



The Policy for monitoring the three compulsory subjects in Private Schools

2016 - 2017





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The policy for monitoring Arabic, Islamic Education and Qatar History subjects in Private Schools 2016 - 2017

First: Main Principles of the Monitoring Policy:

Within the context of the efforts made by the Education Institute to ensure high quality teaching and learning within private schools and upon the agreements and licensing procedures of educational establishments, all private schools shall be committed to the following;

- Schools should follow the approved MOEHE curriculum for Arabic, Islamic Studies and Qatar History or where the international curriculum of the school has a curriculum that covers Arabic or Islamic studies. The home curriculum can be used in place of the MOEHE if agreement with the ministry has been obtained. However, they must try to fill any gaps with the Qatari curriculum. If a school wants to deliver its own accredited curriculum, they should submit the request to deliver their alternative to the ministry in person.
- Appropriate use and selection of Qatar's national curriculum and learning resources as well as appropriate use and selection of any alternative national curriculum as agreed by the MOEHE should be chosen, in order to ensure the effective delivery of Qatar's national Standards and that of the respective international standard.
- Commitment to the principles of the religion and Qatari social and cultural heritage in all learning resources. That should not contradict Islamic teachings and community values. In addition, drawings and figures shall be appropriate to the Islamic values and Qatari culture and traditions.
- To carry out revisions to resources in order to ensure no violations – implicit or explicit - are in the content of the learning resources. In case violations are discovered, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education shall take legal actions against the violating school(s), in accordance with the Ministerial Decision number 8 for the year 2009 regarding the criteria and conditions for private schools.
- Inform the PSA officially in writing about any changes to the approved standards of the home education system in order to obtain the official approval.
- Integrate Arabic, Islamic education and Qatari history's educational standards clearly within the school's annual education plan.
- Commitment to teach and deliver the three subjects and provide each applicable student with the basic resources in all subjects as provided by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education using an original copy only.
- To adopt the annual educational plan for the three subjects in the school supplied from the Educational Supervision Department of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- Should endeavor to introduce non-Muslim students to Islam through the provision in other subject areas such as Qatari history and the Arabic language.
- Private schools should provide qualified personnel and expertise in the field of teaching the three subjects.

Second: Monitoring the effective delivery of the three subjects in private schools.

(Islamic Education, Arabic language and Qatari History)

The ministerial decision no. (8) For the year 2009 in article 1, paragraph 2 it states that international schools shall deliver Arabic, Islamic studies and Qatari History.

This aims at enhancing national identity and values of Qatari students in private schools according to the aspirations of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and to Qatar's National vision to instill citizenship values and principles.

Therefore, the Education Institute shall provide the needed support to private schools to assist them in improving the school environment and enhancing their capacity for the delivery of these subjects.

This policy explains the mechanism of supporting private schools by the PSA and the Educational Supervision Department, in terms of the provision of available resources and address all challenges that schools might face when implementing these subjects.

It is worth mentioning that support will be direct and specific i.e. targeting these three subject (Arabic language-Islamic Education – Qatari history). The design and implementation of support process aim at improving school's performance in teaching these three subjects based on the students' grade level.

Third: Private schools that implement the National Curriculum Standards:

The school	The implementation mechanism
Private schools that implement Qatar National Curriculum Standards in all three subject areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to teach the Qatari Curriculum Standards in all subject areas.• Commitment to use key learning resources issued by the Ministry of Higher Education in their original copies for all subjects.• Commitment to the number of teaching hours approved by the Education Institute for each subject area.• The school will select supportive learning resources according to the conditions mentioned in this policy.• Commitment to apply all polices used in the Independent schools related to Qatar curriculum standards for all subject areas.

Fourth: Teaching the three subject areas (Arabic language, Islamic Education, Qatari History) in the private schools:

The school	The implementation mechanism
Community Schools affiliated to the embassies	<p><u>Islamic Education:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools affiliated to the embassies are allowed to teach Islamic education according to their respective national curriculum, provided that the curriculum fits with the general principles of the subject standards issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and according to the criteria that will be subsequently detailed. Islamic Education-related learning resources for non-Arabic speaking Muslim students shall be approved by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The resources should be compatible with the subject standards, otherwise the school shall be held responsible for any violation contained in the resource. The Education Institute may in this case request a copy of the curriculum and the quarterly plans for review and instruction to make the teaching of Islamic Education compulsory for Qatari and Muslim students. The study must be based on learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. It is prohibited to integrate Islamic Education with any other subject. <p><u>Arabic Language:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools affiliated to the embassies are allowed to teach Arabic according to their respective national curricula. The teaching of Arabic language subject is mandatory for Qatari and Arab students using the MOEHE Curriculum and learning resources as set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and shall NOT be taught as an elective subject. Any special case shall be individually brought to the attention of the Educational Supervision Office with the related evidence for consideration. Schools shall be committed to the prescribed weekly subject school hours approved for the teaching of Arabic by the Education Institute (four hours per week for Grades 1 to 10 or equivalent). Schools shall be committed to review their own selected supporting resources in terms of content, language and style prior to delivery, and ensure the resource is free of any materials in breach or violation of religion, customs and traditions. <p><u>Qatari History:</u></p> <p>The Schools shall teach the full standards of the Qatari History to all students in the school. It shall be taught in Arabic for students where Arabic is their native language or in English for non-Arabic speaking students whose first language is not Arabic unless the school has agreed permission to deliver to all in a language other than Arabic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teaching of Qatari History in another language (other than English and Arabic) is allowed as exceptional case and subject to the approval of the Education Institute. The teaching of Qatari History for all Qatari and non-Qatari students from Grade 1 to 9 or equivalent, is compulsory in one of the two languages: Arabic or English as per the choice of parent/guardian/School <p>Schools shall be committed to the teaching of Qatari History related standards as a subject within Social Studies during the schooling hours set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which should be no less than one hour per week for Grades 1 to 9 or equivalent. The subject shall be included in the school calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools shall be committed to adopting the learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for Qatari History.

With regard to the teaching of Science, English and Math: The schools shall adopt their respective national curriculum.

<p>International Schools that have International Accreditation. (International Baccalaureate, US Secondary Certificate...)</p>	<p><u>First: Islamic Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools shall be committed to using the curriculum and learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for Qatari and non-Qatari Muslim students. Schools shall be committed to the schooling hours set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which is <u>two hours per week</u> for Grades 1 to 12 or equivalent. It is mandatory that the teaching staff in private schools are specialists in Arabic for the teaching of Arabic and Islamic studies for preparatory school and secondary school and have a teaching qualification in community and international schools for the teaching of Islamic education at all stages and levels from Grades 1 to 12 or equivalent. It is prohibited to integrate Islamic Education with any other subject.
	<p><u>Second: Arabic Language</u></p> <p>1. Schools, whose curriculum includes Arabic language as one of its taught subjects, shall observe the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to teach Arabic language-and use their own curriculum if they have Arabic as core subject as well as use the Curriculum and learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education where appropriate for Grades 1 to 10 or equivalent for both Qatari and Arab students, as per the teaching hours approved by the Education Institute (4 hours per week), with the exception of schools teaching Arabic language as a core subject in the secondary program. The number of hours will therefore be allocated similarly to that of other subjects. (Does this mean all Arabic schools must teach the Qatari curriculum even if their curriculum is different? Schools should apply their own Arabic Language standards (if they have Arabic as a core subject) but should compare their own international Arabic curriculum standards with that of Qatar's curriculum standards to identify any gaps that can be filled. These gaps in knowledge should be offered as extra provision to students. The Qatari standards of the Arabic language will be applied in (Grades 11 and 12 or equivalent) In grades 11 and 12 or equivalent schools should ensure the Qatari Standards for Arabic are covered. Schools shall use the appropriate curriculum and learning resources according to their national accreditation requirements and can select further supportive learning resources in accordance to the requirements referred to in this policy. The mandated schooling hours will be implemented according to the schools national accreditation requirements. <p>2. Schools, whose Curriculum DOES NOT include Arabic language as one of their taught subjects, shall observe the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to teach Arabic language-curriculum and learning resource as set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for both Qatari and Arab students. Commitment to the teaching hours set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (<u>4 hours per week</u>) for Grades 1 to 12 or equivalent. Commitment to bridge the gap for Qatari or Arab students who do not master the Arabic language, provided they remain studying with their peers in the same academic grade/year. It is NOT permissible to integrate Arabic-speaking students with non-Arabic speaking students in the Arabic language class and the subject must be taught separately. Commitment to the adhere to the any memo sent out by the Department of Arabic Language from the MOEHE on the strengthening of writing skills for students (copying, spelling and writing) in addition to the memorization of the texts.
	<p><u>Third: Qatari History:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools should implement the national standards of Qatari History curriculum for all students, where it will be taught in in language as agreed by parent and school. Schools shall be committed to ensuring the hours required for the teaching of Qatari History as set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education are covered. This is no more than one hour per week for Grades 1 to 9 or equivalent. No less than one hour a week. <p><u>Other Subjects:</u></p> <p>Schools shall comply with the terms and conditions issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in relation to the teaching resources used in the schools. Schools shall sign a commitment to guarantee that all resources shall not include any of the above mentioned violations and this memo should be sent to the educational department.</p>

Fifth: Key areas for consideration , Criteria

Aspect	Mechanism
1- Use of MOEHE Curriculum and their Teaching Resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools should use the curriculum and resources approved by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for the three subjects (Arabic, Islamic Education, and Qatari History).
2- Conditions for Schools who Select alternative Learning Resources in addition to those supplied by the MOEHE	<p>Supportive learning resources can be used or developed by a school in order to enrich the Ministries primary learning resource but should not contradict the MOEHE curriculum. The school shall be committed to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the resource does not run counter to the Islamic principles and Qatar national identity. That they align with the MOEHE curriculum standards philosophy and objectives, and that it supports the achievement of the curriculum standards at the appropriate grade level. There is rigorous revision of the resources Ensure all resources are up to date, clear and of high quality.
3- Teachers Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools shall be committed to provide the Shared Services Department with all evidences that proves the accreditation of qualified experienced teachers specialized in (Arabic – Islamic Education – Qatari History) including: [Specialized Certificate in subject area [Reference of Previous Experience It is mandatory that the teaching staff of the three subjects in private schools are specialists and are qualified to teach in all stage and levels from Grades 1 to 12 or equivalent in both Arabic Language and Islamic Education and for Qatari History Grades 1 to 9 or equivalent only. Schools should produce evidence of all teachers' qualified status and send a copy of the teacher's accreditation to the HR who will then pass it to the Educational Supervision Department in the MOEHE.
4- Monitoring Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools shall submit an annual plan for the three subject areas to the Private Schools Affairs Department according to the following: [Approved curriculum standards (international programs). [Approved schooling days. [Revision and examination days. [Official and approved holidays. Schools shall provide an semester plan to the PSA for all three subjects with the following in mind: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school should provide samples of the semester plans developed in alignment with the school developed plan to ensure a sound planning mechanism for the implementation of the curriculum standards as per request. Daily plans of the three subject areas. <p>Schools are committed to using the model approved by the Educational Supervision Office in its daily lesson planning. Schools shall be subject to follow-up checks that will check their daily lesson planning mechanism complies with the Qatar's national curriculum requirements</p>

<p>5- Performance Monitoring by Specialists from the Education Institute</p>	<p>The Educational Supervision Office will carry out field visits to private schools with regards to the three subjects. Schools must cooperate with the educational supervisors and provide them all required documents. The visits shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodical monitoring visits: Several visits will be conducted during the academic year as required. • Targeted visits: These will be carried out in case of a complaint related to the delivery of one of the three subjects, or when observing academic concerns inside the school. • Distant monitoring: This will be done by reviewing evidence on delivery of the standards and monitoring to establish if student progress has been made
<p>6- Academic Support</p>	<p><u>Private Schools commitment to Curriculum Standards training courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools should ensure their teachers join core training program on the subjects' standards in cooperation with the Training and Educational Development Centre (TEDC) to ensure continuous training and development of teachers according to the curriculum and standards of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. <p><u>Regular meetings:</u></p> <p>Meetings shall be scheduled by the MOEHE with private schools in order to monitor the delivery/implementation of the curriculum standards. Support and communication between the ministry and the private schools will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry will inform schools of any support and training available that allows private school principals and staff to have access to Ministry support mechanisms and strategies. • The Ministry will provide schools with the latest information and publications on the three subjects. • The Ministry and schools should involve teachers and subject coordinators in forums, meetings and contests organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. <p>The Ministry will Provide advice and information on any school inquiries regarding the three compulsory subjects through the available channels of communication for Independent Schools.</p>
<p>7- Provision of the Learning Resources Approved by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shared Services Department of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Department shall oversee the provision of the learning resources in accordance with the set procedures. • Schools are committed to using the national learning resources provided by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education on the three subjects for all students unless permission has been gained from the Ministry of education and higher education for the delivery of any of the three subjects as part of the schools internationally accredited curriculum offer. No photo copies are allowed for use by the students. • School shall receive learning resources before school starts (as in independent schools) at the beginning of semesters 1 and 2, even if the school's calendar is based on three or four semesters. The objective is to ensure the learning resources are available for students on time. • The delivery and teaching of Arabic using the approved Ministry learning resources is compulsory from Grades 1 to 10 or equivalent. Unless the school has prior agreement to use their home country's internationally accredited curriculum and they have identified any gaps in their provision and offered students options to cover all standards covered in the MOEHE Arabic Standards. It is preferable that students in Grades 11 and 12 use the learning resources provided by the MOEHE, • The use of Ministry learning resources is mandatory for all students. The teaching of Qatari History is allowed in Arabic or English for Qatari and Arab students, according to the school policy.

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