



Aspen Heights

BRITISH SCHOOL



Inspirational
learning,
teaching & care

Part of:



International
Schools
Partnership

About Our School

Aspen Heights British School in Abu Dhabi provides a supportive and engaging international environment, enabling children to flourish and mature into highly skilled, resilient and caring global citizens. Your child will be inspired by our exciting and personalised curriculum, interwoven with opportunities to explore our incredible locality through environmental themes.

Aspen Heights British School was founded in September 2017 to serve the growing educational needs of the surrounding Al Bahya and Al Raha communities in Abu Dhabi. We offer the National Curriculum of England to students in a personalised way, integrating the local community and environmental themes, for children from ages 3 to 11 years old (Foundation Stage to Year 6). Our secondary school (Key Stage 3) will open with Year 7 and 8 in the 2019/20 academic year, growing the school by one additional year group per new academic year moving forward.

Being a new school, Aspen Heights British School is privileged to have a wealth of world-class, brand new facilities, and our spacious campus has been built keeping nature in mind. Our environmental focus provides children with unique hands-on opportunities to appreciate and interact with their local environment.



Amazing learning is central to everything we do

Aspen Heights British School embraces the individuality of every learner. We support student learning through a robust, student-focused curriculum, and enriching after-school programmes. Aspen Heights focuses relentlessly on each child's ability to thrive in all areas; academically, socially, culturally and physically. Whether through mentoring, enrichment or personalised study, we recognise and nurture each student's gifts and talents so that they amaze themselves and inspire others.

The astounding progress our children have made – for example, children being able to write only a few letters at the beginning of the year, to writing full pages of cursive script by the end of the year – is something we are truly proud of.

“The astounding progress our children have made is something we are truly proud of.” Emma Shanahan - Principal



We are part of a global family of schools

Aspen Heights British School is part of the International Schools Partnership (ISP), a focused, growing and financially secure group of schools located within eight countries in Europe, The Americas, The Middle East and Southeast Asia.

All our schools:

- Help children and students learn to levels that amaze them;
- Inspire children and students to be successful now and equip them to be successful later;
- Are truly international, working in partnerships within and across regions, cultures and languages;
- Aim to be the first choice for children, students and their families, wherever we are.

Part of:



International
Schools
Partnership



27,000
Students



4,000
Staff



32
Schools



8
Countries



8
Curricula



1
Global Family



Aspen Heights
BRITISH SCHOOL

Teaching and Learning

We offer a personalised, high quality British education, with a focus on the local community and environment

At Aspen Heights British School, we believe learning is maximised when children understand why they are learning a skill or concept, and how this can be applied in the real world.

The National Curriculum for England supports this approach, with students directing their own education through enquiry-based learning and collaborative group problem solving. This enables them to apply their skills and knowledge in a meaningful context, facilitating the development of essential critical thinking and communication skills. Such powerful learning empowers the children to take greater responsibility for the outcomes of a task and facilitates positive group dynamics. In addition, it's fun - which makes learning more effective!

Aspen Heights British School's bespoke curriculum has been devised to integrate and appreciate the locality and the local environment, so as well as being enquiry-based, we focus a lot on environmental themes, such as recycling and how to grow our own fruit and vegetables.

We nurture a true sense of community

Aspen Heights is very much like a village school – our close relationships with our families and the community is what sets us apart from many other schools. Everyone knows each other, everyone is friendly and supportive, and as a result, our school is a very calm, happy and welcoming place, with many of our families seeing Aspen Heights as an extension of their home.

We hold assemblies every Thursday where families are invited so they can join us in celebrating their child's amazing learning. Family activities are a regular feature in the school calendar, with an event programme including Family Workshop such as Fun with Numbers, Fun with Fitness and other events created to bring children, teachers and families together.

The Friends of Aspen parents group organises school-wide events throughout the year, such as National Day, a community Iftar and Pink Day.



Our teachers are highly experienced and passionate about education

Aspen Heights British School's achievements are due to our committed and professional teaching team. Our high quality teachers, all of whom are dedicated to providing an exceptional education for every child, constantly reflect on the impact of their teaching on children's learning. Our class teachers are all native English speakers, with years of UK and international experience, and many have been in the region for some time.

“Our relationships with all members of our community is one of our strengths - everyone is very enthusiastic and friendly; every very child is supported in a very open, warm and calm environment.”

Emma Shanahan - Principal



An appreciation of nature

Aspen Heights British School believes that providing children with an eco-friendly environment will instil a sense of responsibility towards the world. We offer unique environmental initiatives, including:

- **Caring for animals:** enquiry-based learning projects enable students to research, evaluate and provide for the needs and requirements of a variety of animals including our school tortoises, fish and chickens.
- **A hydroponics garden:** where students are able to cultivate fruit and vegetables and are encouraged to develop healthy eating habits.

Students will gain an understanding that much of what has been grown can be eaten and enjoyed. Such unique, hands-on learning experiences enhance and embed classroom learning. The learning environment at Aspen Heights celebrates our best use of natural resources and how we might grow and develop a sustainable life to enrich our local communities.

“We believe that providing children with an eco-friendly environment will instil a sense of responsibility towards the world.” Emma Shanahan - Principal

Speaking, listening and writing development

Our bespoke curriculum means our children’s progress is remarkable. We utilise proven strategies to support children’s speaking, listening and writing development, such as Talk 4 Writing by Pie Corbett and Read Write Perform, to develop children’s speaking capabilities, and to support their oral language development; a pre-requisite to being able to write in English. We also incorporate public speaking and debating to develop children’s confidence in speaking to an audience.

Learning languages plays an important role in our students’ lives

We believe that learning languages is crucial for cognitive development, and with Arabic, the maintenance of cultural identity.

We teach Arabic for both native and non-native speakers from FS1 up. We also offer French from Year 3.

The Arabic curriculum framework at Aspen Heights British School is centred on the Ministry of Education curriculum, and incorporates concept and enquiry-based methodologies aligned with ENC classroom practice. Our Arabic colleagues work hand-in-hand with English class teachers to ensure a consistent experience for children, and equally amazing progress.



Our Information and Communications Technology (ICT) offerings are among the best in Abu Dhabi, and we are also a Google for Education school

We are constantly investing in new technology to enhance our teaching and learning. We have Chromebooks for every child from Year 1 upwards, technology including iPads and tablets, and control technology such as remote control devices in daily use in our foundation stage classes.

As a Google for Education school we receive updated support and resources to develop digital readiness programs for our students. This helps to prepare them with the skill set they need to thrive in the future.

Inclusion, learning support & EAL

Aspen Heights British School is an inclusive school which welcomes students of all abilities and backgrounds, providing a supportive environment for your child to grow in. We offer additional learning support where possible in order to help your child to progress.

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities

Aspen Heights British School offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities from Year 1 to enrich children’s learning beyond the classroom, and to help students cultivate individual interests and talents and develop their social skills. The activities change each term, and include football, badminton, choir, swimming, basketball, drama, chess, eco-club, Arabic stories, ICT and painting.



Progress and attainment tracking

Children’s attainment and progress are regularly evaluated with internal and external benchmark assessments, which means that their learning is constantly evaluated to ensure remarkable progress. Our teachers use online assessment tools such as Classroom Monitor and 2Simple to track student progress and share with parents how well their child is doing.

In the last academic year, 100% of our children made better than expected progress in all areas of their learning. This is something we are very proud of, and can be attributed to the dedication and skill of our teaching staff who personalise learning to meet the needs of the children, as well as our utilisation of appropriate and effective teaching resources.



Beyond the classroom

Students at Aspen Heights British School are provided with many opportunities to develop and thrive. Learning is not limited to the classroom, but can also take place outdoors or through an educational visit, or a community service project. Lessons are lively, fun and challenging, and provide students with many opportunities to think critically and independently, and helps them to develop self-reliance, teamwork skills, and confidence to overcome new challenges.

Such activities include field trips to Arabic theatre, the Louvre, the Yas Marina (Formula 1) Circuit, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, and the Emirates Zoo, to name a few.

Social and emotional development

In addition to the British curriculum, our school values, ethos and teaching approaches encourage children to develop collaborative enquiry skills, and understand that they are important individuals who can make a positive difference to the lives of others. Our aim is to promote curiosity, to encourage students to ask questions, and to teach them to use their skills and knowledge confidently in real life situations.



“There are never any lost opportunities for learning.”
Emma Shanahan - Principal

Early Years Foundation Stage

Our curriculum

The formative foundation years of your child’s school experience are crucial in establishing positive attitudes and confidence, together with skills and knowledge and a love of learning. At Aspen Heights British School, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum for England and Wales.

Key learning areas

The EYFS curriculum details seven key areas of learning from birth to five years old. These include:

- **Communication and Language** - giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves, and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical Development** - providing opportunities for young children to be active and to develop their coordination and movement. Children are also taught about the importance of physical activity, and how to make healthy food choices.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and to have confidence in their own abilities, to form positive relationships and develop respect for others, to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings, and to understand appropriate behaviour in groups.
- **Literacy** - encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems and more) to ignite their interest.
- **Mathematics** - providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction, and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.
- **Understanding the World** - guiding children to understand their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** - enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, and encouraging them to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Along with the above, our early learners have Arabic lessons once a day, they study Music with a specialist teacher, and ICT is integrated across the thematic curriculum. Students have twice weekly Physical Education (PE) lessons with specialist teachers, and swimming lessons start from FS1.



Primary School

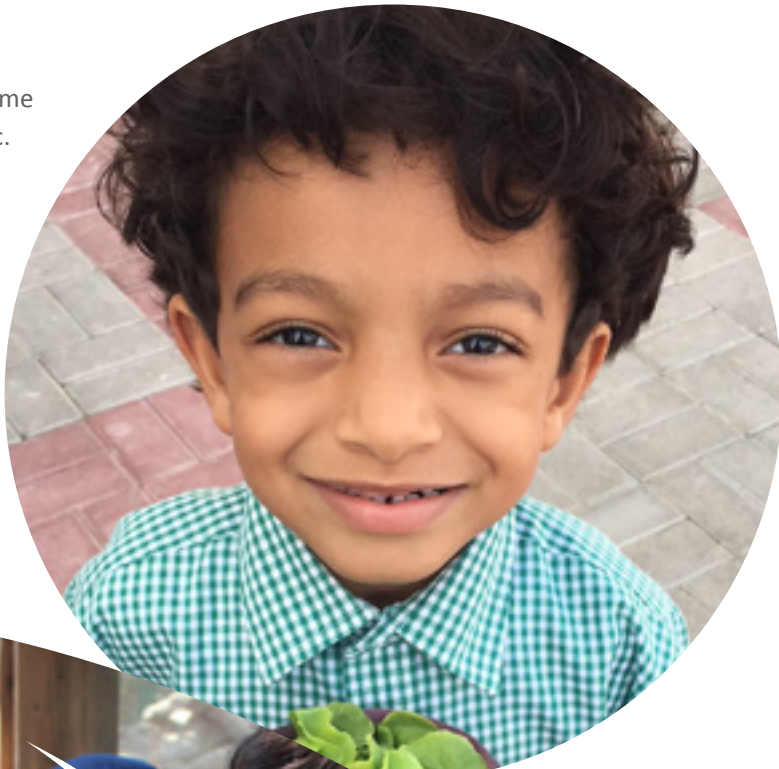
Our curriculum

In the Primary years (Years 1-6) we broadly follow the National Curriculum for England, tailored to meet the needs of our international community, as well as the Ministry of Education curriculum for Arabic subjects for both native and non-native students (Arabic, Islamic Studies and Social Studies).

Students study four core subjects - Maths, Science, English (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening) and Computing - together with foundation subjects; History, Geography, Art, Design and Technology, Music, Physical Education, Swimming, French (from Year 3 upwards), and Moral Education. We take time to shape the curriculum to meet the needs of all learners, selecting themes that are inspiring, motivating and relevant to our international cohort.

Key learning areas

- **Thematic-based learning** - each year group chooses a different topic theme each half term, then relates all subject area learning to that theme/ topic.
- **Enquiry-based learning** - the children use a range of research methods to lead their own learning, incorporating innovation and technology.
- **Self-directed learning** - children self-assess themselves in learning new concepts and then challenge themselves whilst applying new learning techniques.
- **Talk for writing** - is used across the whole school, where story mapping and innovation enhance independent writing.
- **Number club** - developing mental maths skills and then certificates are awarded for progress.
- **Phonics and guided reading** - to develop literacy skills.
- **ECAs, trips and visits** - to enhance the children’s learning whilst taking into account their culture and the locality.
- **Integration of Arabic across the whole English National Curriculum** - bilingual displays, presentations, learning about ‘My Identity’, for example.
- **Leading assemblies** – every class is given the opportunity to lead an assembly to showcase what they have learnt. The children present to the rest of the school, enabling them to build their confidence and to show they truly understand what they’ve learnt. Families are invited to these assemblies every Thursday.



Secondary School

The Aspen Heights secondary school (Key Stage 3) will grow to be an all-through school.

The ethos and high levels of pastoral care established in the primary school will follow through to the secondary school, with young people’s ability to develop resilience, approach challenges positively, and work collaboratively for the good of the whole community being central to their learning.

We will teach the English National Curriculum, together with the Ministry of Education curricular requirements, and themes will include teaching in the following subjects.

- **Core Subjects:** English, Maths, Science, Arabic, Islamic Studies, Social and Civics, Computing, Citizenship, and Personal, Social and Health Education
- **Foundation Subjects:** History, Geography, Physical Education including Swimming, Computing, and Modern Languages: French
- **Electives:** Art & Design, Design Technology, Business Studies, Music and Spanish

Following a broad provision in Years 7 to 9 (Key Stage 3), Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) students will have the option to select options for further study leading to GCSE/ IGCSE examinations.

Unique opportunities for secondary students

The ISP **Future Global Leaders Conference** is a debate and diplomacy conference offering secondary students the opportunity to come together to debate some of our society’s most pressing issues.

The ISP **Buddy Exchange Programme** will enable reciprocal exchanges between ISP schools for a period of one month for students aged between 14 – 17 years of age.

These are experiences that offer students amazing and diverse learning opportunities within a safe and secure environment.

“Our secondary school teaching will provide challenge whilst enabling our students to see meaningful links in their learning.”



Campus and Facilities

Being a new school, Aspen Heights British School is privileged to have a wealth of world-class, brand new facilities. Our spacious campus has been built keeping nature in mind.

All students have access to:

- A 25m heated indoor swimming pool with weekly swimming lessons.
- Spacious, well-resourced classrooms, filled with natural light, providing excellent conditions for learning.
- A large multi-purpose sports hall/gymnasium, an outdoor sports court and an astro pitch accommodate a wide range of extra-curricular activities.
- Dedicated music and art and craft rooms, and specialist music teachers ensure all children have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.
- A large library housing vast resources for students, staff and families to develop their knowledge and understanding of different subjects, in English and Arabic.
- Extensive ICT, with technology including iPads and tablets, and control technology such as remote control devices to support learning across the curriculum. We are also a Google for Education school.
- Age-appropriate shaded play areas, and bespoke designed playgrounds with wooden 'trim-trails' and climbing equipment across the campus, to encourage physical activity and exploration.
- Environmental features including a hydroponics garden and animals such as a tortoise, fish and chickens.



AMAZING LEARNING
is central to
everything we do



Aspen Heights
BRITISH SCHOOL



Al Bahya, Abu Dhabi, UAE - Located close to Emirates Park Zoo and Deerfields Mall



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