



NORD ANGLIA
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI

2024-2025

FOUNDATION STAGE PARENT HANDBOOK



www.nasabudhabi.ae



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PARENT HANDBOOK

2024 – 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Liam Cullinan | Principal

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend a warm welcome to our esteemed school community. As we begin this new chapter together, I am delighted to present to you the Nord Anglia International School Abu Dhabi Student and Parent Handbook. This comprehensive guide embodies our commitment to fostering a nurturing, inspiring, and intellectually stimulating environment where every student can flourish and succeed.

At Nord Anglia International School Abu Dhabi, we believe in empowering students to become global citizens, lifelong learners, and compassionate leaders. Our exceptional educational programs, dedicated staff, and state-of-the-art facilities create an unparalleled learning experience that transcends boundaries and cultivates a love for knowledge.

The Handbook Aims to Provide:

Academic Programs: Explore our rigorous and dynamic curriculum designed to challenge and engage students at every stage of their educational journey. Learn about our diverse subject offerings, enrichment activities, and personalized learning pathways.

School Values and Expectations: Familiarize yourselves with our core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, and kindness. These principles form the foundation of our school community and inspire positive interactions among students, parents, and staff.

Student Support Services: Understand the various resources available to support your child's academic, social, and emotional well-being. Our dedicated team of counselors and learning support specialists is committed to nurturing each student's unique strengths and needs.

Parent and School Partnership: Learn about the vital role parents play in their child's education and discover ways to actively engage with our school community. We believe that strong parent-school collaboration is essential for a student's success.

School Policies and Procedures: Become familiar with our school's guidelines, policies, and procedures to ensure a safe, harmonious, and inclusive learning environment for all.

This Handbook is more than just a compilation of rules and guidelines; it represents the shared aspirations and values of our community. Together, we create an environment where academic achievements are celebrated, friendships are formed, and memories are cherished for a lifetime.

To our students, I encourage you to embrace curiosity, challenge yourselves, and strive for excellence in all that you do. Remember that you are part of a global community that celebrates diversity and encourages you to make a positive impact in the world.

To our parents, thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We value your partnership and look forward to working together to nurture and support your child's growth and development.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I invite each member of our Nord Anglia International School Abu Dhabi family to contribute to the spirit of collaboration, respect, and excellence that defines us.

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF PRIMARY



Michael Connor | Head of Primary

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to you and your child to Nord Anglia International School, Abu Dhabi. As the Head of Primary, I am thrilled to be part of this remarkable educational journey that lies ahead for your little one.

At Nord Anglia International School, we strive to provide an exceptional learning environment that nurtures every child's unique abilities,

fosters their curiosity, and inspires them to become lifelong learners. We believe in a holistic approach to education, focusing not only on academic excellence but also on the social, emotional, and physical well-being of our students.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a crucial stage in your child's educational journey, where they will embark on their first steps

towards a love of learning. Our highly skilled and dedicated team of educators are committed to creating a safe, stimulating, and inclusive atmosphere where your child can thrive, explore, and develop essential skills.

Our EYFS curriculum recognises the importance of play-based learning, active engagement, and the power of positive relationships. Through a blend of structured activities and child-led

exploration, we encourage independent thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and a sense of wonder.

Our curriculum is designed to provide a balanced mix of academic, personal, and social development, ensuring that each child receives a well-rounded education. Our EYFS program incorporates a range of subjects and areas of learning, including literacy, numeracy, physical development, expressive arts, and

At Nord Anglia International School, we believe that parents are key partners in a child's education. We value your input, insights, and support as we work together to create a nurturing and inspiring learning environment. We encourage open communication and invite you to actively engage in your child's educational journey through regular parent-teacher meetings, workshops, events, and school activities.

As we embark on this new academic year, I assure you that the safety and well-being of our students remain our top priority. We have implemented stringent health and safety measures to ensure a secure and conducive learning environment, adhering to local and international guidelines. Your child's happiness, security, and growth are at the heart of everything we do.

I extend an invitation to all parents to attend our upcoming orientation sessions, where we will provide detailed information about our EYFS program, curriculum, and school policies. This will also be an excellent opportunity to meet our dedicated teaching team, who are excited to embark on this journey with your child.

Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to you and your child to Nord Anglia International School, Abu Dhabi. We look forward to a year filled with incredible learning experiences, joy, and achievements. Together, let us nurture the potential within each child, preparing them for a future of endless possibilities.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our school office. Thank you for choosing Nord Anglia International School, Abu Dhabi, as your partner in education.

Warmest regards,
Michael Connor



WELCOME FROM THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF EARLY YEARS



Gemma Brown | Assistant Head of Early Years

A warm welcome to Nord Anglia International School Abu Dhabi. As the Head of Foundation Stage, I am delighted to welcome you and your children to our school community.

At Nord Anglia Abu Dhabi, we believe that every child should have the opportunity to explore their environment and learn through play in a setting tailored to their individual needs. We are committed to igniting curiosity and providing a safe and secure environment where your children can thrive. We also value your role as parents and encourage your contributions to their learning journey.

Our approach focuses on holistic development, building resilience and independence. We encourage children to lead their own learning journeys, discovering and exploring their interests at their own pace. Our goal is to instill a lifelong love of learning in every child.

Learning through play is at the heart of everything we do. We offer numerous opportunities for children to develop extracurricular interests that are carefully planned to complement the curriculum, all within a nurturing environment.

We look forward to a wonderful year of growth and discovery.

Warm regards,
Gemma Brown







August

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29	30					

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November

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December

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30	31					

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May

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June

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29	30					

July

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27	28	29	30	31		



WELCOME TO EARLY YEARS

Settling into Early Years is an important time for young children and their families. For some children, this may be the first time they are left with another person and often the first time they are in a large environment. At Nord Anglia International School Abu Dhabi, we aim to make this process as smooth as possible. All children and families are unique, and their individual needs are taken into account throughout the settling-in process.

We thoroughly discuss the needs of each child with their family and ensure individual arrangements are agreed upon for each child. When your child arrives at NAS Abu Dhabi, they will participate in an exclusive meeting with you and their class teacher.

This is an opportunity to discuss in detail the needs of your child to ensure their transition into school is seamless and to give your child the opportunity to spend time in their new environment with their teacher and teaching assistants.

This session is short but valuable, designed to support your child during their transition period to ensure they feel happy and secure before starting their sessions. Your child's class teacher will share further details regarding their stay-and-play settling-in sessions,

FIRST WEEK IN NURSERY

On your child's first date parents should:

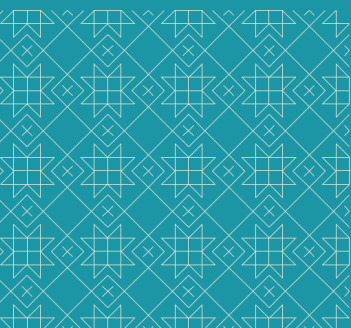
- Arrive at the time stated by your class teacher.

Monday 26th Aug	Tuesday 27th Aug	Wednesday 28th Aug	Thursday 29th Aug	Friday 30th Aug
1-1 Meet the teacher session	1-1 Meet the teacher session	8:30 am – 9:30 am 1 hour visit – Group A 10:00 am – 11:00 am 1 hour visit – Group B	8:30 am – 9:30 am 1 hour visit – Group A 10:00 am – 11:00 am 1 hour visit – Group B	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole Class

- Parents are invited to drop their child off at the door of the classroom, where a teacher will support you and help your child to feel settled. We understand that it can be quite difficult to leave as you would like to comfort and help your child settle.

A smooth, trusting departure needs to be made by the parents at this moment.

- Please ensure a prompt collection at your stated time. This will help to ensure the transition process is smooth and will also help to support the children in their trust and understanding of routines.
- We will follow the same structure for the first week of school. Please talk to the class teacher in regards to the settling in routines, we hope that by working with parents/carers we can provide the best possible start for your child's entry into nursery, laying firm foundations for the future.



SECOND WEEK IN NURSERY

We will continue our transition into week 2 with all children in Nursery coming into school from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Monday 2nd Sept	Tuesday 3rd Sept	Wednesday 4th Sept	Thursday 5th Sept	Friday 6th Sept
8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class

In week 3 children will be in school full time. We will also start our specialist lessons. You will receive an introduction email from the specialist teachers before these begin.

- #ME (Mindfulness Enrichment) time will start from 7:30 am – 8:15 am
- EAP (Enrichment Afternoon Programme) 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
- Wrap around care 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

WEEK 1 AND 2 IN RECEPTION



On your child's start date please note the following:

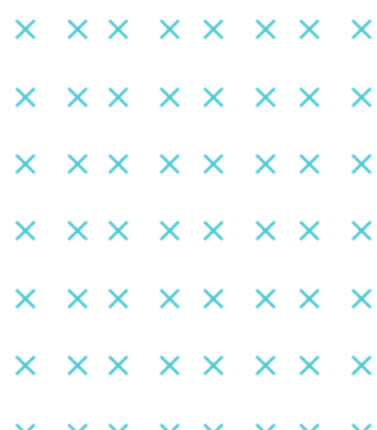
- Doors open at 8:30 am during week 1 & 2.
- Parents who are registered for drop off will be invited to drop their child off at the door of the classroom, where a teacher will support you and help your child to feel settled. We understand that it can be quite difficult to leave as you would like to comfort and help your child settle. A smooth, trusting departure needs to be made by the parents at this moment.

Week 1

	Monday 26th August	Tuesday 27th August	Wednesday 28th August	Thursday 29th August	Friday 30th August
FS1	1-1 Meet the teacher session	1-1 Meet the teacher session	8:30 am – 9:30 am 1 hour visit – Group A 10:00 am – 11:00 am 1 hour visit – Group B	8:30 am – 9:30 am 1 hour visit – Group A 10:00 am – 11:00 am 1 hour visit – Group B	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole Class
FS 2	1-1 Meet the teacher session	1-1 Meet the teacher session	8:30 am – 11:00 am Whole class	8:30 am – 11:00 am Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole Class

Week 2

	Monday 2nd September	Tuesday 3rd September	Wednesday 4th September	Thursday 5th September	Friday 6th Sep- tember
FS1	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class
FS 2	8:30 am – 2:30 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 2:30 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 2:30 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 2:30 pm Whole class	8:30 am – 12:00 pm Whole class



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

It is important to arrive and collect on time as young children thrive on routine. If you will be unavoidably late picking up – please telephone our EYFS reception so that we can explain this to your child. If someone other than yourself or a regular person that we have met before is picking up, then you must inform the class teacher prior to this.

We ask that you ensure your child makes full and regular use of the place offered to them. If for any reason your child will not be able to attend, for example due to illness, or holiday please complete the form on the school Medical section named 'Guidance on Sickness Exclusion' and email the class teacher. In the event of unexplained absences, decisions may have to be made to withdraw a child's place if it is not being used, so that it may be offered to another child.

- Parents will need to choose a maximum of 3 key people for drop off and collection for each child. This will help us to ensure the children's safety and well-being is maintained.

- NAS Abu Dhabi has an open door policy and parents are encouraged to reach out to their class teachers should they have any worries or concerns.

REPORTING

- You will be invited to link yourself to your child's NAS Tapestry account. This is a platform that directly links you to your child's learning journal. Information and observations will be shared with you on a weekly basis. You can follow the progress of your child as well as all the wonderful learning that is taking place.
- We openly welcome parents to also share learning from home on this platform. There will be more information on how to use this account at the start of the school year.
- There will be a formal written report at the end of the academic year.

PARENT / TEACHER MEETING

- Nursery & Reception – Throughout the course of the year you will be invited to regular parent/teacher meetings. (A minimum of 4) These meetings last 15 minutes. These meetings are an excellent way of finding out about your child's progress towards the Early Learning Goals and an opportunity to ask any questions that you have.
- Specialists – There will be scheduled opportunities throughout the year for parents to meet with specialist teachers to discuss their child's progress in these areas.





EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

Your child's first experience at school is crucial to how they will approach learning for the rest of their life.

The Early Years setting at Nord Anglia International School Abu Dhabi is committed to ensuring that your child develops into a creative, happy, confident and independent lifelong learner.

All children arrive with different attributes and needs; therefore personalised learning is at the heart of our provision. The way that your child engages with other people and their environment – active learning (Motivation), creative and critical thinking (Thinking) and playing and exploring (Engagement) – underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner. We provide the children with

the tools to develop their learning characteristics, which will lay the foundations for the skills they will need in years to come.

We encourage children to have positive attitudes, form positive relationships and believe in themselves. If children can learn to 'have a go', learn from mistakes and try again, they will succeed in their future learning, becoming resilient risk takers. When children are provided with open ended opportunities where there are no right and wrong answers they learn to think creatively, lead their own learning and become independent learners.

The curriculum is based on the new UK Early Years Foundation

A Stage Curriculum incorporated with additional worldwide strategies such as the Nord Anglia Learner Ambitions to make sure your child is getting the best possible education. We ensure that there is a balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning throughout the day, which take place indoors and outdoors. Your child will experience practical play-based activities to ensure they reach their full potential. It is our priority that all children have the time to learn, play, make friends and grow.

The EYFS curriculum is based around 7 areas of learning, each area is of equal importance and is planned following the interests of the child in a purposeful and creative way.

The three prime areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development – to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.
- Physical Development – to develop co-ordination, control and movement. To understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.
- Communication and Language – to develop confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

The four specific areas are:

- English – to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write.
- Mathematics – to develop skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.
- Understanding the World – to make sense of the physical world and the community.
- Expressive Arts and Design – to express and explore a wide range of media and materials. To share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

DAILY ROUTINES

Children and Parents are asked to arrive at their stated times to ensure a smooth transition and that no additional persons are remaining in the building.

The children will be greeted at the door by teachers and teaching assistants.

The child's first task is to self-register and independently arrange their items of snack and lunch. Children are then able to choose where they would like to learn within the classroom or in the outdoor environment.



DAILY ROUTINES

NURSERY TIMETABLE

EY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:15 am – 08:30 am	SELF-REGISTRATION /CHILD-INITIATED LEARNING				
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group
	P.E 9:45 am – 10:15 am	Arabic 9:15 am – 9:45 am		Library 9:00 am – 9:30 am	
	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group
		Performing Arts 11:00 am –11:30 am	Languages 11:30 am—12:00 am		
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	LUNCH				
12:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	STORY				
2:30 pm	Home time / EAPs	Home time / EAPs	Home time / EAPs	Home time / EAPs	
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Wrap Around Care **	Wrap Around Care **	Wrap Around Care **	Wrap Around Care **	

* Optional pick up available at 13:30

** Optional Care



DAILY ROUTINES

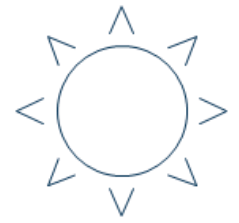
RECEPTION TIMETABLE

EY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
8:15 am – 8:30 am	SELF-REGISTRATION /CHILD-INITIATED LEARNING					
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Math	Math	PE Swimming	Guided Reading	Child Initiated Learning/ Target Focus Group	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Arabic	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Math	9:30 am PE		
9:30 am – 11:30 am	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group		Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Library
					10:30 am Arabic	Languages
					Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group	Child Initiated Learning/Target Focus Group
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Performing Arts		Languages			
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics		
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm	LUNCH					
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	STORY					
1:45 pm –2:30 pm	Child Initiated Learning	Child Initiated Learning	Child Initiated Learning	Child Initiated Learning		
2:30 pm	Home Time EAP’s	Home Time EAP’s	Home Time EAP’s	Home Time EAP’s		
15:30—5pm	Wrap Around Care **	Wrap Around Care **	Wrap Around Care **	Wrap Around Care **		

* Optional pick up available at 13:30

** Optional Care

HOW WE LEARN IN EYFS



We believe that children learn best through play. They are encouraged to join in all activities, to be independent and to make choices. We offer a rich and varied curriculum in a safe, but inspiring environment. We understand that children develop at their own pace, but with encouragement and opportunity will maximize their potential. Children learn best when they are happy, safe and secure. The staff are there to guide and teach and will get to know you and your child well during their time at NAS Abu Dhabi.

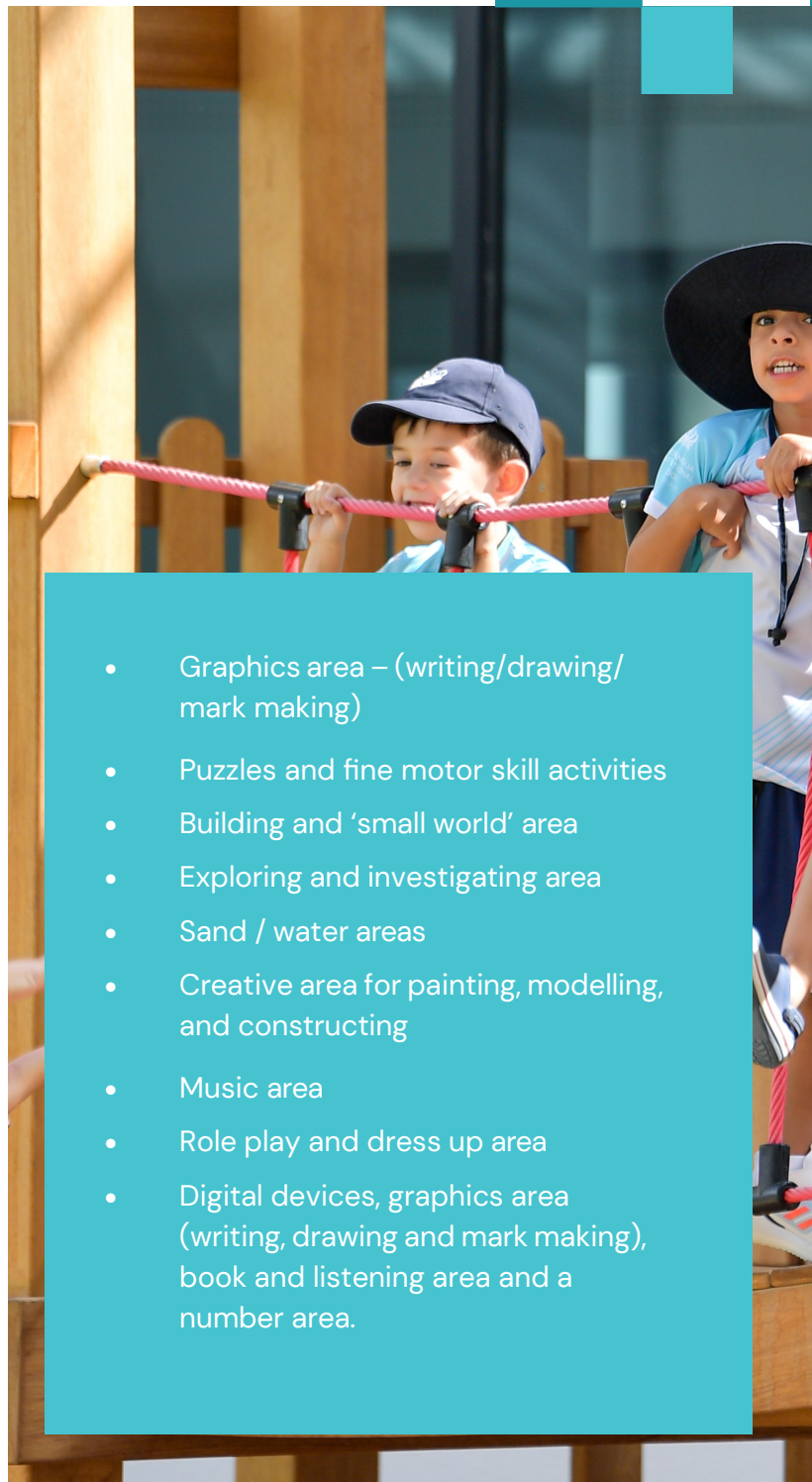
We have a number of curriculum documents, statements and policies all available for you to see. Please access these through the NAS Abu Dhabi App and navigate to the EYFS Tab.

Our environment is planned to give children the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking and learning across all areas of the curriculum. Although the resources in each area tend to reflect a particular curricular area, they are planned together enabling children to consolidate and apply their learning in a way that makes sense to them.

Each area is monitored by the adults in the environment and then teachers plan specific learning experiences that are appropriate to the needs of the children. They work with groups and individuals to meet each child's specific needs.

Our environment consists of several areas. Each area offers a different variety of learning experiences for our children.

- Graphics area – (writing/drawing/ mark making)
- Puzzles and fine motor skill activities
- Building and 'small world' area
- Exploring and investigating area
- Sand / water areas
- Creative area for painting, modelling, and constructing
- Music area
- Role play and dress up area
- Digital devices, graphics area (writing, drawing and mark making), book and listening area and a number area.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

The outdoors is the very best place for our children to practice and master emerging physical skills. It is in the outdoors that children can fully and freely experience motor skills like running, leaping, and jumping. It is also the most appropriate area for the practice of ball-handling skills, like throwing and catching. The outdoors has something more to offer than just physical benefits.

The outdoors also supports cognitive and social / emotional development. Outside, children are more likely to invent games. As they do, they're able to express themselves and learn about the world in their own way. They feel safe and in control, which promotes autonomy, decision-making, and organizational skills. Inventing rules for games (as preschoolers like to do) promotes an understanding of why rules are necessary.

All the resources are also available outside, as well as wheeled toys / vehicles, space for running and physical experiences, climbing frames and small equipment e.g. balls, hoops and rings.

The EYFS environment is continuously risk-assessed by the EYFS staff to ensure that it remains a safe place for the children to learn.

We adhere to a NO HAT-NO PLAY policy. The children must have a hat in school every day so they can access the outdoor area safely





SPECIALST SUBJECTS

- **World Languages Program —**
Throughout the year, children will be introduced to all four of our available languages: French, Spanish, Mandarin and German.

Two physical activity lessons each week

- 1 x 60 minutes swimming per week (training pool)
- 1 x 40 minutes PE per week

Language Immersion - FS1

- French, German, Mandarin and Spanish taught on a rotation
- 1 x 60 minutes per week

Language Program – FS2

- 1 x 60 minutes per week
- Students choose their preferred language (from Term 2)

Arabic

- 1 x 45 minutes per week

RECORDING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY AT NAS ABU DHABI

We will be using the Tapestry app to share what your child has been learning in school. This app allows teachers to document children's learning and track their progress throughout the year. Each child has their own journal and teachers will periodically add things to it, like photos, videos and drawing.

All the content is safe and secure, and the journals are only accessible by teacher and parents. The journals are not public on the web and information is never shared with third parties. More information will be shared as you start the academic year along with a parent workshop to help you

UNIFORM



Please ensure that every item of your child's school uniform and all other personal belongings are clearly labelled. Please also include a change of underwear and a spare set of clothes in your child's school bag. This can be left in their locker. Help your child to be independent by getting shoes that are easy to get on and take off.

- Blue Early Years polo top
- Blue elasticated shorts / skorts
- White socks
- Black shoes / trainers for PE sessions
- Nord Anglia International School blue cap or wide brim hat
- Nord Anglia International School swimming costume/trunks
- Nord Anglia International School swimming cap
- Winter uniform can include the NAS jumper or NAS fleece.
- No jewelry to be worn in EYFS. No nail varnish. Long hair tied back.
- Small NAS backpack / water bottle/ small snack box / lunch box
- NAS book bag



ALL UNIFORM ITEMS ARE
AVAILABLE AT ZAKS. A FEW
OF THE ITEMS WILL BE
AVAILABLE FROM THE
SCHOOL SHOP

SPECIALIST SESSIONS – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education provision your child will receive at NAS Abu Dhabi is truly exceptional. The curriculum has been carefully designed to enable all children to build a foundation of skills and confidence that will enhance their physical development and transition seamlessly to Key Stage 1.

Lessons are delivered by Physical Education specialist teachers who are passionate and experienced in working with Early Years children of all ability levels.

All parents will receive a 'Welcome' Email from their child's PE teacher. This teacher will remain consistent to each class so as to facilitate strong and trusting student-teacher relationships and enable progression to be tracked and monitored. This teacher will be responsible for writing Physical Education report comments and will be the first point of contact should you have any questions or concerns regarding PE.

Nursery classes will receive 1 PE session per week and Reception classes will receive 2 PE sessions per week.

NURSERY – To begin in Week 3.

RECEPTION – To begin in Week 2

PE land-based activities will take place outside during the cooler months, but will be brought inside during hotter months. Sports Days will take place during the cooler months to ensure that all children are able to participate. Parents are invited to come and watch their children at this event. The date of these will be communicated with parents via email as soon as they are confirmed.





WORLD LANGUAGES IN EARLY YEARS

Language learning is integral to the life of NAS Abu Dhabi and promoted as a key life skill for all. Learning a language broadens a child's understanding of other cultures, communities and countries in partnership with developing their communication and language skills to become true global citizens.

All children at NAS Abu Dhabi receive weekly lessons in Arabic and will also be involved in our language immersion program. Children will have the opportunity to learn our 4 key languages of Spanish, French, Mandarin and German.

Children in FS2 will get the opportunity to select their preferred language choice at the end of term 1.

As a prerequisite to learning a language, the children will learn the basics across all languages where it will be fed naturally throughout their day of play by their class teacher.

All language lessons are taught by specialist teachers and a variety of techniques and methods are used to actively engage children in their learning, which incorporates stories games and role play in a fun and enjoyable way.



COMMUNICATION

FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

Communication with parents and carers is very important to us. Your main point of contact will be with your child's teacher. A meet the teacher day will take place on 2nd September for FS1 and FS2 to allow you to meet your child's class teacher and learn more about our school and curriculum. We would highly encourage you to attend this meeting with your child, however if you are unable to attend, there will be opportunities to ask your child's teacher to have a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams, where they can allocate a set amount of time to answer any questions you may have

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENT

At the end of each week you will receive a 'weekly announcement' via your child's Tapestry account. This will tell you of the learning that has taken place in your child's classroom throughout the week.

TAPESTRY

The Tapestry app will be the main platform for sharing the children's learning.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year you will be invited in for a selection of virtual parent workshops. These will guide you through our ethos and vision in the Early Years unit at Nord Anglia. Workshops include, outdoor learning, assessment, EYFS curriculum, phonics, math's and languages.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected with NAS Abu Dhabi no matter where you are. Follow us on social media to keep informed of all latest events with lots of photos and videos in and about school.





NAS ABU DHABI MOBILE APP

The NAS Abu Dhabi Mobile App enables parents, students and staff to easily access school information and stay informed of what is happening in the school.

The App can be downloaded for free from the Apple Store for iOS (Nord Anglia International School Abu Dhabi) and for Android devices on Playstore (Nord Anglia Intl. School Abu Dhabi).

The NAS Abu Dhabi App features:

1. School calendar
(syncs with personal calendar)
2. Push notifications
3. Parent teacher meeting sign-up
Sports team match information and
confirmation of attendance feature
4. EAP (Enrichment Activity Programme)
sign-up
5. Photo and video gallery
6. Information on school events
Newsletters (weekly whole school and
sports)
7. Staff directories
8. Curriculum Resources
9. Payment Gateway
10. Survey pop-up function
11. Absence notification feature
12. Permission forms
13. About us/contact us
14. Reports
15. Food Nation pre-ordering
16. University Guidance
17. Social media and on-line links, Parents
Association information and volunteer
sign-up for events
18. Parent Essentials including uniform
information, bus service and daily
lunch menus







HEALTH AND WELLBEING

SCHOOL NURSE

In school, the nurse is the first point of contact in terms of the physical wellbeing of our students. This includes immunisations and other forms of preventative medicine (such as information on healthy eating).

The school nurse is also responsible for coordinating between all government bodies (the Ministry of Health), visiting physicians, health care providers and parents.

Where children need off-site (doctor or hospital) medical care, parents will be

contacted by the nurse to make the necessary arrangements.

When a student is taken ill in school, the nurse will assess them and decide on the best course of action. Students who are ill should not be sent to school.

Parents of children with special medical needs should meet with the nurse to discuss any special provision required. This includes chronic illness, congenital conditions or transient medical issues such as a broken leg.

The nurse can administer over the counter medication with consent from parents. Any medication to be administered during the school day has to be signed for by a parent at the clinic. No medication is to be self administered. This is done via the clinic.

It is very important that all parents complete the Medical and Immunisation Record and Consent Form prior to the start of school.

Parents are responsible for maintaining their correct contact information via the Parent App as this will be used to contact them in the event of any medical matters.

MEDICAL – CHILDREN ILLNESSES



Please inform us of the reason your child is absent from school and of any infectious illness so that we can inform parents/carers.

For guidance on exclusion from school or nursery due to sickness, please see the following:

Diarrhea & Vomiting Illness	Recommended period to be kept away from school	Comments
Diarrhea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhea or vomiting. 48 hrs Free from Fever or Fever reducing	Exclusion from swimming should be for 2 weeks following last episode of diarrhea. Exclusion applies to both adults and children.
Fever	Medication	
E. coli O157 VTEC	Exclusion is important for some children.	Exclusion applies to young children and those who may find hygiene practices difficult to adhere to. Exclusion from swimming should be for 2 weeks following last episode of diarrhea.
Typhoid*	Exclusion is important for some children.	Exclusion applies to young children and those who may find hygiene practices difficult to adhere to.
Shigella (Dysentery)	Exclusion may be necessary. Doctor will advise.	Exclusion from swimming should be for 2 weeks following last episode of diarrhea. Exclusion (if required) applies to young children and those who may find hygiene practices difficult to adhere to. Exclusion from swimming should be for 2 weeks following last episode of diarrhea.

Respiratory Infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school	Comments
'Flu' (Influenza)	Until recovered.	See vulnerable children.
Tuberculosis	Always consult with Doctor and local health board	Not usually spread from children. Requires prolonged, close contact for spread
Whooping cough (Pertussis)	5 days from commencing antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Preventable by vaccination. After treatment non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks. Contact tracing may be necessary.

Rashes	Recommended period to be kept away from school	Comments
Athletes foot	None.	Athletes' foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended.
Chickenpox	5 days from onset of rash and when all spot are crusted.	SEE: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Cold sores (herpes simplex)	None.	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores.
German measles (rubella)*	6 days from onset of rash.	Self-limiting disease Preventable by immunization (MMR). SEE: female staff – pregnancy
Impetigo	48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment or until lesions are crusted.	Open sores must be covered.
Molluscum contagiosum	None.	A self-limiting condition.
Ringworm	Not usually required.	Treatment is important – see Doctor. Ensure pets are also examined.
Roseola (infantum)	None.	None.
Scabies	Return after 1st treatment.	2 treatments 1 week apart for cases. Contacts should have 1 treatment; include entire household and any other very close contacts.
Scarlet fever/Step throat*	24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.	
Slapped cheek/fifths disease. Parvovirus B19	None.	SEE: vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy.
Shingles	Excluded only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune. It is spread by very close contact and touch. SEE: vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy.
Warts and Verrucae	None.	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms.





Other Infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school	Comments
Head lice	None. Parent will be notified and asked to treat child (if live lice present) on the night of lice discovery. They may return to school after treatment.	Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen. Close contacts should be checked and treated if live lice are found. If eggs present, parents should manually remove eggs daily.
Hepatitis A	Exclude until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice).	Good personal and environmental hygiene will minimise any possible danger of spread of Hep A.
Hepatitis B and C	None.	Hep B and C are not infectious through casual contact. Good hygiene will minimise any possible danger of spread of both Hep B and C.
HIV/AIDS	None.	HIV is not infectious through casual contact. There have been no recorded cases of spread within a school or nursery. Good hygiene will minimise any possible danger of spread of HIV.
Meningococcal Meningitis / Septicemia	Until recovered.	Meningitis C is preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of a case. Doctor and local authority will advise.
Meningitis due to other bacteria	Until recovered.	Hib meningitis and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of a case. Doctor and local authority will advise.
Meningitis viral	None.	Milder illness. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of a case. Contact tracing is not required.
MRSA	None.	Good hygiene, in particular hand washing and environmental cleaning, are important to minimise danger of spread.
Mumps	5 days from onset of swollen glands.	Preventable by vaccination (MMR).
Threadworm	None.	Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts.
Tonsillitis	None.	There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic.
Conjunctivitis	Until discharge has ceased.	

As a general rule, if your child is ill, we ask that you keep them at home for a full 48 hours after symptoms have disappeared. Your child needs to be fever-free at least for a full day before returning to school. It is expected that parents/carers use their discretion and if their children remain unfit for school beyond the above guidelines they should stay at home. Young children need time to rest and should not be in school whilst taking medication.

Should your child become ill in school, we will contact you as soon as possible so that they can be collected. Please help us to keep contact numbers up-to-date. If you're not sure of anything please visit the medical room to get advice.

ACCIDENTS AND REPORTING

The school nurse will record any accidents requiring treatment on our system and in the school communication book. The class teacher will inform you of any accidents during collection time.

If we think that a child requires medical treatment, we will contact you immediately.

NOTE

PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE UP-TO-DATE CONTACT NUMBERS AND YOUR MEDICAL CONSENT FORM IS COMPLETED AND SIGNED.





SAFETY AND SECURITY

A security system operates in our EYFS unit; please help us maintain a safe and secure environment.

- All parents must wear their badge when entering and walking around school.
- All visitors are asked to report to reception to sign in and wear a visitor's badge.
- Please ask a member of staff to let you out of the EYFS unit. This is to ensure that children are not let out of the unit by mistake.

If a person who is not stated on our allocated list is collecting your child, please inform their teacher or relevant member of staff. A password system is in place to ensure that anyone picking children up from the school has been endorsed to do so.



MEALS

All children in Nursery and Reception should bring a healthy snack to school that they can access throughout the morning. The children do not have a set snack time, but rather eat as and when they are hungry. Some children get up very early for school and travel quite a distance so they may eat on entry to the classroom. Other children may choose to eat later in the morning. Children will be monitored and assisted to ensure that they eat before 10:00 am so that everyone has had a morning snack. Please send in sensible amounts of food for your child to eat.

- Small snack provided in a plastic box – 1 piece of fruit/yoghurt/ snack bar.
- Packed lunch provided in a separate lunch box – 1 sandwich/ wrap, vegetable sticks, juice, yoghurt, pasta.
- Water bottle

Please show your child their snack and lunch boxes so they know what they look like. Ensure containers are easy for the children to open and close independently. Clearly label your child's boxes as 'snack' and lunch' and do not send in glass ware.

For lunchtime, all children will be offered the option of a hot nutritional lunch provided by Food Nation, the school caterers, if you prefer so. More information will be available during orientation.

NUT FREE AND HEALTHY MEALS

Do not include foods containing tree nuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, Nutella spread etc. Please do not include chocolate biscuits, flavoured milk, or any food with a high a content of sugar in the snack/lunch boxes.

Foods containing pork are not allowed in school.





NORD ANGLIA
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
ABU DHABI

FAQs



We hope that during your child's stay with us you will be happy and be able to discuss any worries you may have with your child's teacher. If, however you do feel it is necessary to talk to someone else please make arrangements to speak to Michael Connor the (Head of Primary) who will endeavor to resolve the problem or issue.

WHAT IF MY CHILD CRIES ON THE FIRST DAY?

Don't worry! It is quite normal for young children to become upset when entering a new school or classroom for the first time. All the teachers and other adults are used to this and they will do all they can to make your child feel safe and eventually settled in their new environment. For some children it may be appropriate that the parents and teacher need to establish an early pick-up routine until the child is more secure. If your child is having a hard time separating we do kindly ask that once you have said goodbye to your child that you avoid letting your child see you again until pick up time. Once a child has said goodbye and settled down, seeing the parent again can upset them further.

WILL MY CHILD GET HOMEWORK?

In Nursery there is no formal homework given. However, through weekly email activities and parent workshops, we do give suggestions of fun learning activities that you can do with your child at home.

We encourage all parents to read to their children to support the schools mission to develop a love of literacy in all of our children.

WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS TO GO TO THE TOILET?

We require that all Nursery children are out of nappies on their first day of school. Adults will assist all children going to the toilet as and



when they need to go. Children will be prompted to go to the toilet at 20 minute intervals to help them become more confident with their self-hygiene care. The children will learn to become more independent with their toileting needs throughout the year. They will be prompted to always ask for assistance if they require it.

WILL THE EARLY LEARNING GOALS PUT PRESSURE ON MY CHILD?

No. Most of the time the children will feel they're just playing and having fun through exciting learning experiences. Sometimes they'll

choose what they want to do. Sometimes they will take part in adult led activities that develop a particular skill.

WILL MY CHILD BRING HOME A READING BOOK?

In Reception, one reading book is sent home weekly for you to share with your child. Reading books will go home during the first half term. All children will bring home a library book on a weekly basis.

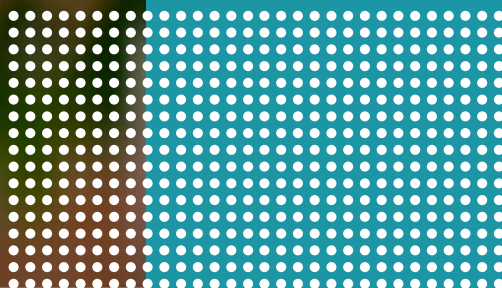
WILL MY CHILD BE TESTED AT THE END OF RECEPTION?

There is no formal testing. Adults engage in ongoing assessment throughout the EYFS. The information collected is presented in the form of a book called a 'Learning Journey'.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Our enrichment providers will collect children from their classrooms at approximately 3:30 pm and walk them to their activity venue. Many providers also offer activities during school holidays, evenings and weekends. To sign up for any activities parents should attend the Termly Partner Provider 'sign-up' days. Alternatively, Partner Providers can be contacted as per below.

Please note that any questions or feedback should initially be directed to the Partner Provider. The details of our sports partners will be shared at the beginning of the term.



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD

There's a lot you can do in the weeks before to get ready for the big day. But try to keep your efforts low-key. If you make too big a deal out of this milestone, your child may end up being more worried than excited.

Here are some ideas to keep the focus on fun.

- **Use pretend play to explore the idea of school.**

Take turns being the parent, child and teacher. Act out common daily routines, such as saying good-bye to mummy and/or daddy, taking off your coat, singing songs, reading stories, having Circle Time, playing outside, and taking naps. Reassure your child that school is a good place where they will have fun and learn. Answer questions patiently. This helps children feel more in control which reduces their anxiety.

- **Read books about school.**

There are many books about going to school available. Choose several to share with your child over the summer before school starts. Talk about the story and how the characters are feeling. Ask how your child is feeling.

- **Make a game out of practicing self-help skills like:**

putting on their shoes for school, packing a school bag, putting on a backpack. For example, you might want to have a "race" with your child to see how quickly they can put on her shoes. When you play school together, you can give your child the chance to zip her backpack closed, and sitting "crisscross apple sauce." If your child will be bringing lunch, pack it up one day before school starts and have a picnic together.

This will give her the chance to practice unzipping her lunch box and unwrapping her sandwich — important skills for the first day!

WORRIES AND WATCHING

Your child may also have some questions or concerns about starting school, either before or after she/he starts in August. Help her/him get ready with these two key strategies:

- Listen to your child's worries. Although it's tempting to quickly reassure your child and move on, it's important to let your child know that his worries have been heard. No matter what they are, big or small, children's worries about school can significantly influence their experience there. Will you remember to pick them up in the afternoon? Will her teacher be nice?

Let your child know it's normal to feel happy, sad, excited, scared, or worried. Explain that starting something new can feel scary and that lots of people feel that way. It can be helpful to share a time when you started something new and how you felt. When you allow your child to share her/his worries, you can help her/him think through how to deal with them. For example, if he/she is worried about missing you, the two of you can make a book of family photos to keep in their cubby and look at when they are lonely.

- Notice nonverbal messages. As much as 3/4 -year-olds may talk, most are not yet able to fully explain how they are feeling or what they are worried about. Your child may 'act out' his worry by clinging, becoming withdrawn, or by being more aggressive. Another common reaction as children take a big move forward is to actually move backward in other areas. For example, if your child is fully potty trained, he/she may start have toileting accidents. He/she may ask that you feed or dress him/her even though he/she can do these things by him/herself.

It is natural to be frustrated by this regressed behaviour, and you may be concerned that if you do these things for him/her, he/she won't go back to doing them him/herself. In fact, letting him/her play this out often leads to children returning to their 'big kid' selves sooner.

Remember that your child is facing—and managing—a big change in his/her life. He/she may need more support, nurturing, and patience from you while he/she makes this transition.



SCHOOL COUNTDOWN: WHAT TO DO AND WHEN

The last few weeks before starting school seem to fly by! As you begin the countdown to the first day, here are some things to keep in mind: During the 2 Weeks before school starts:

- Label all items—backpack, jacket, shoes, blanket, teddy bear, etc.— with your child’s name and teacher’s name in permanent ink.
- Contact the school’s nurse if your child has medication that he or she takes on a daily basis. There will be special rules and forms to fill out for your child to receive medication at school.
- Figure out how your child will get to school and how he/she will come home. Talk to your child about the morning and afternoon routine so that he/she understands that she will be safe, okay, and cared for.
- Make sure your child meets her before- and/or after-school caregiver, if you are using one
- Start using your child’s “school bedtime.” Children often go to bed later as the summer months, and longer days, kick in. Help your child get into a preschool schedule by keeping to his or her school bedtime, beginning about 2 weeks before school starts.

THE NIGHT BEFORE SCHOOL

- Answer any last-minute questions from your child.
- Make sure that your child goes to bed on time.
- Pick a bedtime that gives your child a good night’s rest before his or her first day. Keep the bedtime routine soothing

and relaxing. Don’t focus too much (or at all!) on the first day of school unless she wants to.

THE FIRST DAY

- Wake up early enough so that you and your child don’t have to rush to get to school.
- Make breakfast for your child and, if possible, sit down to eat together— or at least talk with them as they eat and you get ready.
- Review the day’s routine (what pre-school will be like, how your child will



get to school/come home).

- Pack your child's backpack together. For both lunch and snack, select foods that you know are favourite and even decide together what they will bring. Having some familiarity on the first day is helpful as your child adjusts to change

SAYING A 'GOOD' GOODBYE

These strategies can ease the jitters of separating on your child's first day at school.



- **Honest Conversations and building trust.**
Throughout the morning explain to your child that they will be attending school but you cannot stay. Once arriving at the classroom you can peer in through the door together and discuss some of the areas you may have seen previous when your class teacher has shared these in her video. The teacher will greet you to try and make your child feel as comfortable as possible. Even if a little upset, the teacher will take your child, and make them feel secure through comforting them and engaging them in activities with other class friends so that when you leave they can turn to another caring adult for support.
- **Keep your tone positive and upbeat.**
Children pick up on the reactions of the trusted adults in their lives. So, try not to look worried or sad, and don't linger too long. Say a quick, upbeat good-bye and reassure your child that all will be well. Upon collection time focus on positive language, for example, I heard you had a great day at school today.
- **Think about creating a special good-bye routine.**
For example, you can give your child a kiss on his or her palm to "hold" all day long. Or, the two of you can sing a special song together before you leave. Good-bye routines are comforting to children and help them understand and prepare for what will happen next.
- **Resist the rescue.**
Try not to run back in the classroom if you hear your child crying, as upsetting as this can be. This is a big change and your child may, quite understandably, feel sad and a little scared. But if you run back in, it sends the message that he is only okay if you are there and it is likely to prolong your child's distress and make it harder for him/her to adapt. Rest assured, teachers have many years of experience with helping families make the shift to school. Instead, you can wait outside the classroom for a few minutes to ensure that all is well, or call the school later in the morning to check-in.

INCLUSION AND WELLBEING



Students and their families have access to a range of support at NAS Abu Dhabi including a team of specialist teachers, learning support assistants (LSAs) and trained wellbeing counsellors. Where appropriate, members of the Inclusion Team and class teachers work in collaboration with a range of external professionals including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists and physios to ensure the learning journey and school environment is tailored to meet the individual needs of the students.

As you will be aware, wellbeing is fundamental to our overall physical and mental health and remains a priority at NAS Abu Dhabi for our students, their families and our staff. Our implemented model 'The Five Ways to Wellbeing' ensures our students can overcome difficulties, increase their confidence and maintain positive self-esteem. This model includes the below themes:

- **Keep Learning**
- **Be Active**
- **Take Notice**
- **Connect**
- **Give**

Through our exciting and innovative curriculum, students are immersed in

opportunities to thrive. We encourage our families to engage with us and promote these valuable learning experiences.

At NAS Abu Dhabi, we believe in fostering a holistic approach for all, where students are encouraged to recognize their potential.



EXPECTATIONS AND AGREEMENTS – HOME-SCHOOL

At NAS Abu Dhabi we want to work with students, parents, staff and the Advisory Board to create a school environment that ensures teaching and learning is of the highest quality, where students enjoy the classroom experience and feel intellectually challenged and stimulated. We believe in the importance of equipping students with the values and skills that will help their development and learning for life. We want to build self-esteem and confidence and create opportunities where students, parents and staff know that they are valued. We are convinced that this can happen when parents, students and staff agree to work together in partnership.

The Home/School Agreement is an agreement to work together.

THE PARENTS

I/We shall aim to:

- Ensure my child attends regularly, on time, properly equipped and in full school uniform.
- Respectfully make the school aware of any concerns which might affect my child's education and welfare throughout the correct channels.
- Support the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour.
- Attend parents evenings and discussions about my child's progress.

NAS ABU DHABI

We will:

- Make the school a safe and secure environment where learning can take place.
- Ensure that your child achieves their full potential as a valued member of the community.
- Provide a balanced curriculum which follow national guidelines.
- Achieve high standards of work and behaviour.
- Inform you of any concerns that are affecting your child's work or behaviour.
- Issue regular reports home.

THE STUDENT

I shall:

- Attend the school regularly and be on time.
- Bring all the equipment I need every day.
- Wear full school uniform and take pride in my appearance.

Do all my class work.

