



Prospectus

2017 | 2018





DOHA ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL

Learning Together • High Expectations • Celebrating Success

Headteacher's Welcome:

Doha English Speaking School (DESS) is an outstanding British Embassy sponsored primary school where seven hundred children aged 3-11 reach their full potential academically and beyond. The children's academic results are significantly above those demonstrated in the UK national average statistics and their sporting achievements are also outstanding. Our wide range of extra curricular activities help our children to become well rounded individuals but most importantly our children are happy and confident individuals who are a joy to work with.

We are extremely proud that during our recent inspection by Penta International our school was awarded the highest grading of 'Outstanding'. The grading allows DESS to be easily compared with other UK and overseas independent schools and students at the end of Year 6 leave DESS well-prepared for some of the prestigious UK independent schools, grammar schools and local schools they then go on to attend.

At DESS we are committed to:

- A safe and happy environment, as a basis for all of our school community to engage in learning.
- A vision of progress through change, while ensuring that we are well organised and making each day purposeful and worthwhile for our school community.
- Teams of people working together for the benefit of each individual child.

We deliver an education to our children through the English National Curriculum, a world renowned education system which will allow your child to continue into the British education system whether that be secondary education or through a seamless transition back to the U.K. With virtually all of our teachers being British trained, mostly British students and facilities and grounds of the highest quality, we have a basis for learning which remind our students and parents of a traditional British school, whilst still having an international feel.

We are very proud of our history in Qatar and many of our students keep in touch with us as Alumni which is remarkable for a primary school and a reflection of the fondness they feel for Doha English Speaking School.

If you think that your child would enjoy Doha English Speaking School, please book a visit with us. It is only when you experience our school first hand that you get a flavor of what we have to offer.

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A Community School

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Our History

With over forty years of history, DESS is proud to be one of the longest established schools in Qatar.

Our story began in 1971 when an English speaking primary school catering for British children was first built. The junior school was opened in February 1979 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, the present Emir's father. DESS has enjoyed visits from other members of the British Royal Family, including Diana, Princess of Wales.

The discovery and subsequent exploitation of a large gas field on its north coast has led to significant economic progress in Qatar in recent years. This in turn has led to a rapid expansion of Doha English Speaking School, both in terms of pupil numbers and overall facilities.

We have strong ties with our local community and have a special relationship with the British Embassy who we are sponsored by.

Many of our UK qualified teachers have been teaching at DESS for many years and we have strong ties with our Alumni community who hold dear their memories of attending DESS and keep in close contact with us, something which is remarkable for a primary school.

DESS is in the process of expanding it's facilities to provide a 'state of the art' new building where children will be educated to Year 7 from 2018 and then Year 8 from 2019. It is hoped that this facility will be opened in September 2018, subject to regulatory approvals.

DESS is proud to be sponsored by two prestigious oil companies in the region, ExxonMobil and Occidental Petroleum, Qatar.



Our Facilities

DESS benefits from 'state of the art' facilities on a campus which is surrounded by green trees and land where students can learn and play.

All classrooms have full network access, each benefiting from an interactive television allowing children to present their work from and for teacher use during lessons.

An exceptional library dominates part of the school with over seventeen thousand books and our beautiful grounds and fantastic facilities make it a pleasure for children to take part in sport at DESS.

We also offer two fully equipped gymnasias, a covered swimming pool, a grass pitch and



hard courts. Also on offer for children to enjoy is a theatre (as part of the multi-purpose hall), dedicated music and computing suite, a cookery room and an art/design technology room.

One of our most recent additions to the outside areas of our campus is our garden which is constructed from recycled material, uses sustainable energy and has a weather station collecting live data and a water fountain, an area where children can relax or learn about the environment and sustainability.

In summary our facilities consist of:

- Adventure playground
- Basketball/netball courts
- Cookery room
- Dedicated computing suite
- Dedicated music suite
- Environmental Garden
- Grass football pitch
- Large shaded playground
- Library
- Swimming pool (20m)
- Tennis courts
- Theatre
- Two equipped gymnasias

Our Curriculum

DESS delivers the English National Curriculum through UK qualified teachers. The curriculum is broad and balanced and provides children with development in academic, moral, physical, creative, personal and social development of every child.

The English National Curriculum is split into three different stages, according to a child's age, Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Foundation Stage 1 & 2

Each child is taken through the six areas of learning which form the English National Curriculum Framework by being encouraged to learn through fun activities such as play and exploration. Physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, maths, understanding the world and expressive arts and design are all taught at this stage of the child's development.



Years 1-6

Children develop an all-round education based on the English National Curriculum and are taught core subjects (Maths, English and Reading) as well as specialist subjects in Computing, Science, PE, and Languages. The curriculum has been adapted to deliver Arabic to every child at this level.

School trips and extra-curricular activities as well as roles in the School Council, technical lead roles and the DESS Environmental Group all add to a child's development at this stage of their lives. The subjects taught at this level include Art, Design and Technology, Maths, English, Reading, Arabic, French, Computing, Science, Music, PE, History, Geography, Drama, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).



Extra -Curricular Activities

Children can choose from a wide range including chess; cricket; drama; pottery; sailing; yoga; School Council; environmental; swimming; basketball; athletics; choir; dance; taekwondo; gymnastics; tennis; science; and individual instrumental lessons.

Sport at DESS



DESS are well equipped to deliver a diverse physical education programme to its students. Children of all ages are encouraged to take part in lessons as well as national and international competitions where children have the opportunity to travel abroad.

DESS has a sporting prowess to be proud of having come third in the British Schools of Middle East games last year, as well as winning many national competitions.

For children keen on winter sports we offer an annual skiing trip to Europe for our year 5 and 6 children and an outward bound course in the lower Gulf region.

Technology at DESS

Technology is part of everyday learning at DESS and is used to enhance the curriculum programme. iPads are used by our pupils from years 1-6. Our interactive classrooms encourage children to become familiar with technology from an early age and are used to present to our pupils. Computing is a core subject taught at DESS, a syllabus complemented by a well equipped, dedicated computing suite.



Music at DESS



DESS offers music lessons across all year groups and opportunities in music outside of school hours. During school hours, music is a core subject taught to every child where pupils learn music theory, sing and play instruments as part of their lessons. Pupils have the opportunity to take part in instrumental lessons inside and outside of school hours.

Our choir is well known throughout the country, performing at high profile events at the British Embassy, other local events and national competitions. Last year our choir was the first international choir to perform at 'Choirfest Middle East'.

Drama at DESS

We think it's important for children to have the opportunity to express themselves outside of the classroom in a fun environment.

DESS is fortunate to have a fully equipped stage with lighting and sound equipment. Year 6 and Foundation Stage children perform imaginative and creative fully choreographed musical productions. Children who are keen on amateur dramatics can also attend an extra-curricular activity at DESS and work towards LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) qualifications.



Pastoral Care

It is of utmost importance that your child is happy at school and at Doha English Speaking School we foster a secure and nurturing environment for your children to learn within. We firmly believe that happy children learn better and believe that a child happy in their learning environment helps them to reach their full potential.

At DESS we work to create an environment where children have respect and care for others, make friendships and understand that expectations of behaviour are high. There are opportunities for children to make friends across the school in their class and year groups, sports teams, extra curricular activities and other opportunities that offer children leadership roles such as the DESS School Council.



Health and well-being is a priority at DESS. We have a dedicated nurse and a full-time Health and Safety Officer who is responsible for all aspects of health and safety at the school. Online safety is also very important, we raise awareness of online safety at school with both parents and children. DESS also provides lessons in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) as part of the core curriculum. Lessons in which children learn important social life skills such as what it means to be a good friend and how to take care of their health and their bodies.

We also offer something very unique at DESS, a dedicated mentor for parents and children to speak with. Our dedicated mentor is called the 'Learning Mentor' and she provides a link between the school and home, offering guidance on aspects which expats in particular may find challenging such as transitioning between countries or schools.

Our Contact Details

We would be delighted to welcome you to DESS to see our school in person. If you would like to visit or have any enquiries you can contact our Registrar, Mrs Lara Kirkpatrick, on the details below.

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