



**Durham School
Dubai**

Confidence for Life

PROSPECTUS

2024/25



600 Years of British Education

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Welcome from the Principal

At Durham School, Dubai, we are committed to providing pupils with a complete education; one that provides opportunities to grow, intellectually, emotionally, physically and culturally.

Durham School Dubai is a genuine branch of Durham school in the UK and as such offers an authentic, traditional, British independent school experience; relevant, broad and stretching for pupils of all ages and from all countries. We have high expectations of our pupils; our structure, high expectations and outstanding teachers help every child to be the best that they possibly can be – not just academically, but in the way they interact with others and contribute to society.

How we think about ourselves, how we talk to ourselves and how we project ourselves depends on an appreciation of oneself. In today's society, where our young are bombarded with images of supposed perfection, it has never been harder to develop confidence. Our aim is to develop confidence for life in every pupil by celebrating each pupil's uniqueness. At Durham, we really get to know your child and assist them to develop the skills, self-esteem and confidence necessary for future success. It is my firm belief that a child developing in this environment will grow to be thoughtful, happy, kind and well-rounded, ready and prepared to make their mark in the world.

Mr Mark Atkins

Principal, Durham School Dubai





Message from Durham School UK

I am delighted that Durham School has established a branch in the vibrant city of Dubai. Durham School Dubai joins a family of schools where happy children thrive in an environment where they are safe, cared for and recognised individuals.

Durham School Dubai shares the same values, standards and overall ethos as have long since imbued our way of life here in Durham: we are wholly committed to ensuring our Dubai school enjoys the same successes as we do here in Durham and quickly establishes its reputation as the best possible place for children to begin their educational journey in Dubai, and so develop their own 'Confidence for Life'.

Durham School Dubai has a genuinely warm and inclusive pastoral structure where strong and supportive relationships between staff and students, and between students, is both expected and championed, and inspiring and caring staff work energetically and with mutual respect towards shared goals. Each student at Durham School Dubai benefits from opportunities made available to them in the academic sphere, in sport, in cultural activities and in learning to lead.

Durham School Dubai is well located adjoining the Green Community, it has excellent facilities and employs wonderful teachers passionate about their chosen profession and developing the children in their care to their fullest potential.

Mr Kieran McLaughlin
Headmaster of Durham School UK



About Durham School Dubai

Durham School Dubai is a branch school of Durham UK, one of the oldest schools in the UK with a 600-year history of academic excellence. As such, we are able to draw upon the skills and experience of our colleagues in the UK and in our other international schools in Qatar and Kenya. Durham is a truly international organisation; its roots may be in the UK, but its outlook is global.

Durham School Dubai is an exciting place to learn. It is a place where six centuries of experience meet the best in modern teaching methods and most importantly, teachers of unsurpassed commitment and quality. It is our aim to provide a broad and rounded education fostering academic achievement and nurturing the talent of each and every student. Our curriculum is based on an enhanced English National Curriculum supported through the use of outstanding resources and hosted in outstanding facilities.

'Confidence for life' for all our pupils is achieved through academic attainment but as importantly, the development social competence, manners, moral integrity, responsibility, kindness and respect.



Location



Durham School Dubai is conveniently located adjoining the Green Community. The school is easily accessible from the D57 highway, which conveniently links to the E311 and D54; and is easy walking distance from DIP metro station.

The school has world class facilities and capacity for more than 1,700 students.

The following residential communities are under 20 minutes driving distance from the school:

5 mins Green Community

20 mins Emirates Hills

20 mins Arabian Ranches 2

10 mins Jumeirah Golf Estates

15 mins Arabian Ranches

15 mins Motor City

15 mins Jumeirah Village Circle

20 mins Jumeirah Islands

15 mins Damac Hills

15 mins Dubai Sports City

Facilities



Educational Ethos

At Durham School Dubai we have a very clear mission supported by our aims and values. These all add up to help us build in each and every one of our students 'Confidence for Life'.

So, what should students and parents expect to see and feel when they come through the doors at Durham School Dubai?

First, we believe that the students are the stars; they are our reason for Durham School Dubai and they are at the centre of everything we do and every decision we take. Next, we are a 'hands on' kind of school – if a job needs doing, we all contribute: staff, students and parents, no matter what the task or what our role is within the school. Importantly, we are positive, optimistic school. We meet challenges head on and look for solutions in the belief that they can always be found. We look for the best in people. We expect the best from our students and staff and as a result, will be rarely disappointed.

At Durham School Dubai we are also humble and we accept that we all get things wrong from time to time. We recognise when something has gone wrong, we apologise, we fix it, we learn from it and we move on.

And finally, we are a kind, family orientated school accepting of each other, supportive of one another and appreciative of all that a person has to offer.



Our Aims

Within a community shaped by moral integrity and kindness, Durham School Dubai aims to cultivate responsibility and ambition to ensure that every student can thrive, be happy, and make a positive mark in the world.

The three pillars of a Durham School Dubai which support this aim and shape the environment where students can learn and grow are:

Academic challenge: providing students a lifelong appetite for learning.

Pastoral care: supporting students emotional, moral and spiritual strength.

Co-curricular: opportunities to enrich and develop the individual, fostering leadership, collaboration and teamwork.

We do this by nurturing and supporting our students to become:

- Thinkers who can understand, research, evaluate and create, both collaboratively and independently.
- Individuals who are morally sound, emotionally resilient, reflective and effective communicators.
- Adults who act with responsibility, humility and kindness and are ready to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Mission

It is our mission is to provide its students with a complete education; one which instils in them an aspiration for achievement, a respect for others and a 'Confidence for Life'.

Whilst academic life is at the heart of the school, we set out to provide a host of opportunities in sport, music and drama so that every student is given a chance to explore their potential.

Durham School Dubai sets out to provide an authentic British private school experience – and education in Dubai that replicates the standards, ethos and opportunities afforded to students at Durham UK. Our traditional values prepare our pupils for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century whilst ensuring that every student has the social competence and confidence to thrive and make their mark in a competitive world.



MARK Values

Moral Integrity

- We challenge things we think wrong and are open to challenge from others.
- We are accountable for failure as well as success, and do not allocate blame.
- We can be relied upon to do what is right.
- We stand firm for what is right.
- We demonstrate and promote honesty.
- We demonstrate a desire to do the right thing.
- We act in private as we do in public.
- We have the courage to say and do the right thing.



Ambition

- We embrace opportunities, challenge, and seek to develop our skills and talents.
- We encourage all to develop maximum potential and support others to achieve.
- We seek help and support before giving up and identify lessons in setbacks.
- We aim for the best in 'me and them' and take pride in all we do.
- We achieve our goals by consistently working toward them.
- We identify opportunities for School Development.
- We go above and beyond the call of duty.



Responsibility

- We use our resources responsibly, developing and caring for our environment.
- We act before being asked and consistently deliver on expectations.
- We encourage autonomy in all and seek leadership.
- We prepare thoroughly for all tasks.
- We acknowledge and seek to resolve problems.
- We do what we say we will.
- We are punctual and prompt in all that we do.
- We pioneer better ways of doing things.



Kindness

- We attend to newcomers and those needing help, and build relationships actively.
- We support each other and stand up for fellow colleagues and pupils.
- We speak positively of the School community.
- We acknowledge individual needs within the community.
- We are positive in responding to questions.
- We welcome and listen to the opinions of others.
- We are open and approachable to all.
- We look to engage & involve all in the community.



Our Teachers

Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher – it is they who inspire, educate and shape your children, setting them on the path to future success. There is no better way for your children to spend their time than with a passionate and caring practitioner – one who stretches and supports in equal measure, one who sets the example and one who helps your child to do just that little bit more than they thought they could.

We select our teachers very carefully, all highly trained, predominantly from the UK, and all with experience and a track record in bringing the best out of their students. We value them as you do and set out to fill your child's world with teachers who will be long remembered as people who really made a difference.



A Durham Education



A Durham education is one that inspires, nurtures and encourages its students through the provision of the finest quality teaching coupled with extensive opportunities to enable our students to achieve. Our excellent teachers encourage students to think creatively, to apply knowledge and skills successfully and imaginatively, and to constantly challenge themselves whilst building 'Confidence for Life' in a positive and supportive environment.

Durham School Dubai is committed to delivering an education that is engaging, challenging, motivating and fun. Using a holistic and rigorous approach to education, our students learn through stimulating and creative experiences, in the classroom and beyond, in lessons and co-curricular activities. We aim to ensure that every Durham student's experience of school is positive and productive laying the foundation for academic success.



Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage is a two-year phase for our youngest children and caters for children aged between three and five years old.

Teaching assistants support the class teachers so that all children are closely guided and supported by trained adults in small groups, and there is also input from specialist teachers in subjects such as languages and physical education.

The Early Years is a delightful introduction to school filled with exciting learning opportunities. Early Years curriculum is a play-based curriculum with carefully planned activities enabling children to learn whilst having fun. Our classrooms all open into outdoor areas that are organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely.

The curriculum is broken down into seven areas:

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

In teaching younger children, we work closely with parents to really get to know and understand every child in our care.



Primary School

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Key Stage 1 covers pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 (5 – 7 years old) and Key Stage 2 covers pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 (8 to 11 years old).

In Key Stage 1, children are introduced to more formal lessons however, there is still a lot of learning through play, especially in Year 1. In Key Stage 1, it is essential that children are given a good grounding in the basics and we concentrate heavily on the teaching of reading including a daily phonics programme, developing writing skills and vocabulary and increasing familiarity and confidence with number. Additionally, children will also start to study science, Arabic language and Islamic education, history, geography, design technology, music, art, PE and swimming. Links across curriculum subjects are made wherever possible and all activities are planned and delivered to maximise first-hand experience with teachers responding to the children's differing learning styles.

In Key Stage 2, learning becomes more formal and children continue to read each day as well as having daily English and mathematics lessons. In some curriculum areas, the Key Stage 2 timetable runs in parallel with the secondary school timetable allowing more specialist teaching in Year 5 and Year 6.

At Key Stage 2, the core subjects of English, mathematics and science form the spine of the curriculum with history, geography and computing being taught in greater depth. Art, music, physical education, swimming and games promote the children's sporting and creative development and all children will learn Arabic language. Muslim students will study Islamic education and Emirati social studies.



Secondary School

Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

Our bespoke Key Stage 3 curriculum covers pupils from Year 7 – Year 9 (ages 12 – 14). Lessons are designed to develop and deepen pupils understanding of the subjects in preparation for them to make choices as to subjects they will study at Key Stage 4. In Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, subjects are taught by a specialist subject teacher with the pupils moving from room to room. The pupil's pastoral welfare is overseen by their form tutor assisted by their head of house.

Key Stage 4 includes Year 10 and Year 11 (ages 15 and 16). Here pupils have a choice of stimulating and challenging subjects to study for their IGCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. Alongside pupils' chosen subjects, all pupils will continue to study, mathematics, English and the sciences. Our secondary school pupils will be given a great deal of time and individual attention including developing the self-discipline, time management and study skills to ensure that they perform well in their IGCSE examinations.

Subjects studied at Key Stage 3 and 4 include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- History
- Geography
- Economics
- Business Studies
- Art
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Computing
- Music
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Arabic Language
- Physical Education and Swimming,
- Personal, Social, and Health Education



Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form provision is for pupils, aged 17 and 18 (Years 12 and 13). In the Sixth Form, pupils will study for A-level examinations, specialising in subjects of particular interest to them. In most cases, pupils will work towards examinations in three, or sometimes four, subjects. Specialist staff will work with pupils to ensure that they obtain the best possible grades to enable them to access universities of their choice. Pupils will also receive support for the university applications through a dedicated support team that have experience in placing students in universities in the UAE, the UK, the United States, Asia and Europe.

Leadership skills, community projects and service are all important aspects of our Sixth Form education. Whilst academic achievement is extremely important, so to our social skills and social competence. Our pupils will be given plenty of opportunities to develop and extend themselves through a range of activities and a comprehensive extracurricular programme.



Arabic Language and Islamic Education



The teaching of Arabic language for both native and non-native speakers, Islamic education for our Muslim students and Social Studies and Moral Education are all a part of our core curriculum. These subjects will be taught as directed by the Ministry of Education and our students will follow the Ministry approved syllabus in each component. We believe that high quality teaching results in the best learning outcomes for our students and we are determined that these subjects will be taught to the highest standards encouraging learning and enjoyment and a pride in Emirati roots and culture.

Arabic Language

Arabic as a first language promotes the development of Arabic in accordance with UAE Ministry of Education expectations. From a young age, our pupils develop their native language skills through speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. Pupils in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 will have specialist Arabic lessons four times in a week.

At Durham School Dubai we consider the teaching of Arabic to non-native speakers to be most important. Our teachers draw upon best practice in the development and acquisition of modern foreign languages. Our pupils learn Arabic through the development of four key skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Pupils in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 will have specialist Arabic lessons four times in a week.



Arabic Language and Islamic Education (cont.)

Islamic Education

Our Muslim students in Primary School and Key Stage 3 will attend specialist Islamic Education lessons twice a week. The curriculum provides help for the students to develop their understanding of their religion, values and beliefs.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, the students will follow the Ministry of Education Curriculum. They will learn about their culture, national identity and UAE citizenship helping them develop a sense of belonging and pride in their country and heritage. Social Studies In Social Studies, the students will follow the Ministry of Education Curriculum. They will learn about their culture, national identity and UAE citizenship helping them develop a sense of belonging and pride in their country and heritage.

Moral Education

The Moral Education Curriculum is divided into four core areas:

- The Character and Morality curriculum which supports the Durham values and develops honest, tolerant, resilient, kind individuals.
- The Individual and the Community Curriculum helps our students understand about contributing to the good of society, participating actively and leading others to strive to make things better.
- Civil Studies ensures that whether a student is an Emirati, born in the UAE, or an expat who moved here with their family, they understand and appreciate the fundamentals of how the UAE was formed and how it is governed.
- Culture is an inherent part of a society and the programme highlights UAE's shared human culture that encapsulates the traditions and symbols that help define who we are.



Co-Curricular Activities

Durham School Dubai believes in a rounded education and we encourage her pupils to participate in an extensive co-curricular programme that includes sporting, artistic, academic, and musical opportunities. We believe that co-curricular opportunities enrich and develop the individual, fostering skills such as leadership, collaboration and teamwork.

A comprehensive programme of sporting activities is available to all pupils starting from the youngest children and continuing right through the school. The school runs a number of sports teams in the major sports and Durham pupils compete against other schools in Dubai. In addition, there are internal sports competitions through the house system that allow all pupils to represent their house in competitive events. We appreciate that not all children want to compete, and so recreational sporting opportunities are available for those who wish to participate simply for the enjoyment.



Music, Art and Drama, alongside other creative subjects are extremely important in a Durham education. We strongly believe in encouraging pupils' creativity. Musical opportunities include choirs, peripatetic music lessons and small bands, whilst art and drama, give opportunities for pupils to be involved in the production of plays, both acting and backstage as well as public speaking. All pupils regularly perform for their peers and for parents at our school assemblies.



Our co-curricular programme also gives pupils' opportunities to develop their academic interests. Activities, such as science clubs, literary appreciation, language clubs, various STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) activities, chess and board games ensure that there is something for everyone at Durham School Dubai.



Tuition Fees

Tuition Fees for Academic Year 2024/25

Year	Ages	Key Stages	2024 / 25 Discounted Fees AED
FS 1	3 - 4	EYFS	44,730
FS 2	4 - 5	EYFS	44,730
Year 1	5 - 6	KS 1	47,880
Year 2	6 - 7	KS 1	47,880
Year 3	7 - 8	KS 2	53,550
Year 4	8 - 9	KS 2	53,550
Year 5	9 - 10	KS 2	53,550
Year 6	10 - 11	KS 2	53,550
Year 7	11 - 12	KS 3	59,850
Year 8	12 - 13	KS 3	59,850
Year 9	13 - 14	KS 3	59,850
Year 10	14 - 15	KS 4	64,000

Admission Process

How to start your child's journey towards Confidence for Life.

Step 1

Make an enquiry: Complete the enquiry form online or call our friendly reception staff on 800 DURHAM (387426)

Step 2

Visit us: Book a guided tour of our school online or call the number above. The 45 minute tour is a great way to see the school and to talk to our experienced and qualified UK teaching staff as well as learning about our ethos and values. We very much look forward to meeting you and learning about you and your child.

Step 3

Complete assessment: Book an assessment through the Admissions team. The assessment is run by our academic team and ensures Durham School Dubai is the appropriate learning environment for your child.

Receive your offer and secure the place with a deposit.

Book a Tour

At Durham School Dubai, we are committed to providing a traditional British education incorporating the rigour, standards, discipline, high-expectations and teaching quality you would expect from a school with a proud 600-year-old pedigree.

To find out more about a Durham education, please book a tour; you are assured of a warm welcome.

[Click here to book a tour](#)

Durham School UK

Durham School is one of the UK's oldest schools, with a 600-year tradition of academic, sporting and cultural excellence.

Durham School's history stretches back centuries, certainly to 1414 and the re-organisation of the school by Thomas Langley, and some would claim even further back to the monastic settlement on Lindisfarne that came to Durham City 900 years ago.

The School was originally situated on Palace Green, adjacent to the World Heritage Site of Durham Cathedral in the heart of Durham City, but was moved to its present magnificent site on the other side of the River Wear in 1844.

Durham offers a high-quality education to all its girls and boys who can be day students or, at the Secondary School, boarders. The School has a particularly high reputation for academic studies, music, sport and drama.



Alumni




Contact



We invite your child to make their mark at Durham School Dubai and look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school.

If you would like further information, our friendly team would be delighted to answer your questions and can organise a tour so that you can see for yourself all that we have to offer.

We fully understand how important the decision is when choosing your child's education and we are committed to ensuring that their first experience of education is one filled with happiness and learning.

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