



**Day and Date:** Sunday, 06/09/2020

**Reference Number:** AS /3/8 / 2020-21

## **20 Years of Excellence in Education**

Dear parents,

Greetings ...

The management and administration value and appreciate your trust in choosing Al Ansar International School for your children, our future leaders of tomorrow.

- We are a team who are dedicated and happy to serve and watch over their development and future.
- We acknowledge that your constant cooperation is one of the secrets of our success and our distinction in the educational field over the last twenty years.
- We are committed to producing capable generations that reflect authenticity and modernity.

We proudly announce the school's achievement, the highest rating (DEVELOPED) in all 13 themes of the Sharjah Private Education Authority evaluation (we are amongst the top 18 schools in the Emirate of Sharjah) being recognized as the third phase of the digital transformation journey on the road to sustainability in education.

Based on our vision to provide innovative, pioneering, interactive education, with continuous improvement processes in our educational system, we would like to communicate the following:

1. Al Ansar International School strives to develop and progress, making the best interests of students and parents a priority. Our students are a trust that we work for and are happy to serve.
2. The decisions of change and improvement in the school are based on a participatory and interactive study that takes into account the directives of the United Arab Emirates government, the Ministry of Education, Sharjah Private Education Authority, best practices in the educational field locally and internationally, the directives of the boards of governors, and the school administration in consultation with all partners in the educational system, including our esteemed parents and dear students (after analysis of the current situation and in anticipation of the future).
3. The school is committed to providing the highest standards of academic services to students by ensuring continuous improvement in its performance and the students' learning outcomes.
4. The school's improvement plan includes constant upgrading of the educational system, and developing modern educational and academic concepts such as: lifelong learning, self and independent learning, digital learning, smart learning, project / activities / research and enquiry-based learning and concepts that our children must aspire to reach. The school administration - after considering the opinions of parents - (those who participated in the e-surveys at the end of last academic year) has invested in interactive electronic and digital resources and curricula that allow students, parents, subject teachers and educational leadership in the school to observe the strengths and points of improvement in order to analyse and provide the individual reports on students' development, and their levels of progress, to parents, subject teachers and the educational supervisor.
  - 4.1. **This investment does not eliminate the use of text books, student work, copy books and written activities, but is in fact, an addition to all of these in the form of electronic, interactive books, and digital educational platforms.**
5. Investment in this system will allow students, parents, subject teachers and educational supervisors to continuously evaluate performances, analyze individual and group results (according to student groups and levels), and will also work to achieve the indicators of the national agenda while preparing the student to achieve better results in international examinations, reading skills and basic skills, in addition to science and knowledge that takes into account individual differences.
  - 5.1. This system provides the students with many advantages and the educational resources such as audio-visual presentations, audio clips, links and references, stories, translation of books or paragraphs, research, correct pronunciation of words, reading / listening to texts ... and other features that traditional books do not provide.
6. These choices are in tandem with the transition plan from the grades system to the years system, which is in compliance with the British curriculum standards applied in the United Kingdom, and to raise the academic level of our students in English and ministry subjects in response to the demands and opinions of the school community in last year's surveys,

and is more compliant with the standards and requirements of health and safety in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. It reduces paper consumption and the exchange of paper materials between students and teachers (which may be subject to the spread and transmission of viruses, bacteria, etc.).

**6.1. Extracted from the guidelines issued by the Sharjah Private Education Authority:**



هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص  
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

## Guidelines for Reopening Private Schools in Sharjah

<b>The primary focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As long as schools are following the physical distancing measures, schools can be creative in designing the classroom layouts.</li> <li>The same rules of physical distancing in classrooms, apply on all rooms where classes are held, such as labs, libraries, resource rooms, activities room, etc.</li> <li>The school should encourage a paperless strategy and elevated use of technology in the educational provision to minimize contacts.</li> </ul>
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area.

102. Students and teachers must bring their own exclusive stationary items, devices or gadgets (i.e. laptops, tablets, headphones, etc.). Student must not share their stationery. If the children need a supply of stationery, it should be done by the teacher via proper disinfection.
103. Avoid using equipment that will require blowing (musical instruments, whistles, blow-pipes, etc.) or encourage the parents to supply their child with their own equipment if possible.
104. Teachers should provide soft copies of teaching and review materials and should encourage paperless work in class or for homework. Digital hand-writing and typing should be accepted for relevant school work.

7. All schools are required to have an alternative plan and continuous readiness in case they are required to switch to Distance Learning at any point during the current term. This decision is supportive of the requirements of this life changing phase (pandemic), and definitely a step to the requirements of the future – inshaa Allah.
8. Diversifying the learning sources provides the student with options and prospects that make them more flexible and increases the student’s motivation to learn, while building skills in an interesting, enjoyable and interactive manner, free of boredom or the usual routine. This approach is followed in some schools of the emirate, and many in the country and worldwide, especially schools that follow the British curriculum. All schools around the globe are now looking at the most effective methods to have a checkbox for the following:
  - Student attainment & progress
  - Students’ personal and social development, and their innovation skills
  - Student independent learning skills.
  - Teaching & assessment
  - Curriculum implementation
  - The protection, care, guidance and support of students
9. It strives for excellence and sustainability in education, and is based on best modern practices.
10. We realize that any change will be a challenge in the beginning, and it will require time to deal with and adapt to, but it will bear the fruit of achievement. Our most beloved students deserve the very best and we will definitely see them progress.
11. All students will be receiving textbooks, as an online e-book, which will be an interactive book using by Artificial Intelligence (AI). They provide the framework within which much of the classroom activities occur and also gives every child the best possible opportunities for learning. Based on research and MOE policies and practices in international education, e-learning is the way.
12. We hereby inform you of the following:
  - 12.1. The school administration held an explanatory and introductory meeting (Clear your doubts), for parents on Wednesday, 02/09/2020; to clarify the overall goals of this change and to listen to their views and address their concerns. (Unfortunately, it didn’t prove to be as constructive as we expected it to be )
  - 12.2. Video presentations will be published that will contribute to clarity of the idea (which was planned in the agenda of the first meeting, but could not be executed).
  - 12.3. The school administration has planned training programmes for parents, to understand and facilitate digital platforms and interactive books, which will soon be published on our official social media platforms.



- 12.4. Training programmes for parents will be conducted (online) to ensure that we get the most out of our investment in digital platforms and books.
- 12.5. A variety of additional audio-visual resources will also be provided to facilitate the process of using these platforms and reports while subject teachers engage students based on the same. Our children have proven to possess the ability and motivation to learn and keep pace with the requirements of the modern era, within educational parameters and frameworks, whenever given the opportunity.
- 12.6. We are fully aware that we as educators have a responsibility to control our children's exposure to electronic screens in order to preserve their health and control their behaviour. We have instructed our educational staff to reduce homework, complete most of the activities during official school hours, and create a balance between activities that are implemented on screens and activities that are carried out manually (without using technology).
- 12.7. **This decision does not eliminate the existence of non-digital activities** and our focus on supporting the skills of writing, improving handwriting, and spelling among students will continue.
- 12.8. **This plan will be applied, in its first stage,** to the subjects of English and Science for students of grades KG2 to Grade 5, and Mathematics will be added for Gr.6 – Gr.8, in addition to our investment in digital platforms for most basic and technical subjects.
- 12.9. **The operational cost** of the e-education platforms, interactive resources, notebooks and digital e-books that we will provide parents with, for this year, is more than the previous year (without placing any additional financial burden on parents, but rather improving the quality of educational services for students).
- 12.10. All books are not only interactive or digital. There are textbooks and workbooks that will be distributed to students or parents (following a plan that is in line with the requirements of precautionary measures).The announcement for the same will be made to parents upon arrival from the service provider, and completion of the necessary procedures (this is applicable to all students in both the learning models "distance and hybrid").
- 12.11. The school's 'open door' policy is instrumental to the views and opinions of parents. We will need your feedback after you evaluate each new stage of the experience to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of any of our plans.
- 12.12. School leadership and management urges our parents to support and build on the confidence of our dedicated teachers and students. Opinions will matter when we have reviewed progress on a termly basis.

**Give these learning curves and models a chance.... You will be surprised!**

13. Al Ansar International School administration welcomes constructive and purposeful criticism, and believes in working with you as partners in education, to achieve excellence at every stage. Our social media platforms keeps you informed and updated to serve you better while our online portals are available to receive suggestions and complaints formally, through dedicated email addresses. We, therefore, request the school community to follow the regulations, instructions and protocols for effective communication, bearing in mind that social media is subject to laws to combat cybercrime, and any kind of slander, insult, abuse or mockery in a manner not befitting the educational field or any other legal violation will not be accepted.

This is for your information...

Yours sincerely ...

**The school administration**