



المدرسة الأمريكية
للإبداع العلمي
AMERICAN SCHOOL
OF CREATIVE SCIENCE

MOE Mandatory Subjects Policy

Document Information			
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Introduction

In alignment with the regulations set forth by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) and the UAE Ministry of Education (MoE), the American School of Creative Science (ASCS) - Nad Al Sheba is committed to delivering a high-quality, inclusive education that preserves and promotes the UAE's linguistic and cultural identity. This policy outlines the requirements, teaching expectations, and compliance procedures for the delivery of the MoE's mandatory subjects: Arabic Language, Islamic Education, UAE Social Studies, Moral, Social, and Cultural Studies, and Moral Education. Our policy is designed to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive and authentic education in these core subjects, reflecting the school's dedication to academic excellence and cultural heritage.

This document provides a unified framework for both the Kindergarten and Grades 1-12, integrating KHDA guidelines with our school's specific practices

Policy Aims

The primary aims of this policy are to:

- Ensure full compliance with the Ministry of Education and KHDA's mandatory curriculum requirements for private schools in Dubai.
- Provide clear and consistent guidelines for the teaching, learning, and assessment of Arabic Language, Islamic Education, UAE Social Studies, Moral, Social, and Cultural Studies, and Moral Education across all grade levels.
- Foster a deep appreciation and understanding of the Arabic language, Islamic values, and the UAE's rich culture and heritage among all students.
- Guarantee equitable and inclusive access to the MoE curriculum for all learners, including targeted support for students with additional learning needs.
- Promote active engagement with parents and the wider community in supporting students' learning and development in the mandatory subjects.

Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at the American School of Creative Science - Nad Al Sheba from Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) to Grade 12, as well as all teaching staff, teaching assistants, and school leadership involved in the planning, delivery, and oversight of the MoE mandatory subjects.

Kindergarten (Pre-K, KG1, and KG2)

In the Kindergarten stage, ASCS Nad Al Sheba adopts a unique and integrated approach to the teaching of MoE mandatory subjects, designed to build a strong foundation for future learning.

Arabic Language

The school has adopted a fully immersive Arabic language model in the Kindergarten stage, where Arabic A and Arabic B are not separated. The school recognises that Arabic, during this foundational stage, should be delivered through a unified curriculum for all children. This approach ensures that all students are immersed in the language, while differentiated support is provided within each lesson to cater to each child's individual developmental and linguistic needs. Arabic learning is delivered through evidence-informed early years pedagogy, combining structured teaching with play-based learning, purposeful interactions, songs, storytelling, role play and hands-on experiences that promote natural language acquisition. Teachers intentionally develop children's oral language and subject-specific vocabulary through rich conversations, questioning and sustained shared thinking.

Kindergarten Arabic provision aligns with the KHDA **Policy on Arabic Language Provision in Early Childhood Education** (Phase 1, effective September 2025, for children aged four to six). Under this policy, children experience Arabic for a minimum of one-third of their weekly instructional time, including structured, Arabic teacher-led activities of no less than 200 to 300 minutes per week. The Kindergarten allocations below (280 minutes for Pre-K and KG1; 310 minutes for KG2) meet and exceed this benchmark. Teachers of Arabic are registered in the KHDA system, hold the qualifications required by KHDA, and no teacher of Arabic is responsible for more than 75 registered children or more than three classes.

Grade Level	Weekly Instructional Time
Pre-K & KG1	280 minutes
KG2	310 minutes

Islamic Education

Islamic Education is provided to all Muslim students in Kindergarten, with a focus on foundational teachings and values. The weekly instructional time is allocated as follows:

Grade Level	Weekly Instructional Time
Pre-K & KG1	100 minutes

Grade Level	Weekly Instructional Time
KG2	130 minutes

For Muslim children aged four to six, Kindergarten Islamic Education also aligns with the **KHDA Guide for Implementing Islamic Education in Early Years Settings** and the underpinning MoE requirements. Islamic Education is planned, timetabled, delivered, assessed and documented as a **distinct, standalone subject**, separate from Arabic Language and Social Studies. It is provided for a minimum of 90 minutes per week within the regular school day — organized as either three weekly sessions of 30 minutes or two of 45 minutes — and is never delivered before or after normal hours. The Kindergarten allocations above (100 minutes for Pre-K and KG1; 130 minutes for KG2) meet and exceed this standalone requirement. Where Islamic Education is delivered in Arabic, this time may count towards the one-third Arabic exposure requirement only after the MoE minimum standalone Arabic instructional time has first been met in full.

Language of instruction and grouping follow children’s nationality as recorded in registration records: Islamic Education is delivered in Arabic for Arab Muslim children holding a passport from an Arab country, and in the school’s approved language of instruction for non-Arab Muslim children, with parents of non-Arab-passport children able to request the Arabic-language group at the school’s discretion. Arab and non-Arab Muslim children may be grouped in the same or separate rooms provided each group receives instruction in its designated language, and the implementation and grouping model is shared with KHDA and parents at the start of the year.

Teachers of Kindergarten Islamic Education are Muslim and hold specific KHDA approval for the subject — separate from, and in addition to, any Arabic approval — with both subjects reflected on the teacher’s Appointment Notice. They hold qualifications in an acceptable specialization and demonstrate suitability to teach the four-to-six age group through early years pedagogy. The school follows the MoE learning framework and outcomes for this age group, keeps teaching and assessment age-appropriate with adaptations for children of determination where relevant, and maintains evidence of implementation — weekly schedules, register-based target-group identification, academic plans and resources, and parent communication — for KHDA review. These requirements are implemented in line with the MoE/KHDA phased timeline, with full compliance from the 2026–27 academic year. Learning experiences are adapted to ensure equitable access for all children, including Children of Determination, through appropriate accommodations, visual supports, differentiated teaching and collaboration with the inclusion team, in line with the Dubai Inclusive Education Policy Framework.

UAE Social Studies

In Kindergarten, UAE Social Studies is not taught as a standalone subject but is fully integrated across all lessons and classroom activities. Key concepts of Emirati culture, heritage, and society are embedded daily through stories, discussions, cooperative play, daily routines, and learning centers, providing a meaningful and contextually relevant learning experience.

Assessment in Kindergarten is continuous, observation-based and developmentally appropriate. Teachers use Learning Ladders, observations, questioning, photographs, work samples and Atlas Rubicon to monitor children's progress and inform future planning. Parents are recognised as key partners in children's early language development through regular communication, home learning opportunities, Arabic reading experiences and participation in national and cultural events. Arabic learning takes place within language-rich environments that provide meaningful opportunities for speaking, listening, reading, writing and independent exploration.

Grades 1-12

From Grade 1 upwards, the MoE mandatory subjects are delivered in accordance and full compliance with the KHDA guidelines for MOE subjects.

Arabic Language

- **Arabic A (for Native Speakers):** In accordance with KHDA regulations, all native speakers carrying a passport from any of the 22 Arab League countries are required to enroll in Arabic A (Arabic as a First Language). This program is designed to develop a high level of proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Exemption from Arabic A may be granted on a case-by-case basis where it is determined there is sufficient cause through an official application from the school to the KHDA for approval. Until formal approval is received, the student must remain enrolled in the Arabic A program.
- **Arabic B (for Non-Native Speakers):** We offer Arabic B for non-native speakers, whose passports are not from Arab League countries. This program follows a competency-based approach, enabling students to progressively build their linguistic skills and gain a deeper cultural understanding of the Arabic world.

Islamic Education

Islamic Education across all phases is a compulsory subject for Muslim students. We recognize the importance of nurturing a strong religious and Islamic consciousness in our Muslim students. Our qualified and experienced Islamic Education Faculty offers students the opportunity to grow spiritually through modern pedagogy and role modeling of Islamic principles. While Arabic Language and Islamic Education are distinct subjects, ASCS NAS values them equally alongside other core academic subjects. Islamic Education is introduced from Pre-K, with a curriculum extending through Grade 12 that complies with KHDA guidelines for both Arab and non-Arab Muslims, using the UAE MoE curriculum. The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of Islamic teachings, focusing on six key learning areas: divine revelation, creed, Islamic values and morals, Islamic rulings and purposes, the biography of the Prophet (Seerah), and Islamic identity.

A significant emphasis is placed on teaching the Holy Qur'an, with students prepared through various programs to achieve high levels of proficiency in reading and reciting the Qur'an. This is further supported through our Quran Memorization program delivered as a standalone lesson across all grade levels. All students, regardless of their proficiency level, are

encouraged to participate in Qur'an competitions, providing them with opportunities to showcase their learning and deepen their connection to their faith.

UAE Social Studies and Moral Education

In Grades 1 and above, UAE Social Studies and Moral Education are taught as standalone subjects for all students. The curriculum for these subjects is aligned with the official Ministry of Education curriculum, with a focus on fostering national identity, civic values, and ethical development.

For Emirati and Arab Students:

- Social Studies is taught in accordance with MoE standards, with a focus on Arab and Islamic values, culture, and heritage.
- Emirati and Arab students are not placed in MSC classes designed for non-Arab students (Arabic B Students).
- These students receive Moral Education as a distinct subject, aligned with the official MoE Moral Education Curriculum, delivered in Arabic, and tailored to reinforce national identity, civic values, and ethical development.

For Arabic B Students:

- Non-Arab students are taught Moral Education as an integrated part of the MSC subject.
- The content is delivered in English or in the language of the school's licensed curriculum, making it accessible and appropriate for non-Arab learners.
- The curriculum is based on MSC framework standards, which include moral reasoning, community awareness, respect for others, and cultural appreciation.
- We ensure that non-Arab students receive comprehensive exposure to UAE values and societal expectations in a way that respects their cultural backgrounds.

Time Allocation (Grades 1-12)

The following table outlines the minimum weekly time allocation for the MoE mandatory subjects from Grade 1 to Grade 12, in compliance with KHDA requirements:

Subject	Grade 1-5	Grade 6-8	Grade 9	Grade 10-12
Arabic A	6 lessons/week	5 lessons/week	4 lessons/week	4 lessons/week

Subject	Grade 1-5	Grade 6-8	Grade 9	Grade 10-12
Arabic B	6 lessons/week	5 lessons/week	4 lessons/week	4 lessons/week

Subject	Grade 1-5	Grade 6-7	Grade 8	Grade 9-12
Islamic Education A (Arab Muslims)	3 lessons/week	3 lessons/week	2 lessons/week	2 lessons/week

Subject	Grade 1-5	Grade 6-7	Grade 8	Grade 9-12
Islamic Education B (For Arabic B Muslims)	3 lessons/week	3 lessons/week	2 lessons/week	2 lessons/week

Subject	Grade 1-5	Grade 6-8	Grade 9	Grade 10-12
UAE Social Studies	1 lesson/week	1 lesson/week	1 lesson/week	

Subject	Grade 1-5	Grade 6-8	Grade 9	Grade 10-12
Moral Education A	1 Lesson/week	1 Lesson/week	1 Lesson/week	1 Lesson/week

Subject	Grade 1-5	Grade 6-8	Grade 9	Grade 10-12
Moral, Social, and Cultural Studies (MSC) – For Arabic B students	2 Lessons/week	2 Lessons/week	2 Lessons/week	1 Lesson/week

Curriculum and Resources

ASCS Nad Al Sheba is committed to using the official UAE Ministry of Education curriculum and prescribed textbooks for all mandatory subjects. Any supplementary or enrichment learning resources used in the classroom must align with MoE guidelines and demonstrate due diligence and sensitivity to the culture and values of the UAE.

Assessment

Assessment of the MoE mandatory subjects will follow a constructivist approach, incorporating a variety of formative and summative assessment methods to monitor student progress and inform teaching and learning. This includes continuous assessment, observational methods, and standardized assessments as required by the KHDA and MoE. Assessment results will be used to provide students with developmental feedback and to ensure that all learners are meeting the required curriculum standards.

External assessments provides standardized assessments built based on the international standards for Arabic and Islamic and cover all the four skills for Arabic (Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking) and all the six elements of Islam (The Holy Qur'an and Hadeeth, Islamic values and Principles, Islamic law and Etiquettes, Seerah and Islamic figures, Faith and Identity and Belonging).

Teaching and Learning

Our teaching and learning approach for the MoE mandatory subjects is centered on providing a meaningful and engaging learning experience for all students. Teachers will employ a variety of pedagogical strategies, including inquiry-based learning, cooperative learning, and differentiation, to cater to the diverse needs of our students. The aim is to foster not only academic achievement but also a genuine interest and motivation to learn about the language, culture, and values of the UAE.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **School Leadership Team (SLT):** The SLT is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, ensuring compliance with all KHDA and MoE regulations, and providing the necessary resources and professional development for staff.
- **Teachers:** Teachers are responsible for planning and delivering high-quality, engaging lessons that are aligned with the MoE curriculum and this policy. They are also responsible for assessing student progress and providing differentiated support to meet the needs of all learners.
- **Parents:** Parents are encouraged to actively engage in their child's learning by reinforcing the use of Arabic at home, participating in school-based cultural events, and maintaining regular communication with the school.

KHDA and MoE Compliance

The time allocations in the tables above reflect the KHDA mandatory minimum requirements for private schools offering a curriculum other than the MoE curriculum, for the 2025–26 academic year. Where ASCS Nad Al Sheba delivers more than the minimum, this reflects the school’s commitment to strong outcomes in the mandatory subjects. Arabic for non-Arab speakers, standalone Social Studies and standalone MSC are optional at Grades 10–12 under the KHDA requirements; the school’s provision at these grades is set out in the tables above.

Teaching staff: All teachers of Islamic Education and Arabic hold the appropriate KHDA approval to teach these subjects and are registered in the KHDA system. In line with KHDA requirements, Arabic as a first language, Islamic Education and Social Studies are organized in separate classes for Arab and non-Arab students, and Standard Arabic is the main language of instruction for Islamic Education for Arabs and for Arabic as a first language.

Forward planning: The school monitors KHDA and MoE guidance for updates, including the phased federal increase in Arabic instructional time for the early years (40 minutes daily, rising to 60 minutes daily from the 2027–28 academic year), and adjusts provision and this policy accordingly.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Leadership Team, in consultation with the Arabic, Islamic Education, and Social Studies departments, to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. The next review date is June 2027.