



Madinat Khalifa Campus
Information for parents
2010 / 2011

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Welcome to Compass International School Doha, a school where we want to make sure that your child and every child is 'Learning Well, Enjoying Life and Exceeding Expectations'.

We know that it is important for your child to settle down quickly in a new school and the aim of this booklet is to give you a picture of the school and how we hope to work together with you for the education of your child for now and the future.

Your child is genuinely at the heart of our school. We hope that they will quickly feel at ease here and will continue to feel that way throughout his or her time with us. Wherever he or she comes from, your child will be respected and will learn to respect others. Your child will learn well. We will keep you informed about the learning taking place.

Our School is a learning community and we hope that you will be fully involved. Please take a keen interest in your child's school work and keep in regular contact with the teachers. If we work together, your child will benefit.

Our Madinat Khalifa Campus is a purpose built facility which provides a conducive and safe environment for our primary and secondary school students aged 4 to 14. Donna Brackstone-Drake, Madinat Khalifa Campus Principal, leads a team of experienced and dedicated teachers and support staff.

Our school is a listening school and we are always ready to listen to any ideas or concerns that you may have about your child or the school in general.

Yours sincerely,

John Todd
Head of School



John Todd
Head of School



Donna Brackstone-Drake
Madinat Khalifa Campus Principal

Our group

Compass International School Doha is a part of the WCL Group (please see www.wclgroup.com). As well as Compass International School Doha, the WCL Group owns and operates six schools in the United States that provide high quality learning to students of over 50 nationalities. You can find out more by visiting www.britishschool.org. Through another part of the group, Fieldwork Education, we also manage a number of schools around the world, and provide training, development and consultancy to many others. You can find out more about Fieldwork Education at www.fieldworkeducation.co.uk. Our group has also developed the International Primary Curriculum (www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com), currently used in more than 1000 schools in 65 countries benefitting 200,000 students. Through all of these activities, our whole group is committed to improving learning.

Location

The school is situated in the Madinat Khalifa district of Doha, close to Landmark Mall and with easy access from the newly opened Shamal Road.

Access to school

Our main gates are manned by uniformed security personnel 24 hours per day. Please park cars near the front entrance of the school and bring children inside the main entrance gates. From here, they will be able to go directly to their classrooms. If you wish to contact our School Secretary, please walk to the main entrance of the building. Staff will invite you into the office. You may be asked to identify yourself. Should you wish to see Mr. Todd or Mrs. Brackstone-Drake, please contact the School Office so that you can make an appointment.

Bus service

Our school bus service is operated by Trilogistics. Each bus has an adult monitor to supervise the students.

For further information, please contact the School Office or contact the Trilogistics Coordinator via the contact details on the school's website.

Pupil numbers

Our growth in student numbers has been considerable and we are constantly reviewing our provision to ensure that the students have the best possible learning opportunities. Currently, we are able to provide education for students aged 4 to 14. As our school develops our intention is also to provide education for students aged 3 to 18

Class sizes

We are aware of the impact of class size on student's learning. Except in special circumstances, our maximum class size is 22. This is consistent with the situation in comparable private international schools.

Facilities available to our Students

Our bright and spacious classrooms are well resourced and equipped with the latest technology including interactive whiteboards. There are also extra rooms available for small group activities. These include designated areas for Languages, Library, and Information and Communications Technology and Science. A purpose built Science Laboratory has already been commissioned and will be completed during the first term. Plans are also being made for an air conditioned Sports Hall, a swimming pool and changing facilities. The field will also be developed along with an Early Years covered play area. There is a large shaded area for Physical Education and outdoor play.

Tutoring and support

Each student has a Class Teacher (Primary) or Form Tutor (secondary). This teacher has a special responsibility for supporting, monitoring and developing the academic, social and emotional development of each individual. The Class Teacher or Form Tutor is the first point of contact for both students and parents.

Year Groups

The Primary School will start with programmes for students aged 4 to 11 (Early Years 1 to Year 6). The Secondary School will start with programmes for students aged 11 to 14 (Years 7 to 10). This is the first cohort of Year 10 students and they will be following the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and sitting for examinations in 2012.

We hope to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme from September 2012. We consider this to be the best possible university entrance programme. We have registered as an Interested School and will be working through the Accreditation process over the next year.

Extra curricular activities

At the beginning of each term, students and parents will be given information about the extra-curricular activities (ECAs) available for the term for children in Early Years 2 and up. Each term the activities change depending on staff availability. All activities aim to start in week 3. Most of the activities will be run by school staff as a normal part of the school programme. We hope that all students will participate in at least one activity every week. Some optional programmes, where specialist instructors are required, may involve an additional cost. ECAs run from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.

The school day

School starts at 7.30am.

Students should arrive at school no later than 7.20am.
Staff supervision will be available from 7.00am.

The school day is divided into ten learning periods and two breaks, each of 30 minutes.

- 7.10am** gates open
- 7.20am** students move to their Form Rooms
- 7.30am** lessons begin
- 9.00am** first break (Primary School)
- 9.00am** first break (Secondary School)
- 11.30am** second break (Primary School)
- 12.00pm** second break (Secondary School)
- 1.20pm** Early Years classes finish
- 1.30pm** end of school day

From 1.30pm, staff will be on duty at the school gate.

- 1.30pm** Extra-curricular activities
- 2.30pm** Extra-curricular activities end

Eating arrangements

Please provide your child with something healthy to eat at break times in a suitable container marked with their name. Please provide drinks in containers other than glass, which can be dangerous. Cold drinks may be brought in flasks, but please make sure that these have foam, rather than glass, insulation. Please notify the school office if your child has any allergy of which we should be aware. Students are allowed to drink water during lessons, so please make sure that they each have a plastic water bottle. Drinking water is available in every classroom.

Medical appointments

If students have a medical appointment in school time, please let us know in writing or by email and, if necessary, arrange for them to be collected from school.

Absences

Please notify us by letter, fax, email or telephone, giving brief details of any absences. This will then enable registers to be completed correctly. However, please do everything that you can to ensure that your child has full attendance at school. Whenever possible, please make medical and dental appointments out of school time.

School uniform

We believe that a school uniform actively helps to support our school ethos. The practical design and colours of our uniform also project an image that encourages smartness and generates a pride in appearance.

Our school uniform to be worn by all students is as follows:

Polo shirts (with school logo) *yellow*

Trousers/shorts/skirts *navy blue*

School cap (with logo) *navy blue*

Plain black sandals or shoes

White socks

All school uniform plus Reading Bags, PE Bags and fleece tops may be purchased from our uniform suppliers, **Schoolwear International**, through their website at www.si.org.uk/cisd

All clothing and equipment should be named so that mislaid items can be returned easily.

Trolley type bags are not permitted for use within school and are not necessary.

Trainers, open or plastic shoes are not permitted.

Students should not bring valuables into school and we cannot be responsible for items lost on school premises.

Jewellery, nail varnish, lipstick or other makeup are not permitted. Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not appropriate for use during the school day.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Yellow school PE T-shirts and navy sports shorts should be worn plus pumps / plimsolls / trainers.

PE kits should be kept in labelled PE bags. For safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed – including earrings. Long hair must be tied back.

International Primary Curriculum

The International Primary Curriculum is one of the first whole-school curricula to be based on recent evidence about the brain and the impact this evidence is having on classroom learning. Our curriculum has been specially designed to enable teachers to plan effective and exciting learning experiences for your children.

At the very heart of the IPC is a clarity about what students should learn. There are learning goals, or standards, for all of the subjects of the curriculum. There are learning goals for student's personal development. Uniquely, there are learning goals for the development of students' international understanding. The learning goals for each subject – language arts, mathematics, science, history, geography, art, music, society, physical education, second language, information technology and technology - have been especially designed to help teachers plan effectively and to provide you and your children with clear guidelines about the progress they are making.

The programmes for English and Mathematics follow the National Curriculum for England (Renewed Framework) and offer a high degree of challenge and connectivity to the IPC units of work. Full details of the curriculum standards for all subjects are available on the school's website: www.cisdoha.com

Dutch speaking students follow a first language Dutch programme and all other students receive French lessons. All students will also learn Arabic and about Arabic culture. Islamic Studies will be offered to all Islamic students. Support is offered for students whose first language is not English.

Assessment

Assessment forms an integral part of the learning process at Compass International School. It is a continuous process and informs learning, ensuring that children's individual needs are met. We believe that parents play a vital role in their child's learning and hold termly Parent Consultations. We produce a written report in Terms 1 and 3 which gives details of your child's progress and achievements. In Term 2, each child is encouraged to reflect on their learning and parents are invited in to witness these Presentations of Learning. We also keep records on all of our students about such matters as health, sight, hearing, speech, general character and social skills.

Learning at home

We will give students some additional tasks to either investigate, or complete at home every week. They will also bring home reading books. You are invited to comment in the Communications Book. Please ensure that your child has a school book bag. Any school letters will also be placed in these bags, so please check book bags daily.

Learning beyond the classroom

We give students the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom through a programme of field trips that are connected to IPC units. In addition, residential opportunities offer students new and exciting challenges in a safe and controlled environment. Year 3 camp overnight in school. Year 4 undertakes a two days camping programme within Qatar and Year 5 a similar 3 day experience. Year 6 venture overseas for an outdoor activity programme at Fujairah in the UAE. All these trips incur additional charges.

International Primary Curriculum Units

The International Primary Curriculum units of work in the primary school are:

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
EY 1	All About Me Sand & Water	Let's Pretend Change s	Bears Food
EY 2	Family & Friends Treasure	Plants & Flowers Animals	Shopping Going Places
Year 1	Ourselves Clothes	Day & Night Transport	Toys Celebrations
Year 2	The Places People Go Buildings	Our World Saving Water	Words in the Air How Are You?
Year 3	The Learning Unit Saving the World They made a Difference	Paintings, Pictures & Photographs Dinosaurs Science Unit	Explorers and Adventurers Science Unit
Year 4	Treasure Different Places, Different Lives	The Active Planet Clean water, dirty water	Chocolate Clean water, dirty water
Year 5	The Learning Unit Making New Materials Here and Now, There and Then	Mission to Mars and Beyond Myths, Legends & Beliefs	They See the World like This Science Unit – Living things
Year 6	Feelings Making The News	Fit for Life Physical World	Global Swap Shop Black Gold

School Uniform

We believe that a school uniform actively helps to support our school ethos. The practical design and colours of our uniform also project an image that encourages smartness and generates a pride in appearance.

Our school uniform to be worn by all students is as follows:

Shirt or blouse with school logo (white)

Trousers/shorts/skirts navy blue

School cap

All school uniform may be purchased from our uniform suppliers, Schoolwear International, through **their website at: www.si.org.uk/cisd**

All clothing and equipment should be named so that mislaid items can be returned easily.

Students should wear black shoes, and white socks.

Students should not bring valuables into school and we cannot be responsible for items lost on school premises.

Jewellery, nail varnish, lipstick or other makeup are not permitted. Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not appropriate for use during the school day.

Physical Education (P.E.)

School PE T-shirts and shorts should be worn plus pumps / plimsolls / trainers.

P.E. kits should be kept in labelled PE bags. For safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed – including earrings.

Code of Conduct

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The main aim is to help students learn and develop self discipline, to help students gain self respect, respect for others, and respect for property - their own and that of others.

The aim is also to learn and develop a sense of responsibility towards the school community and the environment.

We expect all members of the community to observe basic rules of positive behaviour and for students to follow instructions given by teachers, support and supervisory staff. It is our expectation that all students will be co-operative, considerate and sensible in carrying out their primary task of attending school in order to learn. Students should set a good example to others.

Staff in school will be promoting, modeling and rewarding good behaviour. Our aim is not to seek out and look for poor behaviour, but to promote, encourage and model good behaviour.

Content

All pupils will learn English, mathematics, science, ICT, art, French, geography, history, music, physical education and personal, social and health education (PSHE). A first language Dutch (NTC) programme is also offered.

Standards

The Key Stage 3 curriculum will be based on the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum for England. We will not follow this curriculum blindly, rather, we will select the elements that best suit our context as an international school in Qatar.

The pursuit of excellence will be our goal - world class results in a world class school. Literacy, numeracy and high order skills in ICT will underpin everything that we do.

English is vital for communicating with others in school and in the wider world, and is fundamental to learning in all curriculum subjects. In studying English, students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing that they will need to participate in all curriculum areas, society and employment. Students learn to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others confidently and effectively.

English, mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT) are taught as discrete subjects but are also incorporated into the schemes of work of all subjects across the curriculum, so that there is constant re-enforcement of literacy and numeracy whenever possible.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on National Curriculum levels. The purpose of assessment is to:

- Identify a base line and potential levels of achievement
- Identify students strengths and areas for reinforcement and development
- Inform regular dialogues between teacher and learner about standards and progress
- Provide teachers with information on which to base their mid and short term lesson planning for student needs

The most important function of assessment is to assist learning.

An International Curriculum

In developing international mindedness in our students, we encourage students to think about:

- knowledge and understanding beyond that related to their own nationality
- an understanding of the independence and interdependence of peoples, countries and cultures

It should enable students to:

- adapt to other education systems
- develop both a national and an international perspective

It will include:

- a degree of focus on the host country
- a degree of focus on the home country.

These characteristics will be reflected in the whole curriculum and in all aspects of school life.

A Creative Curriculum

The secondary curriculum will be creative and stimulating and designed to meet the needs of our students. To this end the secondary Curriculum, whilst including the traditional range of subjects, will be based on the following elements and developments:

International Context

Our school, being in the Middle East, and with staff, parents and students from many cultures and countries, provides a fabulous resource for learning. We have a great opportunity to internationalise our creative curriculum and to give our students opportunities to learn in real world situations.

Extended Curriculum days

These are selected days throughout the year when the normal curriculum is suspended to enable more time for enrichment activities. These often involve a cross curricular approach incorporating several different subject areas. Off site visits may also be included along with social service programmes. or activities such as debates and The Model United Nations.

IGCSE (Key Stage 4)

Our first cohort of Year 10 students begin their IGCSE programmes in 2010 and will sit their examination in 2012. CISD is accredited by Cambridge International Examinations and EDECEL to offer the IGCSE programme.

Dutch Language and Culture

We provide 3 hours of Dutch Language and culture (Nederlands Taal en Cultuur / NTC) lessons for children from Dutch and Belgian families. These are built into the curriculum and are set against French lessons for other students.

International Expeditions

Following the success of our Oman Expedition in 2009, we hope to offer a number of optional experiences as part of our wider curriculum programme. These are expected to take places during school holiday periods and will aim to provide options for social service and adventurous / outward bound experiences.

Subjects in Years 7 and 8

Students study a broad curriculum based on the skills of the National Curriculum for England but with international content and exemplar materials.

The subjects covered are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities (History and Geography)
- French (second language) or Dutch (first language NTC)
- Arabic (second language)
- Islamic Studies (Muslim students only)
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education
- Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning
- English as an Additional Language support is offered to students based on need after an assessment

Subjects in Year 9

Year 9 students follow the same broad curriculum but receive separate lessons for History and Geography. Students are counselled about their option choices for Year 10 and we also run a Parent Information Evening in Term 2.

Year 9 students sit the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) Checkpoint Examinations in English, Mathematics and Science in Term 3.

Year 10 IGCSE Courses

Our choice of courses varies from year to year based on student choice and demand. For the current Year 10, we offer:

- English or English as Additional Language
- International Mathematics
- French or Dutch or Arabic
- Information and Communications Technology
- Art and Design or Business Studies
- Geography
- Chemistry
- Physics or History
- Biology

Students studying English (first language) may also have the opportunity to study Literature in English.

Sports activities

Students take part in a variety of sporting activities. All students are expected and encouraged to participate in these activities to enhance general fitness and also to introduce them to concepts such as team building and social interaction with students from other schools.

Admissions

Our intention is for Compass International School Doha to be as inclusive as possible. For that reason, we have no admission criteria, apart from age, and no examination that children must take before being offered a place at the school.

Decisions about the admission of students whose first language is not English or of children who have special educational needs are taken by the Head of School in the light of this policy. Such decisions are based on the extent to which the school is able to meet your child's needs.

In all cases we do our best to be sympathetic and helpful and do whatever is possible to enable us to admit all children whose needs we can meet.

Parents who wish their child to be admitted to Compass International School Doha are invited to visit the school before filling in the Application Form.

Parental involvement

At Compass International School Doha, we believe that good home / school co-operation is essential for the benefit and welfare of the students in our care. As far as possible, our door is 'always open' to parents. However, we would like you whenever possible to make an appointment to see the Head of School, Campus Principal, or other members of staff.

Our School Consultative Group (SCG) meets regularly and involves elected parents and staff members as well as school administrators. The SCG provides a forum for all members of the school community to bring forward ideas, suggestions and concerns.

All students are issued with a Communications Book. A Class Parent Representative is elected to assist the teacher and to further improve communications. The Class Representative forwards a weekly email from the class teacher with the week's learning targets.

We expect parents to assist with their child's education by ensuring that children eat well, get enough sleep, and attend school punctually every day. This is conducive to the best possible learning conditions for students.

Our expectations of pupils

We like to think of discipline in terms of self-discipline. In order to foster this, we attempt to provide the children with a safe, reliable, happy and consistent background within which he or she may achieve success. The Compass Code of Conduct has been developed to be positive, always stressing the good or safe way in which to behave. Students are recognised for following the Code of Conduct during weekly assemblies.

Registration

To register your child for a place at the school, please:

- Read through the Application Form carefully. It is available either from our website (www.cisdoha.com/Admissions), or direct from the School Office.
- Complete the form and return it to the school (admissions@cisdoha.org) along with a copy of your child's most recent school report.
- An application fee of QR 550 is required when submitting the completed forms.

You are most welcome to complete the form in school and our Admissions Officer will guide you through the process, whether you are paying the fees directly or via your company.

Our Primary School Tuition Fees are QR 59,125 per annum. A one-off Development Levy of QR 7,360 is also charged, as well as a QR 3,680 deposit. The deposit is refundable if the student has been at the school for at least one year and gives a full term's notice of withdrawal.

Term dates

Term 1 (2010)

Sunday 19 September - Thursday 11 November
Sunday 21 November - Thursday 23 December

Term 2 (2011)

Sunday 02 January - Thursday 17 February
Sunday 27 February - Thursday 14 April

Term 3 (2011)

Sunday 01 May - Thursday 30 June

Further information

This booklet aims to provide an overall picture of life at Compass International School Doha. Information is correct at time of printing, but certain aspects of the contents will change from time to time.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please visit our website at www.cisdoha.com for more information.

Learning Well, Enjoying Life, Exceeding Expectations

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