



TWS CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

POLICY FOR	Curriculum Review
PERSON RESPONSIBLE	Heads of Teaching, Learning and Assessment
REVIEW DATE	June 2025
REVIEWED BY	TLA Team
APPROVED DATE	June 2025
APPROVED BY	ELT
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	June 2026
RELATED POLICIES	Teaching Learning Policy, Assessment Policy, Reading Policy



Executive Principal / CEO

The Westminster School, Dubai has designed its curriculum to empower the learners and create their future. Primarily, we offer the National Curriculum for England; however, we also incorporate the goals and values of GEMS Education and the rich national influence of the UAE. This results in students being offered a modern, exciting, and educationally advanced curriculum in a vibrant & creative learning environment.

Core Curriculum: **National Curriculum for England**

Language of Instruction: **English**

The National Curriculum for England is a broad and balanced curriculum applied in over 150 countries across the world. It is based on a structured and broad framework that outlines expected levels of achievement through all stages of a student's school life.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum Overview

At Westminster School Dubai, our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum offers a rich, child-centred learning journey that nurtures curiosity, creativity, and confidence in children aged 3 to 5. Rooted in the UK EYFS framework, our approach blends traditional early childhood best practices with future-focused innovations, including AI exploration, metacognitive skill-building, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) learning.

Our Curriculum Approach

We believe that children learn best through play, exploration, and purposeful interaction. Our curriculum supports the seven areas of learning as outlined in the EYFS framework:

Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These areas are interwoven through thematic learning experiences that are engaging, inclusive, and meaningful to the children's interests and cultural backgrounds.

STEAM Learning in EYFS

- Our curriculum places a strong emphasis on STEAM education, enabling children to become curious explorers and creative problem-solvers. Through integrated projects and hands-on activities:



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- children Investigate the natural world and conduct simple experiments
- Explore shapes, patterns, and measurements in playful maths activities
- Build structures, create models, and tinker with materials
- Express creativity through art, music, and design
- Begin basic coding and sequencing using age-appropriate resources like Bee-Bots or Tale -Bot Pro.

STEAM learning promotes collaboration, resilience, and real-world thinking—skills that lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

Arabic Language Integration

As part of our bilingual approach, we implement an Arabic-based bilingual model, ensuring that a minimum of one-third of the instructional time is delivered in Arabic. During these sessions, qualified Arabic teachers lead interactive, play-based activities that are both culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate, fostering a natural and meaningful connection to the Arabic language from an early age.

Introducing AI in Early Years (Age-Appropriate Integration)

Children today are growing up in a digitally connected world. Our EYFS curriculum introduces basic AI concepts in playful and age-appropriate ways. This early exposure helps children understand the world around them and begin to navigate technology safely and thoughtfully.

Metacognition

We explicitly support the development of metacognitive skills.

Through guided reflection, children begin to understand how they learn, building confidence and self-awareness from an early age.

A Holistic and Nurturing Environment

We recognise that each child is unique. Our dedicated educators create a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where every child can thrive. Regular observation and assessment ensure learning is personalised and responsive, while strong partnerships with parents support consistent growth at home and school.

Preparing for the Future

By blending the best of traditional EYFS practices with innovation in AI, metacognition, and STEAM, we equip our young learners with the curiosity, adaptability, and confidence they'll need for a future that is ever evolving.



Primary School Curriculum Overview

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) and Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6)

For Ages: 5 to 11 years old

At the Primary School level, academic learning is seamlessly integrated with opportunities that nurture each child's full potential. The curriculum is designed to develop essential skills such as reasoning, problem-solving, and creative thinking. Our passionate educators ensure that students are engaged and inspired by their learning experiences.

Curriculum Framework

The foundation of our curriculum is the National Curriculum for England (NCfE), enhanced to meet the expectations of the UAE Ministry of Education (MOE). This dual alignment ensures a coherent and progressive learning journey. Transitions between year levels are carefully structured, supported by progression frameworks that deliver age-appropriate and inclusive lessons

The subjects taught at this level include:

Islamic Education (in Arabic and in English)	Arabic for Arabs	Arabic for Non-Arabs
English	Mathematics	Science
Moral Social Cultural Studies (Year 2 onwards for Arabs and Non Arabs)	Geography	Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE Education)
Computing	Physical Education	Art
Music	Wellbeing	French/Urdu (Year 4 onwards)

Inclusive and Holistic Education

Our curriculum is inclusive, with adaptive teaching strategies and modifications to support Students of Determination (SofD) and Gifted and Talented learners

The **Oxford Wellbeing Curriculum** further supports holistic development through both standalone wellbeing lessons and integrated strategies across all subjects.



Literacy and Oracy Development

Reading is a key focus in Primary:

- Guided Reading sessions are rigorous and supported by targeted interventions.
- A dedicated library for Years 5 and 6 promotes reading challenges and research.
- Oracy is explicitly taught across all subjects, enhancing communication skills.

Specialist Subjects and Enrichment

All students participate in:

- Computing
- Physical Education
- Music
- Art
- Modern Foreign Languages

These subjects contribute to a balanced and well-rounded education.

PSHE Education

The PSHE curriculum plays a vital role in supporting students' personal development and wellbeing. It is carefully structured to be age-appropriate and relevant, helping students build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to thrive both in and out of school. The PSHE curriculum is delivered through standalone lessons and integrated across subjects, reinforcing key messages and values throughout the school day. It complements the Oxford Wellbeing Curriculum, ensuring a holistic approach to student development.

Arabic Language Integration

As part of our bilingual approach, we implement an Arabic-based bilingual model in Year 1, ensuring that a minimum of one-third of the instructional time is delivered in Arabic. During these sessions, qualified Arabic teachers lead interactive, play-based activities that are both culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate, fostering a natural and meaningful connection to the Arabic language from an early age.

Innovative Learning Approaches

We emphasize:

- Project-Based Learning
- ICT Integration
- Common Sense Media for digital citizenship
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach is introduced through hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences that spark curiosity and creativity in the Lower Primary
- STEM Education in Years 5 and 6, combining Science and Robotics to foster innovation and real-world application



Sustainability and Global Citizenship

In line with the UAE's national sustainability goals, our school is on a mission to become carbon-neutral.

Sustainability is embedded in the curriculum through:

- The Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF)
- Big Green Lessons
- Integration into core subjects

This approach encourages students to become responsible global citizens.

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a wide range of activities to support student interests and talents, including:

- International Day celebrations
- Subject-based events
- Inter-school competitions
- After-school sports and enrichment programs

These experiences promote 21st-century skills such as innovation, inquiry, and creativity.

Moral, Social and Cultural Studies

The MSC curriculum deepens students' understanding of UAE heritage and values through various activities.

Metacognition and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration

Metacognitive strategies are embedded across the curriculum to help students become reflective, independent learners. Students are encouraged to plan, monitor, and evaluate their own learning processes using learning Journals and reflection Logs.

AI is thoughtfully introduced in the Primary School to build digital awareness and future-ready skills.

Adaptive learning platforms and AI-powered educational apps are used to personalize learning experiences and support diverse needs.

Assessment and Progress Monitoring

Students participate in the UAE International Benchmark Assessments, as mandated by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), at the end of Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2 in addition to the internal assessments.

The Primary School phase is a time of dynamic growth—intellectually, emotionally, and socially. Our curriculum, rooted in British educational values and enriched by UAE cultural and national priorities, ensures that students are well-prepared for future academic success and global citizenship.



Secondary School Curriculum Overview

Key Stage 3 (Year 7 to 9) and Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11)

For Ages: 12 to 16 years old

The curriculum is designed to develop essential skills such as reasoning, problem-solving, and creative thinking. Our passionate educators ensure that students are engaged and inspired by their learning experiences.

Curriculum Framework

The foundation of our Years 7 and 8 curriculum is built upon the National Curriculum for England (NCfE), further enhanced to align with the expectations of the UAE Ministry of Education (MOE) and integrated with the Cambridge Lower Secondary Curriculum. This dual alignment ensures a coherent, balanced, and progressive learning journey that supports students both academically and personally. The curriculum is enriched with the integration of Wellbeing, STEAM, Robotics, and Sustainability, thoughtfully designed to inspire students and address the unique developmental needs of their adolescent years. This period marks a critical transition from Primary to Secondary education, and our curriculum aims to provide stability and stimulation during a phase that can often feel overwhelming for students.

The learning goals at this stage are crafted to foster the holistic development of internationally minded learners, promoting academic rigour alongside personal growth. Teaching and learning are structured around knowledge, skills, and understanding, delivered through inquiry-based learning, research, and problem-solving activities. Progression between year levels is carefully scaffolded through well-defined progression frameworks, ensuring lessons remain age-appropriate, inclusive, and supportive of each student's individual learning journey.

The subjects taught in Years 7 and 8 include:

Islamic Education (in Arabic and in English)	Arabic for Arabs	Arabic for Non-Arabs
English	Mathematics	Science
Moral Social Cultural Studies (for Arabs and Non-Arabs)	Lifeskills	Global Perspectives Robotics
Computer Studies	Physical Education	Art
Music	Wellbeing	French/Urdu

In Year 9, students are introduced to the IGCSE curriculum, which lays the foundation for subject specialisation. Additionally, students choose one of the Second Language (Urdu/French)/ Alternate to Second Language (Environmental Management / Global Perspectives/ Geography/ Art and Design / English Literature) subjects at the end of Year 8 and study in Year 9 and 10.



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In Years 10 and 11, students pursue a selection of IGCSE subjects based on their choices made at the end of Year 9.

The subjects taught in Years 9 to 11 include:

Core Subjects	Electives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 2. Mathematics 3. Arabic (for Arabs) 4. Arabic (for non- Arabs – till end of Year 10) 5. Islamic Education (in Arabic and in English) 6. Life skills 7. Computer Science or Information Communication Technology 8. Physical Education 9. Moral, Social and Cultural Studies (for Arabs and Non Arabs) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biology 2. Chemistry 3. Physics 4. Economics 5. Business Studies 6. Accounting 7. BTEC level 2 Business 8. Geography 9. French 10. Urdu 11. Combined Science 12. Art and Design 13. English Literature 14. Psychology 15. Enterprise 16. Global Perspectives 17. Environmental Management 18. IGCSE Physical Education

Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Award in Business

BTECs enable a learner-centred approach to education, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied to project-based assessments. BTECs focus on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be successful in employment and higher education.

The Pearson BTEC International Level 2 qualifications in Business are designed for learners who wish to start a career in business. Students can take units across various areas such as marketing, logistics, and entrepreneurship, while also developing transferable skills like communication, teamwork, and personal This qualification is designed to support learners who want an introduction to the sector through applied learning and for whom an element of business would be complementary. The qualification supports progression to further study at Level 3/pre-tertiary education as part of a programme of study that includes BTEC International Level 3 qualifications and/or International A levels. 120 Guided Learning Hours is Equivalent in size to one International GCSE. Four units, of which three are mandatory and assessed by a Pearson Set Assignment. Mandatory content (75%).

Inclusive and Holistic Education

Our curriculum is designed to be inclusive, employing adaptive teaching strategies and tailored modifications to



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meet the diverse needs of all learners, including Students of Determination (SofD) and Gifted and Talented learners

In addition, the **Oxford Wellbeing Curriculum** further enhances holistic development by providing dedicated wellbeing lessons and integrating wellbeing principles across all subject areas, ensuring that students thrive both academically and personally.

Library lessons (for Years 7 to 9)

Reading is a key focus in Secondary, with library lessons designed to:

- Promote a love for reading by developing confident, independent readers and fostering a strong reading culture.
- Equip students with essential reading skills to support academic success across all subjects.
- Expose students to diverse texts and genres through multiple mediums, including technology and school libraries.
- Develop advanced reading strategies and critical thinking skills, while strengthening links between reading, writing, and language use.
- Monitor and support reading progress through regular assessments, early interventions, and preparation for international benchmarks like PIRLS, PISA, and GL.

Innovative Learning Approaches

We emphasize:

- Project-Based Learning
- ICT Integration
- Common Sense Media for digital citizenship
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach is introduced through hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences that spark curiosity and creativity in the Lower Primary
- Robotics in Years 7 and 8 fosters innovation and real-world application

Sustainability and Global Citizenship

In line with the UAE's national sustainability goals, our school is on a mission to become carbon-neutral. Sustainability is embedded in the curriculum through The Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF), Big Green Lessons and Integration into relevant subjects. This approach encourages students to become responsible global citizens.

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a wide range of activities to support student interests and talents, including:

- International Day celebrations



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- Subject-based event
- Inter-school competitions
- After-school sports and enrichment programmes
- Student-led clubs

These experiences promote 21st-century skills such as innovation, inquiry, and creativity.

Moral, Social, and Cultural Studies

MSC curriculum deepens students' understanding of UAE heritage and values through various activities.

Metacognition and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration

Metacognitive strategies are embedded throughout the curriculum to foster reflective and independent learners. Students are guided to plan, monitor, and evaluate their learning through the use of Learning Journals and Reflection Logs, promoting ownership of their learning journey.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is thoughtfully integrated into the Secondary School curriculum to enhance digital awareness and develop future-ready skills. Adaptive learning platforms and AI-powered educational applications personalize learning experiences, catering to diverse learner needs and supporting academic progress.

Assessment and Progress Monitoring

Students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 participate in the UAE International Benchmark Assessments, as mandated by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA). Assessment in Key Stage 4 is conducted according to the IGCSE grading system, ensuring international benchmarking and academic excellence.

The Secondary School phase marks a period of dynamic intellectual, emotional, and social growth. Our curriculum, grounded in British educational values and enriched by the UAE's cultural and national priorities, equips students for future academic success and prepares them to thrive as responsible global citizens.

Sixth Form (Post 16) Curriculum Overview

Key Stage 5 (Year 12 and Year 13)

At the heart of our Sixth Form provision is a commitment to holistic education—an approach that supports not only academic excellence but also the development of essential interpersonal and leadership skills. Through both A Level and BTEC vocational pathways, students are empowered to take ownership of their learning journey, preparing them to lead within their communities and navigate their aspirations with confidence. Our innovative curriculum is designed to be inclusive, flexible, and tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students.

Curriculum Framework

Our Sixth Form curriculum is designed to provide students with a personalised and purposeful learning journey that balances academic excellence with holistic development. Built on a foundation of internationally respected examination boards—CAIE (Cambridge Assessment International Education), Pearson Edexcel, and Oxford AQA



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along with BTEC International Level 3 Business and IT. Our framework offers both A Level and vocational pathways to meet the diverse goals and learning styles of our students.

The Regular A Level subjects taught at this level include:

- MOE Arabic
- MOE Islamic Studies
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Information Technology
- Computer Science
- Business
- Accounting
- Economics
- Psychology
- Geography
- Sociology
- Cambridge International Project Qualification

Vocational Curriculum: International Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Business and IT

As part of our inclusive and future focused Sixth Form curriculum, we proudly offer the International Pearson BTEC Level 3 qualifications in Business and Information Technology (IT). These globally recognised vocational courses are designed to equip students with a strong blend of academic knowledge and practical, career-oriented skills. Aimed at learners aged 16 and above, the BTEC International Level 3 provides the essential understanding, competencies, and confidence needed to pursue further education, enter the workforce, or progress to university-level study.

Through a combination of project-based learning, real-world case studies, and coursework, students develop not only subject-specific expertise but also vital transferable skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, effective communication, and leadership. These qualities are highly sought after by both higher education institutions and employers, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the demands of a rapidly evolving global economy.

Inclusive and Holistic Education in Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form curriculum embraces an inclusive approach, ensuring that every student is supported to reach their full potential. Adaptive teaching strategies and tailored modifications are embedded to meet the needs of all learners, including Students of Determination (SoD) and Gifted and Talented students. This personalised



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approach fosters an equitable learning environment where individual strengths are recognised and nurtured.

Complementing academic learning, the Oxford Wellbeing Curriculum plays a vital role in promoting students' holistic development. Through dedicated wellbeing lessons and integrated strategies across subject areas, students are supported in building emotional resilience, self-awareness, and positive relationships—equipping them with the tools needed for lifelong wellbeing and success beyond Sixth Form.

Skills Enrichment Programme

- IELTS
- Art and Design
- Cognitive behavior therapy
- Basics of Programming
- Digital Marketing
- Health and Wellness Coaching
- 3 D printing
- Green Spark

As part of our commitment to developing well-rounded, future-ready learners, our Skills Enrichment Programme equips post-16 students with a diverse set of competencies essential for success in the 21st century. These subjects are carefully selected to enhance critical thinking, creativity, digital literacy, emotional intelligence, and global awareness. Together, they contribute to a balanced education that prepares students not only for academic success but also for meaningful careers and active participation in a rapidly evolving world.

Beyond the Textbook: Cultivating Researchers in Post-16 Education

At the post-16 level, developing strong research skills is a key pillar of academic growth and preparation for higher education. Students are actively encouraged to engage in independent inquiry, critical thinking, and evidence-based analysis across all subject disciplines. Through a range of extended projects, coursework, and investigative assignments, including the Heriot-Watt Research Programme and the Cambridge International Project Qualification (CIPQ), students are guided in the use of academic conventions, ethical research practices, and advanced digital research tools. These rich learning experiences not only deepen subject-specific knowledge but also foster essential transferable skills such as problem-solving, academic writing, and self-management—ensuring students are well-prepared for university study and lifelong learning.

Innovation at Sixth Form

Innovation is at the core of our Sixth Form experience, where we blend traditional academic rigour with forward-thinking learning approaches. Students engage in cutting-edge project-based and inquiry-led learning that promotes creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. We integrate the latest digital technologies and adaptive learning tools to personalise education and enhance collaboration. Our curriculum encourages exploration beyond textbooks, fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and real-world applications through



partnerships, workshops, and interdisciplinary projects. This innovative environment prepares students not only for academic success but also to become agile thinkers and leaders in an ever-evolving global landscape.

Sustainability and Global Citizenship

In line with the UAE's national sustainability goals, our school is on a mission to become carbon-neutral. Sustainability is embedded in the curriculum through the Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF) and Green Spark (Skills Programme)

This approach encourages students to become responsible global citizens.

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a wide range of activities to support student interests and talents, including:

- Student Led Initiatives
- Community Service
- Internships
- University Visits
- Cultural Showcases and International Day
- Academic and Subject-Enrichment Events
- Inter-school competitions
- After-school sports and enrichment programs

These experiences promote 21st-century skills such as innovation, inquiry, and creativity. With an endless range of activities, events and training, at Sixth form we are dedicated to provide students with the resources and the opportunities to develop their skills and qualifications, not just to prepare them academically, but personally and socially. These activities, training and events are established as traditions or new opportunities to guide students in finding the creative and challenging sides of their character while enhancing their personal wellbeing.

Moral, Social, and Cultural Studies

The **MSC** curriculum deepens students' understanding of UAE heritage and values through various activities.

Career Education and Guidance at TWS

Post-16 students receive comprehensive guidance and support to help them make informed decisions about their future pathways, whether in higher education, vocational training, or the world of work. Our dedicated careers and university counselling team works closely with each student to explore their interests, strengths, and long-term aspirations. Through individual mentoring, university application workshops, CV writing sessions, mock interviews, and career fairs, students gain the knowledge and confidence needed to navigate life beyond school. They are also introduced to real-world experiences through internships, industry partnerships, and alumni talks, which provide valuable insights into various professions. This personalised approach ensures that every student leaves Sixth Form not only academically prepared, but also equipped with the skills, clarity, and ambition to thrive



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in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Metacognition and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration

Metacognitive strategies are intentionally woven throughout the curriculum to foster a culture of reflective and independent learning. Students are explicitly taught how to plan, monitor, and evaluate their own learning processes—key skills that empower them to take ownership of their educational journey.

In addition, the curriculum is enhanced through the integration of adaptive learning platforms and AI-powered educational applications. These technologies enable personalized learning pathways by responding to each student's unique pace, strengths, and areas for development. This ensures that learners of all abilities are appropriately challenged and supported, making learning more engaging, inclusive, and effective.

In Sixth form students refine their critical thinking, independent research skills, and self-management, preparing them for the complexities of university life and beyond. Our curriculum promotes a balance of academic excellence and holistic development, encouraging students to engage in leadership, community service, and cultural awareness. By fostering resilience, adaptability, and global mindedness, we empower students to thrive in an interconnected world and become proactive contributors to society.



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