

Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau

Information Bulletin

Government of Dubai

حكومة دبي

هيئة المعرفة والتنمية البشرية

Knowledge and Human Development Authority

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Welcome to Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau

Welcome to the first edition of the Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) information bulletin. The aim of this bulletin is to keep you up to date with how the Bureau is developing and how we will be working with you in the future.

This is an exciting time for education in Dubai as we at the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) strive to improve achievement and standards of education for all. Our ambition is to establish a global reputation for Dubai's education system – one that supports our long-term position as a world hub for investment and economic development.

The development of the Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau is an important component in helping us to achieve our ambitions. Only through inspection can we understand where we are excelling in education and where we need to focus our attention on development. Once we know this we can support schools to improve and develop a continuous cycle of inspection and school improvement that we know from the highest achieving countries in the world raises standards of education.

DSIB is solely dedicated to defining and measuring the quality of all school education in Dubai. The Bureau will identify strengths and weaknesses and highlight areas for improvement. Schools will be able to use their inspection reports to highlight and celebrate what they do well while following the inspectors' recommendations to help them devise plans to make changes and improve still further.

We have begun developing the DSIB through consultation with you and we plan to continue this consultation to ensure that the Bureau meets the needs of Dubai's unique education environment. Your involvement in the development of the Bureau is critical so please do get involved and take this opportunity to shape the future of education in Dubai with us.



Jameela Al Muhairi
Chief of DSIB

In this edition:

- Welcome from Jameela Al Muhairi, Chief of DSIB
- Contact DSIB
- Plans for pilot inspections
- Your opinion counts

We will be sending you a bulletin outlining the latest developments and answering your questions every month. Please take a few moments to read the bulletin and keep up to date with what's happening.

Jameela Al Muhairi

Contact DSIB

If you would like more information about the Bureau please visit our website at www.khda.gov.ae/en/inspection or email inspection@khda.gov.ae

Plans for pilot inspections

DSIB will run pilot (trial) inspections during April in a small number of schools, all of which have responded positively to an invitation to take part. The schools, both government and non-government, are of very different sizes and offer UAE, US, International Baccalaureate, British and Indian curricula.

We have assembled teams of highly experienced inspectors who have working familiarity with each school's curriculum context. In the schools that provide the UAE curriculum the team will be bi-lingual speakers of Arabic and English.

In every school the teams will form evidence-based judgements about students' standards and teaching quality in English, mathematics, Arabic and Islamic Studies where appropriate and (for Grades 6 and above) science. They will also evaluate the students' personal and social development, the care and guidance the schools provide and how well they are led and managed. Research in many countries has shown that these aspects are critical to the effectiveness of schools across the world, no matter where they are or which curriculum they offer.

Inspectors will consider how well each school fulfils its own aims: the extent to which each school delivers its promise to parents.

The chief purpose of the pilot inspections is to test and validate the Bureau's approach to the full programme of Initial Quality Inspections for 2008/09. We want confirmation that the Quality Indicators, on which we have consulted widely, are valid and workable in practice. We want to discover whether the size of inspection teams and the number of days they spend in schools are adequate. We want to test the effectiveness in detail of our proposed inspection processes, in schools and behind the scenes.

Crucially, we want to use the pilot inspections to make sure that we establish good quality communication with schools: that we give sufficient advance information; that inspectors communicate effectively at all times and give high quality oral feedback; and that we produce clearly expressed inspection reports that are helpful to staff, parents, boards and the KHDA.

The Bureau will make and publish a systematic evaluation of all aspects of the pilot inspections, based on the views of principals, teachers, parents and inspectors. We will use the lessons we learn from the pilot inspections to adjust and improve our approaches and our methods for September 2008 and beyond.

Your opinion counts – thank you

KHDA and DSIB would like to extend its sincere thanks to all principals and school owners who took part in the recent highly successful consultation on the quality standards for inspection. Your opinion really does count in helping us to develop an effective Bureau.

The Indicator Working Groups took place between January and February 2008 at DSIB's offices in Academic City. A number of representatives from government and non-government schools and other stakeholders worked together as part of the consultation exercise to formulate draft Quality Indicators that will be used to describe quality standards within schools. The working groups focussed their efforts on testing the validity and practicability of deployment of the new standards into the school environment. The Quality Indicators will be tested in practice through the pilot inspections taking place in April.

- If you would like to be involved in future consultation activities please register your interest on our website www.khda.gov.ae/en/inspection under 'Get Involved'.