understanding whilst linking each unit to real world computing maintains a sense of relevance.

Creative Curriculum

The Primary Creative Curriculum is delivered in such a way that allows the children to build their innovative skills and embrace their individuality. Each term, the Creative Curriculum lessons are based around the topic being studied. Children have the opportunity to learn in depth about a particular topic through creative and practical teaching strategies, making connections with the wider world. During lessons, the children build on key skills through exploration and discussion, allowing them to become independent learners and critical thinkers. Throughout Key Stage 1 and 2, skills are revisited and built upon to ensure progression of knowledge and learning.

Arabic, Islamic and Social Studies

WIS delivers the Ministry of Education's curriculum for Islamic Education and Arabic Studies and Social Studies.

Foundation Stage

The Wellington International School Foundation Stage curriculum is aimed at children aged three to five years. The philosophy underpinning the curriculum is that learning should be carefully planned and structured, with an emphasis on activities that are fun, relevant and motivating for each child, designed to promote and enhance your child's growth and development. Your child's learning journey is very important and promises to be one filled with awe, wonder imagination, investigation, discovery and joy as your child works and plays in an environment that is stimulating, safe and challenging. Much of what the children will learn in this first year at school will be experienced through play, which is structured, planned and closely monitored. Learning through Play for young children is centred on being active. It involves learning through senses and through direct experience. It helps children to learn about themselves, the world around them and to relate to others.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development:

Communication and Language

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

Mathematics

Literacy

Understanding the world

Expressive Arts and Design

International Baccalaureate Programme

The IB Programme is recognised internationally as a qualification for university entrance, while allowing students to fulfil the requirements of their national education system. There are three programmes offered at GEMS Wellington International School:

- The Diploma Programme: Students take six subjects and in addition, they complete an Extended Essay, CAS and Theory of Knowledge.
- The IB Courses Programme: Students take a bespoke approach to the IB selecting courses of their choice rather than all of the requirements of the Diploma Programme.
- The IB Careers Programme: This is for students who are interested in a certain career path. They take a Level 3 BTEC programme along with two IB Courses.

In Key Stages 3 and 4, students are provided with a wide range of subject choices:

Key Stage 3 Subjects (Year 7-9) 2016-17	Key Stage 4 Subjects (Year 10-11) 2016-18	Key Stage 4 Subjects (Year 10-11) 2017-19
Mathematics (Students start the IGCSE in Year 9)	Compulsory Subjects	Compulsory Subjects
English (Language & Literature Pathways, students start the GCSE in Year 9)	Mathematics IGCSE (Selection of pathways)	Mathematics IGCSE (Selection of pathways)
Science	GCSE English Language & Literature	GCSE English Language & Literature
Computer Science	GCSE Science (Selection of pathways)	GCSE Science (Selection of pathways)
Art	Physical Education (Core PE)	Physical Education (Core PE)
Music	Islamic Education or PSHE	Islamic Education or PSHE
Drama	Social Studies	Social Studies
Islamic Studies	Optional Subjects (Students select four)	Optional Subjects (Students select four)
Arabic A & B	Arabic	Arabic
Spanish	Art & Design	Art & Design
French	Astronomy	Astronomy
Social Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies
Geography	BTEC Business	BTEC Business
History	BTEC Creative Media Design	BTEC Creative Media Design
Physical Education	BTEC Health & Social Care	BTEC Health & Social Care
	Computer Science	Computer Science
	Dual Language (French & Spanish)	Dance New for 2017-19!
	Drama	Design & Technology New for 2017-19!
	Economics	Dual Language (French & Spanish)
	French	Drama
	Geography	Economics

	History	French
	Human Health & Physiology	Geography
	ICT	History
	Media Studies	Media Studies
	Music	Music
	Physical Education	Photography New for 2017-19!
	Psychology	Physical Education
	Spanish	Psychology
	Additional Studies (Invite only)	Spanish
		Additional Studies (Invite only)