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Admissions Policy

Rationale

Arcadia School aspires to be an inclusive, world-class primary and secondary school of choice where every student is happy, positive and thriving. The diversity of the student body is integral to the school and is reflected in the admissions policy. The school follows the English National Curriculum with an enriched curriculum providing for children's academic, pastoral, physical and social needs.

The Admissions department will enrol a child at any time of the year, subject to places available and application compliance with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) regulations and school policies. We aim for the admissions process to be a smooth-running and stress-free process for parents as well as an enjoyable experience for the student, including those children that are experiencing special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Guidelines

Age Cut-off for Year of Entry

With its focus on inclusion, Arcadia School uses the same cut-off dates for age as the English National Curriculum and follows the current year group the child has completed to promote them to the next year. The current year group takes priority over age with regard to their next year group to be promoted to, however, all children are assessed to ensure they are ready to enter the next year group. Therefore, from Year 3 upwards, we will follow on from the child's previous year group studied and support this with an assessment.

31st August - The child must be the appropriate age to join the year group on or before the 31st of August and pass their assessment as follows:

- 3 years old by 31st August = FS1
- 4 years old by 31st August = FS2
- 5 years old by 31st August = YR1
- 6 years old by 31st August = YR2

The 31st of August is an age cut-off date that is practised in the UK and a number of northern hemisphere countries as well as Dubai. In the case of an application for a child to enter a lower year group than their appropriate age cut-off year group due to various reasons agreed by the school and the parents, the parents must complete a "Demotion Form" from the KHDA once the child is enrolled to confirm that the parents agree for the child to enter a lower year group associated with 31st August cut-off. This is not common practice, but sometimes a necessity agreed upon between the school and parents.



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Documentation

All relevant information must be declared including any disciplinarys the child has gone through and any social, physical, medical or psychological problems the child has been through or is going through. If we learn that relevant information has not been declared, any offer of a place may be withdrawn, even if your child has already begun their schooling at Arcadia.

The initial documentation to submit is:

- An application form
- A passport or birth certificate copy of the student
- The latest school report in English

Once the child is enrolled, the following documentation must be submitted:

- A copy of their birth certificate in English
- A copy of their immunisation records
- A copy of their medical insurance card
- A copy of the parent's and child's visa
- A copy of the parent's and the child's Emirates ID
- A copy of the parent's passport
- A JPEG passport-style photo of the parents and the child

Transfer Certificate For Students enrolling from a school outside of Dubai

Government regulation requires a transfer certificate for all children from the child's current school from Year 2 upwards in order to facilitate the correct placement.

For students coming from the United Kingdom, Western Europe, Australia, Canada and the USA, the Transfer Certificate needs the school stamp and signature of the Head of School.

For students coming from any other country, the Transfer Certificate, in addition, must be attested by: The Ministry of Education* The Ministry of Foreign affairs* and The UAE Consulate [if no Consulate, then any other Arab country's embassy or consulate]* of the country which the student is leaving.

For Students coming from any GCC countries (Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia), the Transfer Certificate need only be attested by the Ministry of Education of that country.

Transfer Certificate For Students enrolling from another Dubai school

Government regulation requires a leaving certificate for all children from the child's current school from FS2 upwards in order to facilitate the correct placement. This should be requested from the school the child has left and usually, a charge will be implemented from that school of AED120 to process the leaving certificate.



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Important Note About The Transfer Certificate

Note that your child cannot start school until you have submitted the Transfer Certificate. Should the 'Transfer Certificate' be delayed for some reason, approval for your children to start at Arcadia without it can be obtained from the Principal and you then have 8 weeks in which time to submit it before we have to remove your children until the Transfer Certificate has been submitted.

'Students of Determination' Applications

Arcadia School and the UAE choose to view the attributes of children with disabilities as "Students of Determination" as a reflection of their strength of character, perseverance and courage. Arcadia School is an inclusive school that believes in the rights and access to equal opportunities for children with special education needs or disabilities.

Assessments will be undertaken by the Schools Inclusion Champion, a member of SLT or by a Middle Leader in the first instance. Where appropriate, a second assessment may be requested in order to gain further information about the needs of the child. In some instances, it may be appropriate to visit the child in their current setting. All children who may have additional support needs will be assessed by the Head of Inclusion and a meeting with their parents/careers will also be held.

When assessing children with additional support needs, we urge parents to support the application by providing as much information available, such as any specialist reports or documentation from a specialist service provider or any formal information from the child's previous school or educational establishment. A decision will be made within 48 working hours as to whether the child is successful in their application. The decision will be based on:

- Our ability to keep the child safe and ensure we meet their well-being needs.
- Whether his or her educational needs can be supported and met fully by our current resources of the school.
- Whether the child will be able to cope, feel safe and secure in the environment of the year group they are applying to.
- Whether the child will grow, progress and learn in the environment of the school and the year group they are applying to.

Arcadia School commits to the following:

- Students are not refused admission based only on their experience of SEND.
- Ensure students who experience SEND are given "sibling priority" for admission.
- A student that experiences SEND is guaranteed to receive a quality education.
- Students who experience SEND will be supported to participate in the process of learning as they develop their potential and build relationships with their peers, through social interaction in age-appropriate common learning environments.



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- Ensure students who experience SEND will be provided with the support and curricular modifications required to enable equitable access to educational opportunities. Appropriate priority will be given to the development of each student's potential, including meaningful participation in the learning process, with peers in the common learning environment
- Arcadia School promotes the principle of equity for students who experience SEND
- Arcadia School has established appropriate processes and mechanisms to monitor and ensure compliance with the requirements of The Dubai Inclusive Education Policy Framework.

Should the school deny any admission based on the inability to meet an applicant's needs, this will be reported to the KHDA via the appropriate channels.

English Language Support

In the case of children who are applying with little or no English, we try where possible to have the child assessed by the Head of the EAL (English as an additional language) department. We may use a translator, be that the child's parent, friend or an English tutor. If the child is successful and enrolled into the appropriate year group, the Head of the EAL department will support the child in developing English language skills (the number of sessions required will depend upon the needs of the individual child). The Head of the EAL department will also guide the class teacher and Learning Support Assistants on tools and programs to develop an individual education plan for the child, depending on his or her needs.

Touring the School

Following an initial enquiry, it is recommended that parents tour the school to ensure it is the type of school and environment that they wish their child to attend. We further recommend that parents develop and prepare their own list of "must-haves" (location, price, class size, teacher qualification, enrichment programmes, curriculum, etc) when looking for a school. This will ensure that if Arcadia is chosen, parents are prepared to commit to the next phase of enrollment.

Assessment

Parents are required to provide the following:

- An application form
- A passport or birth certificate copy for the child
- A recent school or nursery report

Parents may then book a one-to-one assessment which is undertaken by a teacher based in the school. The assessment fee is AED 525 which must be paid prior to the assessment taking place. Assessment days vary and an appropriate day and the exact time will be agreed upon with the parent.





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An invitation for an assessment is not guaranteed for all applicants and depends on the anticipated availability of places beyond siblings, both current and new and Arcadia staff children.

Assessments for FS1 to Year 1

These assessments will be for a duration of 20 minutes to half an hour and are based in a purpose-designed and age-appropriate learning space within the school. There are various age-appropriate learning resources to ensure the child is instantly engaged and interested in playing. The teacher who is the assessor prefers to have the child on their own in the room, but if they are nervous and shy and insist on a parent being there, we are happy for this to occur.

The teacher will observe behaviour, fine and gross motor skills, the child's direction and balance, their eye contact and make a full report on all these aspects. Once the child is relaxed, the teacher will talk and play with them, observing eye contact, oracy, literacy and number skills. All of these areas will be checked against the child's age-appropriate development levels. This provides important baseline information, (should the enrollment be successful) for the child's future teacher, to be prepared for the entry of the child into class.

We require children to be toilet trained before starting school.

Assessments for Years 2 to 6

These assessments will be for a duration of 30 minutes to 1 hour. The child will be given an age-appropriate paper or online test in English and Maths and the test will be invigilated by a teacher. During the assessment, the teacher is there to support and guide the child in their literacy and mathematics and at the same time, the teacher will develop a relationship with the child, helping to form a base description of the child's behaviour, personality and enthusiasm to learn, as well as their level of academic performance.

Assessments for Years 7 to 10

For a child applying to Secondary school, we may require them to complete a CAT4 test which is the UK's most widely used test of reasoning abilities and measures verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning.

International Assessments

Children living outside the UAE can be assessed remotely, subject to certain criteria and the child's current school being prepared to invigilate the assessment. Usually, the child's teacher or the Admissions department are the best people to approach. A contact in their current school would receive the login details from Arcadia and confirm with Arcadia once the child has completed the assessment.

All documentation, such as visa copy, Emirates ID copy and medical insurance card, must be submitted for the child before joining the school.



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Results

The results of the assessment are usually provided to parents on the day of the assessment or within 24 hours. Results for an online assessment and test are usually provided within 48 hours after all aspects of the assessment are complete.

Should a child not be offered a place, parents will be given clear reasons why and a suggested action plan on what should be the next steps for the child.

Accepting an Offer and Enrolling a Child

Once parents have received an offer letter from the school and they want to enrol, the Admissions department will be clear with parents if there are limited seats left and will guide parents so as not to lose the seat being offered. Naturally, if Arcadia School is the parent's school of choice, it is advisable to enrol immediately. To do this, parents are required to sign the offer letter and pay a deposit of AED4,000 which is subsequently deducted from the school fees once the child commences school. As soon as the deposit is received by the school, the seat is reserved. ***It should be noted that the deposit is non-refundable.***

Arcadia School strives for 100% compliance with all Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) requirements, including registering and enrolling a student. Arcadia requires that all children join with a valid residency visa, an Emirates ID and a sponsoring parent/guardian. All parents must sign the school contract by the required deadline from the KHDA.

Enrolling a Child for a Future Year Group

Arcadia School will reserve a place for a child in a future year group. Parents can submit the child's birth certificate or passport copy, an application form and pay AED4,000 at which point the seat will then be conditionally held for the child subject to successful assessment outcomes. The assessment is usually conducted at the beginning of the year in which the child is due to join the school. ***The AED4,000 is only refundable if the child does not pass the assessment, or the family moves to another country or Emirate permanently and can show evidence of that. For any other reason - it is not refundable.***

Parents/Guardians who accept places at Arcadia for their child agree to the acceptance of all school procedures, rules and policies that the school enforces. Proven and intentional breaches of the school's policies by the student, may result in sanctions being imposed on the student, including possible suspension from the school.

Changing the admission year or date that your children is enrolled

Due to unforeseen circumstances, you may decide to roll over the admission of your child to another term or academic year. This is possible pending availability of the seat and only if you inform the Admissions team before the date of the child's original admission date. **Only one rollover is allowed.** After this, no further date change of admission is permitted and your deposit will not be refunded.



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Scholarships

If a child enrolls within the 2022/23 academic year for FS1 in the current year or future years, he or she is guaranteed that 25% of the school fees will be subsidised for the first year, reducing to a 15% discount in FS2 and locked in for life thereafter.

If a child enrolls within the 2022/23 academic year for FS2-Y2 in the current year or future years, he or she is guaranteed that 15% of the school fees will be subsidised for life.

If a child enrolls within the 2022/23 academic year for Years 3 to 6 in the current year, he or she is guaranteed that 12.5% of the school fees will be subsidised up to and including Year 13.

If a child enrolls within the 2022/23 academic year for Years 7 to 10 in the current year or future years, he or she is guaranteed that 15% of the school fees will be subsidised for life.

We also offer Principal Pioneer Scholarships that subsidise the school tuition fees by up to 50% for various disciplines of excellence from Years 7-10.

Re-registration of an existing student

A student does not automatically move up to the next year group. Existing families have the right to reserve a place in the school for the following year by making a re-registration payment of AED2000 by the date specified by the school. Places not covered by this payment will not be guaranteed a place in their specified year group and will not be listed on the class lists for the following year.

Withdrawal of an existing student

Parents must inform the school in writing when withdrawing their child and complete a 'withdrawal form'. Should the parent need a 'leaving/transfer certificate', this is to be requested by the parent and will be prepared for the family in a timely manner should all other withdrawal procedures be completed including all library books returned, any outstanding invoices paid in full and security IDs returned.

School fees can be paid on a monthly basis, but when enrolling your child you are committing to the term for your child's seat and education in the school, therefore, this reflects on the refund you receive if withdrawing midterm. A student withdrawing within 2 weeks of attendance of the term commencing has to pay 1 month's fees, a student withdrawing from 2 weeks and within 4 weeks of attendance of a term commencing must pay 2 months' fees and a student withdrawing after attending 4 weeks or more of the term owes the school the full term's fees.

The Admissions procedure as outlined above is applied fairly to all candidates for entry into Arcadia School.

*As per Standard 2 of the "Dubai Inclusive Education Policy Framework."



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