



THE AQUILA SCHOOL

iSP

International
Schools
Partnership

SAFE . HAPPY . LEARNING



Amazing learning
is central to everything we do



“
The school’s approach to developing students’ wellbeing is thorough and encompasses curricular and extra-curricular activities.
”

DSIB Inspection report, 2024

Our Vision
A happy community school with amazing learning at its heart where pupils are empowered to make choices, be kind, compassionate learners, engage in meaningful learning experiences, make exceptional progress and understand their role as global citizens.



About Our School

The Aquila School is an exciting international British school in Dubai with so much to offer your child. Our experienced and passionate staff are committed to ensuring every child develops a love of learning and acquires the skills and knowledge they need for the future. We are part of the International Schools Partnership (iSP), a global group of international schools.

The Aquila School opened in September 2018 to serve the growing educational needs of the surrounding communities in Dubailand and across Dubai. We offer a high quality British curriculum, enriched to meet the needs of our culturally diverse community.

We provide a comprehensive education from the Early Years Foundation Stage through to Year 13. In Years 10 and 11, students pursue the IGCSE and BTEC programs, with options for BTEC, IBDP, and IBCP pathways in Years 12 and 13. BTEC is rare in the UAE and underpins the original ethos of the school, where children are empowered to make choices in their learning, preparing them for successful futures.

As a purpose-built school, we are privileged to have a range of new facilities that have been designed to enrich children's learning experiences.

Amazing learning is our core purpose

The Aquila School embraces the individuality of every learner. We support learning through a robust pupil-focused curriculum, and enriching after-school programmes.

The Aquila School focuses relentlessly on each child's ability to amaze. Whether through mentoring, enrichment or personalised study, The Aquila School recognises and nurtures each child's individuality so that they amaze themselves and inspire others.

**'100% OF AREAS RATED
GOOD OR VERY GOOD'**

DSIB Inspection report, 2024



**British School
Overseas**

Inspected by Penta International

The Aquila School has been rated as 'Outstanding' by British School Overseas (BSO) across all areas of assessment.

BSO report, 2022

We are truly international working in partnerships within and across regions, cultures and languages.



International Learning Opportunities for Students (ILOS) at iSP Schools

Every iSP school has the opportunity to offer their students a portfolio of international learning experiences that build lifelong competencies such as language and communication skills, intercultural understanding and leadership, among others.

grows
confidence
Where



OUR
**INTERNATIONAL
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS**

-  iSP Filmmakers
-  iSP MUN
-  iSP Scientists
-  iSP Virtual Exchange
-  iSP X SCU
-  iSP Artists
-  iSP Cultural Exchange
-  iSP Chess Masters
-  iSP Changemakers

An Appreciation of the Local Environment

The Aquila School believes that providing children with an eco-friendly environment will instil a sense of responsibility towards the world. We want our pupils to be conscious of the part they can play with the environment and sustainability. This is why we offer unique environmental initiatives, including:

- Two hydroponics farms and an outdoor growing area where children are able to cultivate fruit and vegetables and are encouraged to develop healthy eating habits. The food produced by our children is used in their food technology lessons throughout the school year.
- Caring for animals: enquiry-based learning projects enable pupils to research, evaluate and provide for the needs and requirements of a variety of animals including our school fish, parrots and rabbits.

Children will gain an understanding that much of what has been grown can be eaten and enjoyed. Such unique, hands-on learning experiences enhance and embed classroom learning. This learning environment celebrates our best use of natural resources and how we might grow and develop a sustainable life to enrich our local communities.

“ Students are respectful to one another and to their teachers. They have a strong sense of responsibility and demonstrate positive attitudes to learning and school.

DSIB Inspection report, 2024

”



THE AQUILA SCHOOL

iSP
International
Schools
Partnership

Our Curriculum

While we focus on academic achievement and outstanding progress, we also encourage our children to be inquisitive and creative and to make their own learning choices. Meaningful enquiry-based learning is at the forefront of our lessons. Your child will be inspired by our exciting and creative curriculum, which is based on the National Curriculum for England (NCE).

This curriculum encourages children to direct their own learning through collaborative group problem solving and enables them to apply their skills and knowledge in a meaningful context, facilitating the development of essential critical thinking and communication skills. Opportunities to understand and celebrate the culture and heritage of the UAE and the diversity of our local community are integrated into the curriculum.

We train, encourage and empower our teachers to be innovative and creative in choosing the best teaching methods so that children are excited and motivated to be as successful as possible. We use enquiry-based learning methods throughout the school; including Mantle of the Expert, which promotes real-life learning opportunities for our children. Our curriculum is constantly being adapted so every child loves learning and makes as much progress as possible.

“ We offer a high quality international British curriculum, recognised as ‘Outstanding’ by British School Overseas (BSO), in a vibrant, positive and nurturing environment. ”

Our teachers are highly experienced and passionate about education

Our class teachers and secondary specialists hold UK qualifications, alongside many years of UK and international IB experience.

Our high quality teachers, all of whom are dedicated to providing an exceptional education for every child, constantly reflect on the impact of their teaching on children’s learning. Our relationship with all members of our community is one of our strengths – everyone is very enthusiastic and friendly.



“ Our team works tirelessly to ensure that every child makes as much progress as possible and is genuinely empowered to make decisions about their own learning. ”

Wayne Howsen
Principal,
The Aquila School

Enrichment at The Aquila School

ECAs (extra curricular activities) are offered by all teaching staff, including the leadership of the school. They run four days a week and are open to children from FS1 upwards. School-led ECAs are free of charge.

Encouraging children to make choices and to develop independence is a key part of our approach, and as such, all children are surveyed at the beginning of each term to see what activities they want to take part in. Such activities include drama, basketball, tennis, football, gardening, Quran, Arabic calligraphy, cookery, baking, science club, creative writing, and art, to name a few.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DofE)

Our secondary pupils have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) is a programme devised for pupils aged 14-24 years old and consists of three progressive levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level aims to promote helping the community/ environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training and working in a team.

At The Aquila School, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive community school, where all children can take part in everything, no matter their ability. DofE coincides with our ethos and enables all to take part, whilst setting personal challenges and persevering through personal boundaries. DofE is all about having fun, making friends and building confidence, at the same time as gaining essential skills for work and life such as resilience, problem solving, teamwork, communication and self motivation.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is also a great way to enhance CVs, university and job applications.

Computing

At The Aquila School, we value hands-on and practical learning in FS and primary. We constantly invest in new technology to enhance our teaching and learning experience. In primary we have technology such as iPads and Chromebooks as well as a computer suite and interactive panels for classroom use across the curriculum.

In secondary pupils are required to bring their own device to school. Our selected device is a Microsoft Surface Go laptop, which can be purchased through our device supplier. All secondary pupils are required to have a device when they join from Year 7 onwards.

Learning beyond the classroom

Children at The Aquila School are provided with many opportunities to develop and thrive. Learning is not limited to the classroom, but can also take place outdoors, through an educational visit, or a community service project. Lessons are lively, fun and challenging, and provide children with many opportunities to think critically and independently.

Social and emotional development

In addition to the National Curriculum for England, our school values, ethos and teaching approaches encourage children to develop collaborative enquiry skills, and to understand that they are important individuals who can make a positive difference to the lives of others. Our aim is to promote curiosity, to encourage pupils to ask questions, and to teach them to use their skills and knowledge confidently in real life situations.

Early Years Foundation Stage

When children join EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) at The Aquila School, they are provided with endless opportunities to holistically develop as learners and make as much progress as possible by actively learning through play and exploring their environment.

Foundation Stage learning areas include purposeful and well-resourced indoor and outdoor areas for learning, specialised areas such as an FS library and learning garden, play areas, equipment to promote physical development, sports facilities, food tech room and a hydroponics farm. We also have free flow learning areas, rich with a variety of resources for children to explore and enhance their learning.

At The Aquila School, we make learning exciting and relevant to children's interests and learning needs. We encourage children to lead their own learning and make choices. This empowers children and ensures that learning and teaching is informed by their interests and big ideas. As a result, our children are fully nurtured and motivated in every step of their learning.

Through continuous observation and 'Assessment for Learning' strategies, our teachers skilfully teach our children what they need to know now. Every day, our EYFS children are challenged to reach the next steps in their learning.

Our exciting and engaging play-based learning opportunities create a firm foundation of skills and knowledge to prepare them for their next phase of learning in primary.

These efforts ensure EYFS children become confident, lifelong learners who love coming to school and engage in amazing learning experiences every day.

Our curriculum

The curriculum followed in FS1 and FS2 is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, adapted by our staff to have a global dimension and relevance to children living here in the UAE.

From FS1 the children have the opportunity to take part in weekly PE, swimming and music lessons with specialist teachers. Both native and non-native Arabic speakers take part in Arabic lessons throughout the week.

“ We understand the importance of children leading their own learning and learning through structured play. ”



Key learning areas

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Mathematical development
- Literacy
- Expressive arts and design
- Understanding the world

Primary School

(Year 1 to Year 6)

Our curriculum

The Aquila School is committed to providing children with engaging and relevant learning activities that ensure they make as much progress as possible across all areas of the curriculum, and to prepare them for the next steps in their education. The curriculum followed in Years 1 to 6 is based on the National Curriculum for England, adapted by our staff to have a global dimension and relevance to children living here in the UAE.

The core of the curriculum is set, but our teachers are empowered to group areas of learning together to create topics which are of interest and of relevance to children in their class. We also value cross-curricular learning so that children make links between different subjects. In addition, we pay equal emphasis on the teaching of Arabic, Islamic, moral, social and cultural studies, which make up the local Ministry of Education curriculum.

Pupils at The Aquila School are encouraged to be inquisitive to ask questions, to reflect, and to analyse. These skills are all critical skills for thinking and learning. As a school we do not focus on the use of textbooks and worksheets, as these often have pre-determined learning material which can inhibit progress. This enables lessons to be creative, engaging, relevant and exciting, whilst all linked to our pupils' interests. Our pupils' passions and interests are interwoven throughout our curriculum and ensure maximum engagement through activities and project work.



Primary School

Year 1 to 6 subjects:

English	Design and Technology
Maths	Food Technology
Science	Music
Computing	Physical Education
History	Swimming
Geography	Arabic
Spanish, from Year 3	Islamic Studies (for our Muslim pupils)
Art and Design	Moral, Social and Cultural Studies (from Year 2)
Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)	



THE AQUILA SCHOOL

iSP

International
Schools
Partnership

Secondary School

(Year 7 to Year 13)

Students' achievement
in all core subjects is
now above the
curriculum standards

DSIB inspection 2024

The ethos and high levels of pastoral care established in the primary school follows through to the secondary school, with young people's ability to develop resilience, approach challenges positively, and work collaboratively for the good of the whole community being central to their learning.

Key Stage 3 curriculum (Years 7 - 9)

At The Aquila School, the curriculum in Key Stage 3 builds on the foundation of the earlier years in school and is the first step in preparing pupils for the formal examinations they will take later in their secondary school career. As such, in secondary there is an increased emphasis on subject teaching, independent study and research, as well as the application of knowledge and skills to real-life situations.

Reading is prioritised throughout secondary to increase pupils' use of vocabulary, enhance their cultural capital, improve confidence and to encourage discussion and debate. We also build on opportunities for cross-curricular links to allow pupils to transfer learning between subjects. The Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9) curriculum is ambitious, broad, balanced, inclusive and equitable for all children.

To ensure they make the most progress possible, learning is purposeful and engaging and we make links to knowledge and skills from different subjects to nurture pupils' future ambitions and aspirations.

In Key Stage 3 different subjects are taught by specialist teachers. We teach the National Curriculum for England (NCE), together with the Ministry of Education (MOE) curricular requirements.

Key Stage 3 Subjects Studied Include:

English	History	Art and Design	Islamic Studies (for our Muslim pupils)
Mathematics	Geography	Performing Arts	Design Technology
Sciences	Spanish	Drama	Physical Education (including swimming)
Computer Science	Arabic	Music	Moral, Social and Cultural Studies
Eco Literacy	Food Technology	Digital Literacy	Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
Financial Literacy			

Our secondary pupils have the opportunity to explore and collaborate in specialist learning areas, such as design workshops, science laboratories and the learning hub, which are incorporated into day-to-day learning to enhance their learning experiences.



Secondary School

Arabic, Islamic Studies & Moral, Social and Cultural Studies

Learning Arabic is crucial for both cognitive development and the maintenance of cultural identity. Our Arabic curriculum is concept and enquiry based and founded on the UAE national curriculum. Arabic is compulsory for Arab nationals throughout their schooling, and Arabic as a foreign language is required for pupils through to Year 10. Islamic studies is compulsory for Muslim children.

Successful learning in these subjects, as with any other, depends heavily on high quality teaching. Just as we enhance the curriculum in other subjects, we also ensure the learning of Arabic is inspiring and relevant to children. Our Arabic colleagues work hand-in-hand with English class teachers to ensure a consistent experience for children, and ensuring that in these subjects pupils make equally amazing progress.

Key Stage 4 curriculum (Years 10 & 11)

BTEC Level 2, GCSE and IGCSE Qualifications

At The Aquila School, we nurture our pupils from the onset to ensure they love coming to school. We understand that between the ages of 14 and 19 educational effort has a large impact on preparing pupils for later life and work. Therefore, we offer our pupils an all-round supportive environment to allow each and every one of our pupils to shine and amaze themselves in everything they do.

When pupils enter Year 10, they begin their Key Stage 4 programme of study. Careful planning and preparation is required to ensure each pupil follows a course which best suits their needs, which in turn allows them to make as much progress as possible.

In Key Stage 4 our pupils are exposed to a broad and balanced curriculum which enables and prepares them to naturally progress into the International Baccalaureate programmes at Key Stage 5 (Year 12 and Year 13). As a school we have selected a variety of GCSEs, IGCSEs, BTECs and alternative pathway qualifications for our pupils to transition from Year 9 to 10, ensuring these are linked to their interests, aspirations and talents. Our Key Stage 4 curriculum offering is broad and balanced and includes both academic and creative subjects.

Our teachers provide timely, incisive and formative feedback on all pupil work – this ensures any misconceptions or gaps in learning are identified and this information is used to plan lessons to accelerate progress. We also have formal assessments in Years 10 and 11 using previous IGCSE exam papers. This allows our pupils to develop skills of resilience and independence in an exam setting. At each stage of assessment, pupils are given detailed, personalised feedback along with next steps allowing them to reflect and engage with their learning.

Please see our Key Stage 4 options booklet for more detailed information about our subject offering for BTEC Level 2, IGCSE and GCSE examinations.

Key Stage 5 curriculum (Years 12 & 13) – Sixth Form

IB curriculum and higher level BTEC qualifications (Year 12 and 13)

We are passionate about providing a personalised education linked to the aspirations of every pupil. Our Key Stage 5 curriculum offering includes a range of academic pathways along with vocational and technical subjects. We offer IBDP, IBCP, BTEC and ASDAN pathways in Years 12 and 13, allowing for choices in future pathways. Pupils will be fully supported for the next stage of their education, employment or training with a particular focus on gaining places at their choice of universities across the world.



Inclusion and Learning Support

Inclusion

Our teachers are all very experienced at teaching the English National Curriculum and personalising the curriculum for the needs of the individual children in their class. We know that some children require extra support and interventions to meet their individual targets. At The Aquila School we have skilled staff who work with these children to help them meet their targets – this could be in class or on an individual basis.

For children who excel in a particular subject or area, our teachers ensure they are challenged and have access to a variety of different provisions so they can continue with their passion. For children who may require specialist support, for example occupational therapy or speech therapy, we are keen to work with families and other agencies so children can receive this therapy during the school day (This provision will incur additional charges).

We also offer ASDAN qualifications to pupils who wish to focus on life skills and gain work experience outside of the classroom. We work closely with the HEMAM centre which is based in our school to provide specialist care for children with specific autistic needs. For further information please visit hemam.ae.

The Aquila School has received the SENDIA award in recognition of our effective and inclusive provision for children with special educational needs and pupils of determination.



Multilingualism

Many pupils at The Aquila School have English as an additional language. This means that English is not the child's mother tongue, and it has been learnt in addition to, or alongside, other home languages.

Pupils with English as an additional language are supported in lessons from quality first teaching, and our school inclusion team supports teachers to ensure that lessons are tailored to be accessible to all. This is part of our school's standard offering.

Pupils classified as having English as an additional language can access the curriculum, as well as converse (at a level appropriate to their age) with adults and their peers.



The inclusive and caring family ethos of the school ensures wellbeing is promoted successfully and students thrive.

DSIB inspection 2024



Inclusion and Learning Support

English Language Learners (ELL)

Some children join The Aquila School with limited or no English. For pupils classified as English language learners, their limited English is not due to a special educational need, but due to the lack of study or immersion in the English language. Pupils who are English language learners may struggle to access the curriculum at the appropriate level or communicate with their peers and/or adults.

The Aquila School's English Language Learning (ELL) programme allows the school to support families who wish to join our school and learn English through separate lessons while also accessing the wider curriculum. This programme is chargeable, as it is in addition to the school's standard offering.

The level of support is tailored to the child's age and their level of language, as judged by an external benchmark assessment that uses the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the Global Scale of English (GSE).

In addition to improving a child's level of English, the aim of the programme is to ensure pupils can achieve an appropriate IELTS level at the time of application for university or college. A standard UK university typically requires IELTS 6.5 (CEFR B2+). Top tier universities normally require IELTS 7.5 (CEFR C1).

Pastoral Care

Our children are safe, supervised and well cared for at all times - children know that the first priority of every adult in school is their wellbeing. This is the first item on the job description of every adult in our school regardless of their role.

At The Aquila School we understand that our children are in school for the majority of their day, therefore it is our priority to ensure they feel safe and secure whilst in our care. Our staff work together and with families to ensure every child has a sense of school connectedness and is able to express their concerns at any point of their educational journey.

Class teachers often form the most important link between home and school - therefore we maintain open communication with families through the school app, regular updates and meetings. In our school we work on the basis that all children can take part in everything - no matter what their ability or background. Children are empowered to guide their learning and therefore feel individually valued in school.

The school clinic is open every day and the nurse and doctor are available to deal with illness and injury. Our school counsellors are available for pupils to talk to, should they need someone to confide in, seek advice or just need someone to talk to. Our counsellors offer a direct line between home and school, through consistent and supportive relationships with our families and staff.

Our school counsellor can be contacted via counsellor@theaquilaschool.com



THE AQUILA SCHOOL

iSP

International
Schools
Partnership

Campus and Facilities

We are privileged to have a range of brand new facilities that have been designed to enrich children's learning experiences.

All children have access to:

- Two temperature-controlled swimming pools, with swimming lessons from FS1.
- An auditorium that can be used for a range of events, from assemblies to music and theatre performances.
- Two large multi-purpose sports halls, a multi-purpose astro pitch, a tennis court and an outdoor hard court.
- Spacious, well-resourced classrooms, filled with natural light, providing excellent conditions for learning.
- Music, art and dance studios. Specialist teachers ensure all children have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.
- Dedicated food technology/cookery and design technology rooms/workshops.
- Sixth form suite
- Science labs and a specialist computer suite.
- Technology such as iPads, Chromebooks, a computer suite and interactive panels for classroom use across the curriculum.
- Three large libraries housing thousands of books to encourage children to develop a love of reading and to support learning.
- Age-appropriate shaded play areas across the campus, and a dedicated soft play area for EYFS children.
- Two Parrot Cafés which contribute to the open, warm and friendly environment, nurturing our school community.
- Learning hub for secondary pupils to relax, collaborate and read.
- Black Box theatre





THE AQUILA SCHOOL



International
Schools
Partnership

Amazing learning
is central to everything we do

 04 586 2700

 admissions@theaquilaschool.com

 www.theaquilaschool.com