

Second
Follow-Through Inspection Report
on
United International Private School
Kindergarten to Grade 10

Report published May 2010

Basic information

United International Private School was inspected in March 2009 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, the overall performance of the school was judged to be unsatisfactory and school inspectors identified a number of recommendations which the school was required to address.

Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) conducted Follow-Through Inspections during May 2009 and a second Follow-Through Inspection was conducted in October 2009. The purpose of these Follow-Through Inspections 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 United International Private School had not yet satisfactorily addressed the recommendations made by DSIB at the Initial Quality Inspection. Inspectors will continue to undertake Follow-Through Inspections at three monthly intervals until the recommendations made by inspectors have been satisfactorily addressed.

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

- Ensure full compliance in provision of Islamic Education and Arabic;
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of Islam throughout the school;
- Improve teaching methods and activities so that students' learning needs and interests are more closely met and students are more actively involved in lessons;
- Make provision for students with special educational needs;
- Involve all teachers in analysing and using a range of assessment data to improve feedback to students, the tracking of their progress and to inform lesson planning and curriculum development;
- Develop rigorous self-evaluation which identifies key priorities for the school's improvement plan;
- Improve existing facilities and resources.

Overview of progress achieved

Ensure full compliance in provision of Islamic Education and Arabic.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards meeting this recommendation.

A revised timetable was in operation and was compliant with Ministry of Education requirements for the number of lessons in Islamic Education and Arabic.

Develop an understanding and appreciation of Islam throughout the school.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards meeting this recommendation.

There were extensive plans and activities to improve all students' understanding and appreciation of Islam. There were many displays in the classrooms and around the school that were created by the students and a new prayer room had been provided and was being used by a number of students. This was starting to have a positive impact on students' personal and social development.

Improve teaching methods and activities so that students' learning needs and interests are more closely met and students are more actively involved in lessons.

The school had not made satisfactory progress towards meeting this recommendation in the primary school.

Lessons tended to be teacher-led with too much dependence on students listening to the teacher to gain knowledge. Teachers used closed questions and did not draw on effective methods for checking understanding. Most lessons did not contain a sufficiently wide range of activities to help meet the needs of students. In addition, most classrooms were overcrowded and some were cluttered and lacking in sufficient space for students to engage in meaningful learning activities. In the lower primary school, shouting in response to repetitive drill exercises often resulted in noisy learning environments which were ineffective. As a consequence of this noisy environment teachers did not monitor individual students' progress and consequently there was little adaptation of lessons to meet the learners' needs.

Make provision for students with special educational needs.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards meeting this recommendation.

A policy and procedure had been developed for identifying and serving students with special educational needs (SEN). A certified SEN teacher from the Philippines and a dedicated learning support team were planning for the needs of these students. Additional teaching time was provided on Saturdays. Teachers were assisted in providing a range of support strategies and techniques to plan the teaching to meet the students' learning needs.

Involve all teachers in analysing and using a range of assessment data to improve feedback to students, the tracking of their progress, and to inform lesson planning and curriculum development

The school had made satisfactory progress towards meeting this recommendation.

A range of assessment information had been collected and the school made better use of portfolios of individual students' work to supplement other assessment data. Teachers used a wider range of assessment techniques including, for example, students own self-evaluation. This information helped teachers, albeit sometimes informally, to plan lessons and to modify their teaching methodology. The school had committed to participating in an international assessment and benchmarking programme this year in order to improve the reliability of its assessment data. However, although assessment information was useful in informing teachers what to teach next, there was still no clear rationale for the curriculum or its development in the longer term.

Develop rigorous self-evaluation which identifies key priorities for the school's improvement plan.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards meeting this recommendation.

Parents and teachers were actively involved in providing feedback to the school regarding improvements. Views of parents were sought throughout the year using surveys and on-line forms. The process was well documented and appropriate action had been taken in response to each suggestion for improvement.

Improve existing facilities and resources.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards meeting this recommendation.

The school had created additional teaching space for science and a new information and communications technology room. The library had been enlarged and more books had been added. However, the majority of classrooms remained overcrowded and, in some cases, there was restricted student and teacher movement in the classrooms. This was a potential safety risk in both moving around the classroom and in the event of needing to evacuate the school in an emergency. Although notice boards were used to provide educational information, they were often too high on the walls for the younger students to read and the small print size reduced their effectiveness. In addition, the noisy air-conditioning units and hard tiled floors resulted in unacceptable levels of noise in classes. The school had purchased a number of data projectors but, as a result of the limited space in the classrooms, it was difficult for teachers to position these for best effect. A new teaching block was in the process of being built to expand the current teaching spaces. The estimated completion date is within the current academic year.

What happens next?

DSIB will continue to undertake Follow-Through Inspections of United International Private School until the school has progressed to the stage where they are included in the usual inspection cycle for all Dubai schools. DSIB will continue to report to parents regarding the progress made by the school until this occurs.

Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau

Knowledge and Human Development Authority

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.

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