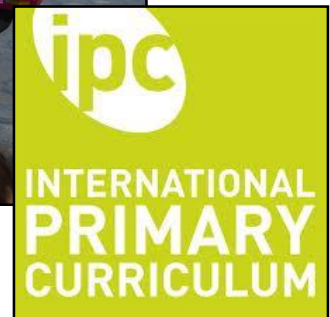


# Welcome to Al Wataniya International School

The school that cares.....



The IPC.....great learning, great teaching, great fun!

**AWIS** | Al Wataniya  
International School

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## Message from the Director

Dear Parents

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Al Wataniya International School – AWIS. We are a fast growing, multi-national school community that has developed considerably since our opening in September 2014; under the leadership of our Founding Principal Sharon Kay. The school delivers an all-round education for every child, placing the learner at the centre of the school.

Our innovative curriculum encourages children to learn through curiosity, discovery and collaboration. They take charge of projects and tasks developing the skills of listening, collaborating and decision making. They are challenged and supported academically as they learn to think for themselves, while developing their confidence to present work to an audience through public speaking.

Our staff know every single child in detail, looking to find and develop their different interests and strengths. They ensure that you the parents are closely informed with all that your child is achieving. We have developed this further by being the first school in Qatar to use the “School Communicator” enabling you keep updated on school news via phones/tablets/desktops.

We will continue to provide a safe, supportive and happy school where we can nurture the unique individual that lies within each child.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with you and your child during their time at Al Wataniya International School.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyn." with a flourish at the end.

Lyn Webster



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents

I would like to welcome you to Al Wataniya International School. Since our opening in September 2014, we have created a 'learning community' whereby children and adults are motivated by the challenging and diverse learning opportunities provided by us.

AWIS offers a truly international education for children from different cultural backgrounds and with different academic abilities. Tuition is in English. We follow a broad and balanced curriculum, adapted to meet the needs of the region, and includes the teaching of Arabic, Islamic Studies and Qatari History and Culture.

AWIS embraces a child-centred education; which drives our curriculum design and subsequent learning and teaching programme. It allows us to identify and build on children's prior knowledge and understanding through activities which are 'real' and 'relevant', and which grab the attention of the children we teach. Children are encouraged to actively engage in shaping their learning; with particular emphasis placed on developing independence, international mindedness and global citizenship. As educators it is our duty to support young children as they attempt to make sense of the world around them, helping them to understand their place in an increasingly interconnected world.

I can appreciate how important it is to find a school that provides that much needed 'fit' for both you and your child and hope the information contained here, opens your eyes to the warm and caring learning environment that is AWIS.

Regards

*Sharan Kay*



### Our Vision

Al Wataniya International School is focused on becoming a leading international school in Qatar by providing an innovative education that empowers its students to be successful. AWIS will be recognised for its motivating and supportive learning environment and for its close and respectful connections with its community and host country.



### Our Mission

Al Wataniya International School will provide an outstanding education, which will enable all students to fulfil their potential. Our students will be inspired to become lifelong learners who contribute actively and positively to the global community.

### Our Educational Objectives

- to use modern teaching methodologies to deliver a balanced international curriculum that is benchmarked to world-class standards
- to develop mutual respect, integrity, social responsibility and belonging in our students
- to prepare students to fulfil their potential in an increasingly competitive society that is subject to dynamic development
- to enable students to develop diverse and transferable skills and attributes to fulfil their academic, emotional, creative and physical potential
- to instil in students an understanding and appreciation for their history and culture while preparing them for an active and sustainable role in shaping a better future

**To fulfil these objectives students from AWIS will:**

- foster a love of learning
- embrace challenge in order to maximise their potential
- become independent learners who are creative and critical thinkers, with the capacity to problem solve and to use a variety of learning strategies
- participate in assessment and target setting to raise standards
- recognise and celebrate their own and others' achievements
- have differentiated access to the best aspects of the National Curriculum of England and the International Primary Curriculum
- demonstrate a commitment to international mindedness and understanding
- contribute to the positive ethos and atmosphere of the school
- be encouraged to take part in a range of activities outside the formal curriculum

**To fulfil these objectives AWIS will:**

- recruit, and professionally develop, well-qualified local and overseas teachers
- effectively communicate with the school community
- support and encourage staff to be innovative, inspirational and self-motivated in their delivery of the curriculum

**Our educational objectives are regularly reviewed to ensure they remain consistent and in-tune with on-going development in school.**

## Our Curriculum

AWIS provides differentiated access to the best aspects of the National Curriculum of England and the International Primary Curriculum.

### The International Primary Curriculum

The IPC is a cross-curricular, thematic, creative curriculum that incorporates much of the new research into learning styles. It has been validated by the University of Bath in the UK and is now used by schools in more than 92 countries around the world. Learning with the IPC takes a global approach; helping children to connect their learning to where they are living now as well as looking at the learning from the perspective of other people in other countries.

At the very heart of the IPC is a clarity about what children should learn. It covers many of the subjects that one would expect to find in a broad-based primary curriculum and develops a growing understanding of the unique features of each subject, whilst also illustrating their interdependence. There are specific learning goals for every subject, for international mindedness and for personal learning.

**Subject learning goals** are written in one of three different ways:

- **'Knowledge'** refers to factual information. (The capital of Qatar is Doha.) Knowledge is relatively straightforward to teach, even if it is not always easy to recall.
- **'Skills'** refers to things children are able to do. (I can carry out an investigation in science, read a map or research a book.) Skills have to be learned practically. The IPC is an active, practical curriculum for much of the time.
- **'Understanding'** refers to the consideration of big ideas. Understanding is always developing. None of us ever 'gets there'. (Try saying 'I understand the idea of beauty.) Understanding cannot be taught. Instead we provide a whole range of different experiences through which children's understandings can deepen.

These learning goals are carefully designed to help achieve the outcomes of the National Curriculum of England and ensure our students have a broad, but balanced learning programme that prepares them for their move to secondary education.

**'International mindedness'** asks children to look beyond their host country and home country borders to see how different countries are interconnected, and attempts to engage students in dialogue and understanding about living in different countries.

**Personal learning goals** ensure children are taught in such a way that they develop the personal qualities of enquiry, adaptability, resilience, morality, communication, thoughtfulness, cooperation and respect.

## Units of Work

In the IPC learning is split into themed units of work. These units have been written and titled to appeal to children. We won't just do 'history' in the IPC. We may look at some historical aspects related to 'People of the Past' or 'Scavengers and Settlers' or 'Temples, Tombs, Treasures'. Children are more likely to be excited by a theme that they recognise or can easily link to their world, rather than by anything else.

Within most units children will explore a number of subjects. These may include art, geography, history, ICT, music, PE, science, society, technology, personal and international. A theme our Year 1 students will investigate is entitled 'Hooray....Let's go on Holiday!' During this 8 week unit children will cover art, geography, history, ICT, social, and international. How exciting!

The IPC does not explicitly address the teaching of mathematics and literacy, although each unit of work provides opportunities to support and develop both.

If you wish to find out more about The International Primary Curriculum please visit: [www.greatlearning.com](http://www.greatlearning.com)



## Mathematics

Our core mathematics programme is **Abacus**; a unique and robust approach to creating inspired and confident young mathematicians. It gives freedom when we want it and structure where we chose it to inspire a love of maths and to ensure understanding and progression for every child. It has been written to fully support the outcomes of the National Curriculum of England.

It is supplemented with regular opportunities for students to become competent users of the language of mathematics; who can begin to use it as a way of thinking as opposed to seeing it as a series of facts and equations to be memorised. Where possible, we plan opportunities within our IPC units of work for children to put their mathematical skills into practice.

## **Literacy**

As with our mathematics curriculum literacy is driven by the outcomes of the National Curriculum of England. Children need a strong grounding in basic language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) before they are able to access other areas of the curriculum and AWIS has invested heavily to ensure these skills can be developed as quickly as possible. Our main reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree; this is supplemented with a range of reading materials that are designed to stimulate interest and enthusiasm in our students. Jolly Phonics is a structured phonics scheme that supports spelling, grammar and handwriting while 'Big Writing' by Ros Wilson is the bedrock for our writing programme.

The IPC units of work are full of opportunities for children to practise their language skills; speaking, listening and writing as a means of communication and their reading as a means of research and pleasure. When carrying out their work children will read to find out information, write a range of stories, poems and non-fiction in a variety of styles and use speaking and listening to work in groups and as a way of reporting on the work they have done.

If you wish to find out more about the National Curriculum of England please visit:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum)

## **Foundation Stage**

Our Foundation Stage classes work towards the goals of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the IPC Early Years programme. This prepares our youngest students for their move into Year 1.

<b>Area of Learning and Development</b>	<b>Aspect</b>
<b>Prime Areas</b>	
Communication and Language	Listening and attention Understanding speaking
Physical Development	Moving and handling Health and self-care
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making relationships Self-confidence and self-awareness
<b>Specific Areas</b>	
Literacy	Reading Writing
Mathematics	Numbers Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and communities The World Technology
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring & using media and materials Being imaginative

If you wish to find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage please visit:

[www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage](http://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage)



## Arabic, Islamic Studies and Qatari History

All students, apart from our very youngest in FS1, are given the opportunity to study Arabic. Our Muslim students are offered Islamic Studies from FS2. Qatari History is taught, as much as possible, through the IPC units and starts in Year 1.

## Extracurricular Activities

Activities are an integral part of our school day and are driven by our educational goals. They are timetabled to ensure all students from Years 1 – 6 get the opportunity to participate. The choice of activities are rich and varied and cater as much as possible to the interests of our students.



## Assessment

Anyone who is interested in children's learning has to be interested in assessment. If we don't know where children are starting from how can we tell where they have reached? And if we don't know where they have reached how can we tell the progress they have made?

Assessment at AWIS includes a mix of **formative** and **summative** assessment; each allows us to gather a range of important data that is used to continually improve the teaching and learning happening in school. **Summative Assessment** identifies the standard of attainment at a particular point in time e.g. end of unit, term or year. We use this information to track progress and report back to parents. It is often referred to as 'assessment **of** learning'.

We firmly believe, however, that the overall purpose of assessment is to improve standards not merely measure them. **Formative Assessment** or 'assessment **for** learning' is an integral part of our learning and teaching programme and is an invaluable tool to promote effective further learning. This form of assessment is continual and enables us to set targets, whether class, group or individual, for further development to take place.

## Our Team

Our team has immense pedagogical knowledge and experience within a range of educational settings, both internationally and within Qatar. We endeavour to build upon these combined experiences to ensure the education we provide our students is exciting, innovative and challenging; one which will ultimately prepare them for an active role in shaping a better future.

## The School Day

### Foundation Stage

The school gates open at 06:45 and parents are permitted to enter the Foundation Stage base with their children. There is someone on duty each morning to receive your child while teachers use this time to prepare for the start of school. We appreciate our younger students may need time to settle and parents are expected to work alongside our staff to ensure a happy start to each day. Developing independence is an important component of the EYFS programme and students are shown how to organise themselves for class.



Here are the timings for a typical day:

	07:15 – 07:30	1	08:25 – 08:55	2	3	10:45 – 11:15	4	5	13:05 – 14:00
Sunday	Registration		Break			Break			After School Club

There are two half hour breaks during the day. The first is at 08:25 with the second at 10:45. 'Eating time' is available at both breaks. **There is no cafeteria on site so a packed lunch must be brought by students each day.**

Please provide a **range** of **healthy** snacks for your child to eat at these times. A sandwich, fruit, vegetable sticks and plain biscuits are all ideal. The lunch box must also include a water bottle. Fizzy drinks, glass bottles, **nuts**, chewing gum and chocolate should not be sent to school.

Foundation Stage classes finish at 13:05. Children are encouraged to tidy up at the end of the day and ensure they have everything they need for home.

An optional after school club runs from 13:05 – 14:00 at an additional charge of QR 1,000/- per term. It is coordinated and led by our Teaching Assistants. The children are exposed to a range of activities during this time and a weekly timetable put in place. The activities include art and craft, sand and water play, singing and movement, free play in the activity area and in the cooler months, time outside. You will appreciate that our youngest children are tired after a long day in school and we ensure that our last activity each day is 'quiet time', which includes story books and tapes and on occasions a dvd related to what they have been studying in class.

### Years 1 – 6

The school gates open at 06:45 and under no circumstances are children permitted before then. The school day starts at 07:05 when children are taken into school by their class teacher. They have 10 minutes to prepare themselves for class.

	07:15-07:30	Lesson 1 07:30-08:25	Lesson 2 08:25-09:20	09:20-09:50	Lesson 3 09:50-10:45	Lesson 4 10:45-11:40	11:40-12:10	5 12:10-13:05	6 13:05-14:00
Sunday	Registration			Break			Break		
Monday									
Tuesday									
Wednesday									
Thursday									

There are two half hour breaks during the day. The first is at 09:20 with the second at 11:40. 'Eating time' is available at both breaks. **There is no cafeteria on site so a packed lunch must be brought by students each day.**

Classes finish at 14.00. Children are responsible for packing their own belongings at the end of each day. Parents are not be permitted to enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

**Please note there is no transport provided by school.**

### Uniform

We are in the process of finalising our school uniform. More information will follow

**ADMISSIONS: Academic Year 2016 - 2017**

We are currently accepting on-line expressions of interest for the 2016-2017 academic year for all year groups. Please note that these must be processed via <http://awisdoha.com/form/expression-interest>  
Once submitted your child will be placed on our waiting list.

Our Admissions Team is currently experiencing a high volume of enquiries and ask for all parents to please submit an initial expression of interest, providing as much information as possible. We will then get back to you either by email or telephone, to discuss the next stage of the process, during office hours: 06:30 - 14:30 (Sunday to Thursday).