

# **Follow-Through Inspection Report on The Oxford School**

**Report issued June 2009**

## Basic information

The Oxford School was inspected in November 2008 as part of the initial quality inspection cycle across all schools in Dubai. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages. It evaluated students' achievements, the effectiveness of the school, the environment for learning and the school's processes for self-evaluation and capacity for improvement. During this inspection, school inspectors identified a number of recommendations which the school was required to address.

Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) conducted a Follow-Through Inspection during April 2009. The purpose of this Follow-Through Inspection was to evaluate the progress made by the school in achieving improvements based on the recommendations set out in the first inspection report.

## Progress

Inspectors judged that The Oxford School had made satisfactory progress towards addressing the recommendations from the Initial Quality Inspection and, as a result, will not require further Follow-Through Inspections.

At the time of the next full inspection the school will have an opportunity to alter the unsatisfactory grading achieved in the Initial Quality Inspection.

## Initial Quality Inspection Recommendations

- Increase the leadership and management capacity in the school;
- Improve the quality and consistency of teaching and learning;
- Strengthen assessment practices and procedures to ensure students receive more effective feedback and more purposeful homework;
- Improve teachers and students access to a wider range of resources including information communication and technology (ICT) as an aide to learning;
- Revise and improve the curriculum to ensure that all students receive continuity and progression in their learning experiences;
- Address the health and safety issues identified during the inspection;
- Ensure compliance with licensing requirements in relation to the teaching of Arabic and Islamic Studies.

## Overview of progress achieved

### **Increase the leadership and management capacity in the school.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

A number of new key appointments had been made, including a Head of the Primary section and a number of supervisors to oversee the work of key aspects of the school. The appointment of a Deputy Principal was pending. The action plan that was developed after the full inspection gave a clear indication of the capacity, commitment and professionalism of the enhanced management team.

### **Improve the quality and consistency of teaching and learning.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Since the full inspection, several workshops had been run to provide professional development for teachers focusing upon, for example, the use of group work and peer assessment between teachers. The professional practice of teachers had greatly improved compared with the previous inspection; most teachers were routinely establishing lesson objectives with their classes and using a range of activities and strategies with students. There were still some inconsistencies in certain curriculum areas, and the school needed to continue to develop teacher expertise, and student-centred learning.

### **Strengthen assessment practices and procedures to ensure students receive more effective feedback and more purposeful homework.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Written comments by teachers were now being made on students' written work and had become a regular feature in many subjects. The practice was not yet embedded and the marking policy was not fully implemented. Report cards were now providing meaningful information about the students' progress. A homework timetable had been introduced and students were demonstrating more independent work habits.

### **Improve teachers and students access to a wider range of resources including ICT as an aid to learning.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

The resources for learning had been enhanced considerably since the previous inspection. More computers had been acquired as well as several interactive whiteboards to help support teaching and learning. Students commented upon the usefulness of the school's website as an interactive resource to aid their learning. Many new books were available and a new library and learning resources centre was planned as part of the school's development over the next year.

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**Revise and improve the curriculum to ensure that all students receive continuity and progression in their learning experiences.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

The school had adopted the Cambridge International Primary Programme and Schemes of Work had been reviewed in English, mathematics and science. Subject coordinators had begun to provide training and support to teachers for the implementation of the new curriculum models.

**Address the health and safety issues identified during the inspection.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Early morning supervision of children had been introduced and health and safety checks were now being carried out on a monthly basis. Since the full inspection the electrical maintenance had been assigned to an external contractor.

**Ensure compliance with licensing requirements in relation to the teaching of Arabic and Islamic Studies.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Extra teaching periods of Arabic had been introduced since the full inspection, but the school was not yet fully compliant in this regard. The timetable for the next academic year will be suitably modified to ensure full compliance. An Arabic reading programme had been introduced and extra Arabic classes were being run on Saturday mornings. A new Islamic Studies teacher had been appointed and an inter-house Qur'anic recitation competition had been introduced.

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## What happens next?

As a result of the progress made by The Oxford School towards meeting the recommendations from the Initial Quality Inspection, DSIB will undertake no further Follow-Through Inspections in relation to the initial inspection of the school.

## How to contact us

If you have a concern or wish to comment on any aspect of this report you should contact: [inspection@khda.gov.ae](mailto:inspection@khda.gov.ae).

More information about Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau can be found at [www.khda.gov.ae](http://www.khda.gov.ae).

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