

Early Years
Foundation Stage
Guide



COMPASS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DOHA
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

“*Learning through play*
is the foundation on which children
build the rest of their lives as
they become life long learners.”

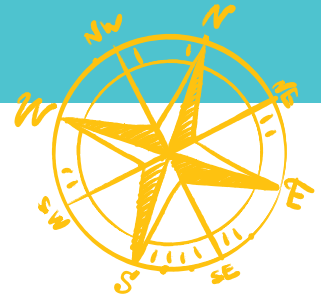


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1. Early Years Foundation Stage

Early Years Learning

Our aim at Compass International School Doha is to provide a happy, safe and progressive environment, in which children develop the necessary skills to enable them to become independent, ambitious, lifelong learners.

For young children, there is no distinction between learning and play. Learning for young children is a rewarding and enjoyable experience through which they explore, investigate, discover, create, practise and consolidate their developing knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes. During the Early Years Foundation Stage, many of these aspects of learning are brought together effectively through playing and talking.

At Compass International School Doha we believe that Early Years education should enjoy a classroom setting which has an ethos of structured learning through play.

Our Curriculum

In our Early Years programme, we bring together the power of two international programmes to lay a strong foundation for future learning: the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the topics and themes used in the International Primary Curriculum (IPC).

These programmes form the base of our approach to successful and relevant learning and provide the necessary tools and challenges to support all children at an individual level throughout their learning journey.



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), is how the British Government and Early Years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is an important stage in your child's development as it helps them to prepare for school as well as for their future learning and successes.

In England, all Nurseries, Pre-schools, Early Years classes and Reception classes follow a Government issued document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

In September 2015, Compass International School Doha adopted the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework in order to align our Early Years provisions with the very best practices.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and why do we have one?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework provides a set of common principles, commitments and goals which must be followed by all Early Years professionals in order to deliver a quality early education experience for all children.

The Framework was devised by experts in the field of Early Years Education and sets out a clear path for every pre-school child's welfare and development. The framework emphasises the role of parents in helping with their child's development.



1. Early Years Foundation Stage (cont.)

What is included in the EYFS Framework?

The EYFS Framework sets out:

- ▶▶ The 7 Areas of Learning and Development which guides our professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge.
- ▶▶ The welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children should follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare.
- ▶▶ Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress.
- ▶▶ Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually at the end of Early Years 2; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals (ELGs)".

The EYFS Framework provides guidance for our professionals on planning the learning activities, and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

Safety and Welfare?

Compass International School Doha tirelessly works to ensure your child's safety and welfare by ensuring:

- ▶▶ All team members have undergone all relevant security checks and safeguarding checks
- ▶▶ Facilities and equipment are suitable for children
- ▶▶ The child to adult ratio is appropriate
- ▶▶ Risk Assessments are completed for all events and trips

It will ensure the quality of your child's education and surroundings.

- ▶▶ Nord Anglia Education regularly carries out stringent checks to ensure the quality of our Early Years provision in teaching, learning and facilities.

How Will My Child Learn?

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through the 7 Areas of Learning and Development.

Children should mostly develop these three prime areas first:

- ▶▶ **Communication and Language;**
- ▶▶ **Physical Development;**
- ▶▶ **Personal, Social and Emotional Development.**

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas. These are:


- ▶▶ **Literacy**
- ▶▶ **Mathematics**
- ▶▶ **Understanding of the World**
- ▶▶ **Expressive Arts and Design**

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will ensure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs.

These areas of learning and development address children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development.


No one aspect of development stands in isolation from the others as all the areas of learning and development are closely interlinked.





At Compass International School Doha our children learn through a combination of adult and child-initiated activities and through planned and structured free-play.

Our Early Years environment is carefully designed to represent the 7 Areas of Learning and Development. Teachers provide opportunities for learning through play based activities that are linked to themes and topics from the International Primary Curriculum (IPC).



Our learning environment includes both indoor and outdoor classrooms allowing free movement for our children and are carefully designed to actively engage and stimulate. The indoor and outdoor curriculums are of equal importance.

2. International Primary Curriculum



“ The boys and girls came to school equipped with wellington boots, coats and umbrellas and were thoroughly excited about the day’s event. Everyone had lots of fun splashing in the puddles and trying to make sure our coats and umbrellas kept us as dry as possible from the deluge! ”

Sand and Water IPC exit point

Alongside the EYFS curriculum we follow the units of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). We have selected the following themes at Compass International School Doha, which have been chosen to excite and inspire young children.

Early Years 1 IPC Themes

- ▶▶ All About Me / Clothes
- ▶▶ Sand and Water
- ▶▶ Bears
- ▶▶ People Who Help Us
- ▶▶ Food

Early Years 2 IPC Themes

- ▶▶ Family and Friends
- ▶▶ Animals
- ▶▶ Changes
- ▶▶ Treasure
- ▶▶ Let’s Pretend
- ▶▶ Dinosaurs

These units of work provide our team with the framework to design classroom activities for our children that allow them to achieve their learning outcomes and have fun. An Entry Point activity sets the scene and an Exit Point allows the children an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on their learning.

3. How We Teach Phonics and Mathematics

Phonics

Our Early Years children learn letter sounds and formation using the Letters and Sounds programme.

During the year, the class teacher will assess whether individual children are ready to start reading using the school's schemes. The majority of children will start the reading scheme in Early Years 2.

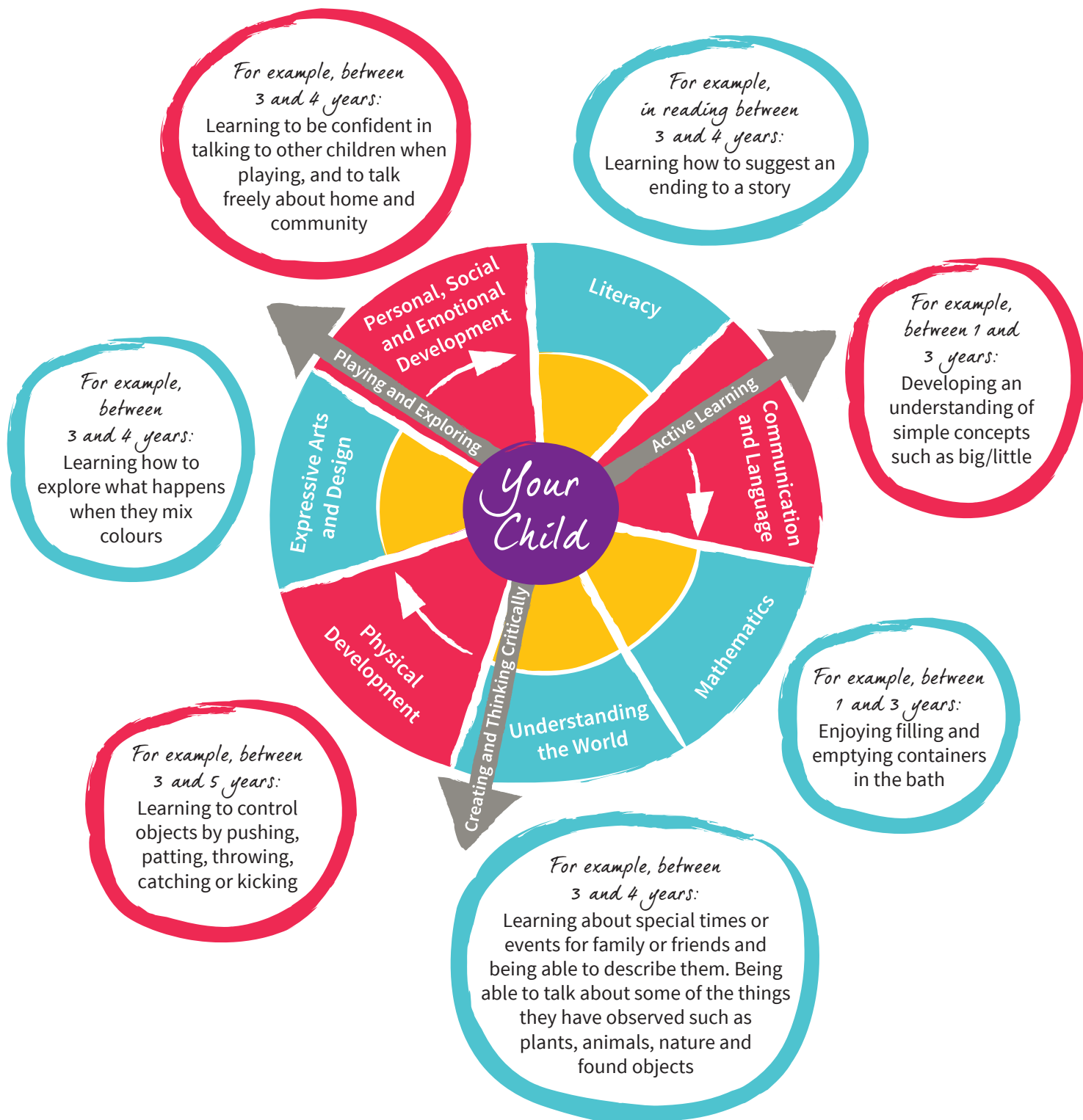
Mathematics

Mathematics is taught practically for much of the curriculum through exploration, practical hands-on learning and investigation. Children are taught to recognise, count, read and write numbers in a variety of contexts. Counting skills, patterns, measurement, naming shapes and practical number bonds are taught through play in a fun and imaginative way.



4. Seven Areas of Learning and Development

The diagram below gives examples of the areas of learning and development and shows the links between the way in which your child learns and what they learn.



Our Team will be happy to give advice about the type of books or other activities your child might enjoy at different ages.

5. Parent Involvement

All the fun activities that parents do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, speaking with them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time daily to do some of the following things with your child, it will make a real difference to their confidence as a young learner.



5. Parent Involvement (continued)

It is important that you and our Early Years Team work together. You need to feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations will either need to be with your child's Class Teacher or Learning Assistant. Your Class Teacher is your main point of contact and is the person who:

- ▶▶ Helps your child to become settled, happy and feel safe;
- ▶▶ Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning;
- ▶▶ Tracks your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how you can help your child at home

Try to speak to your child's Teacher or Learning Assistant as often as possible about what your child has been doing, what they have enjoyed, what they need to be doing more of and what you can do at home.

A weekly Learning Letter will be sent to you outlining the learning taking place throughout the week.

What happens at the end of Early Years?

At the end of the Summer Term in Early Years 2, your child's Teacher will complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile and is based upon what they, and other team members teaching your child, have observed over a period of time.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child has progressed in the 7 Areas of Learning and Development.

Your child's EYFS Profile will ensure that your child's Year 1 Teacher will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as next steps in their learning.

Where can I go for further information?

You can find information on the Early Years Foundation Stage which includes the early learning goals and details of further resources and contacts at: www.foundationyears.org.uk



We operate an open door policy at Compass International School Doha and you can talk to our team at any time about your child's progress.

6. Daily Routine

School Timings

7.15 am	Drop off in classroom
1.20 pm	End of school day
1.30 pm	ECAs start for Early Years 2
2.30 pm	ECAs end

Please collect your children on-time, it can be very distressing for children who are collected late.

No child will be allowed to leave school with an older Primary aged sibling. We do allow for Secondary aged siblings to pick up. If someone different from usual is collecting your child, please let the school reception know in advance as we won't allow children to leave school with another parent or carer unless we have been informed of this arrangement.

Parking

Please help us to keep your child safe by following the instructions of our security team, who do a wonderful job organising the parking at the start and end of the day, in the front and back parking lots.

School Bus

We recommend Early Years children are brought in and collected by a parent or authorised carer each day. We do have a school bus service which is operated by Trilogistics. Each bus has an adult monitor to supervise.

The arrangement is private between parents and Tri Logistics and payment should be made to Tri Logistics direct.

For details of bus routes, compound pickup /drop off times please refer to our website:

<http://www.nordangliaeducation.com/our-schools/doha/compass-international-school/parents-essentials/bus-transportation>

Tri Logistics Contact Details:

Telephone: (+974) 5046 5379 or 5516 8162

E-mail: compass@trilogistic.com

Website: www.trilogistic.com

School Bag

Please do not send your child to school with a large backpack style bag or trolley style pull-along cases as we do not have the space to accommodate these. Your child requires only a small book bag and a lunch bag.

Snacks and Lunch

We follow a healthy food policy and would encourage you to pack healthy food choices.

We recommend:

- ▶▶ At least two portions of fruit or vegetables every day;
- ▶▶ An energy giving food such as bread, pasta, rice, cereals, couscous or noodles;
- ▶▶ Dairy foods such as cheese, milk or yoghurt;
- ▶▶ Water or fruit juice – must be labelled;
- ▶▶ Please note, we strictly operate a **NO NUTS** policy, which includes Nutella products.

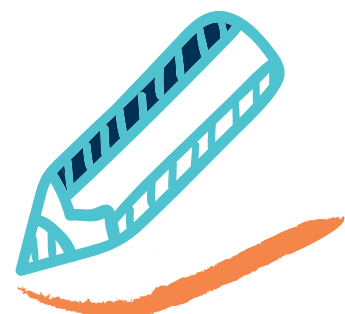
Please do not pack any glass containers or bottles as these could break and cause injury.

Please ensure that your child's lunch box is kept cool with an ice pack and that the box is clearly labelled with their names.

If your child forgets their lunch please do not worry, just have it delivered to main reception and our administrative team will make sure it gets to your child in time for lunch.

It is essential that a clean, refillable water bottle is in school with your child daily. We have cold water dispensers around school and our Early Years team will help refill their bottle whenever needed.

Due to food allergies, our pupils are not permitted to share or swap food items for snack and/or packed lunch.



6. Daily Routine (continued)



Swimming Early Years 2

All Early Years 2 children take swimming lessons. It is a compulsory part of the curriculum. If you think your child is too sick to swim then they are most likely too sick to come to school. For other medical reasons e.g. ear infection, please provide a medical note from a doctor if your child is to be excused from swimming.

Change of Clothes

Please ensure your child has a complete change of uniform at school in case of accidents. These should be named and placed in your child's 'cubby'.

Outdoor Play

Early Years 1 and 2 each have their own separate outdoor provision, which can be accessed throughout the day, subject to weather conditions. Our outdoor play areas are assigned to include the 7 Areas of Learning and Development and are an extension to our classroom.

Library

Each week our children will choose a book from the school library to enjoy at home. Please teach your child to take care of this book and return it to school in their book bag on the designated library day.

7. Toileting Policy

Our expectation is that Early Years children are toilet trained prior to starting school. This includes them:

- ▶▶ Knowing when they need to go to the toilet and use words to describe what they need to do and to get help.
- ▶▶ Having a routine of pulling down their pants, using the toilet, wiping, flushing and washing their hands.

We realise that accidents will happen. Please help by providing a spare set of clothes to be placed in the cubby.

Our Teaching

Toileting for Early Years children is more about learning hygiene and socially appropriate behaviour. Our Teachers and Learning Assistants are aware of the children's needs and their "hanging on" signals like leg crossing, fiddling and restlessness.

If they do have an occasional accident we will not make a fuss and will be discreet (i.e. not make a public display of them but do it privately) and help them clean up and put on dry/clean clothes.

We encourage them to wash their hands after using the toilet and do incorporate this in the social, personal and health education.

We give regular opportunities throughout the day to visit the toilets.



The School Will

- ▶▶ Keep all toilets open and available to children throughout the school day.
- ▶▶ Ensure that all toilet areas have properly maintained supplies, at all times, of water, soap, hand drying facilities and toilet tissue, provided at a convenient height.
- ▶▶ Ensure toilet facilities provide visual privacy for the user.
- ▶▶ Implement and maintain an effective toilet cleaning, supervision and inspection regime to ensure proper standards of provision and cleanliness, throughout the school day.



8. School Uniform



School Uniform

- ▶▶ Teal Polo Shirts (with school logo)
- ▶▶ Grey trousers/shorts/skort/skirt
- ▶▶ Plain black closed sandals or shoes

Black school shoes and trainers must have velcro straps. **No shoe laces please.** Trainers are not allowed to be worn to school, unless as part of the PE uniform.

Physical Education Uniform

PE kits may be worn to school on PE and EY2 swimming days only.

- ▶▶ Teal Dry Fit Polo
- ▶▶ Dry Fit Shorts
- ▶▶ PE plimsolls/trainers (Velcro straps **only**)

Swimming Early Years 2

- ▶▶ Boys should wear either navy blue trunks or navy blue swimming shorts
- ▶▶ Girls should wear a navy blue one piece swimming costume
- ▶▶ Swimming Caps
- ▶▶ Please bring a towel and pool side shoes: flip flops, Crocs etc. in a separate P.E. bag

Personal Appearance

Simple stud earrings may be worn. Pupils may wear a watch, but necklaces and bracelets are not allowed for health and safety reasons.

Please do not send your child to school wearing any jewellery on PE days.

Long hair must be tied back during PE lessons.

Where to Purchase

Uniforms are available for purchase from **Uniform Mart**.

Telephone: (+974) 4469 1459 or 4411 5929

E-mail: info@uniformmart.net

Website: www.uniformmart.net

Opening hours:

Normally open Saturday to Thursday 10 am to 7 pm. Please call before visiting.

All of our students are expected to wear the official school uniform. They help our students identify closely with the pride of being part of Compass International School Doha.

Accessories Needed

- ▶▶ **Water Bottle - mandatory**
- ▶▶ **School Cap** - this is a **mandatory** part of the School Uniform **available at Uniform Mart**
- ▶▶ **School Book Bag - optional**, available at Uniform Mart
- ▶▶ **Sport Kit Bag - optional**, available at Uniform Mart

Helpful Hints

All children must come to school with a school hat. We operate a *No Hat, No Play* policy. Please ensure uniforms and equipment are *clearly labelled* with their name. This keeps lost items to a minimum and saves confusion.

9. School Policies

Absences

Please contact the School Reception as soon as you can if your child is unexpectedly absent from school due to illness or other unplanned events. If your child is absent due to illness, please send a note or medical certificate once they return to school.

Absences should be explained so that the correct follow up procedures can take place. Good attendance and time keeping is part of high achievement.

If your child is absent for a planned event, please write in advance to the Head of Campus, so that she is aware and can follow the necessary procedures. We do not encourage you to take your child out of school during term-time.

Punctuality

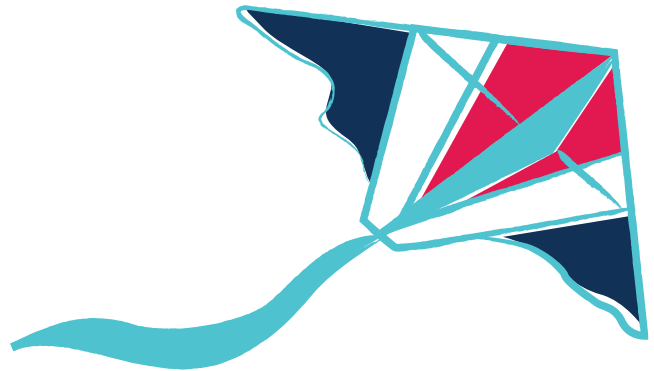
As phonics is the first session every day it is essential that your child arrives for registration no later than 7.20am every day. Children who arrive late are missing an essential part of their learning.

If your child arrives at school after registration, you are required to collect a 'late slip' from the Reception desk and hand this over to the Class teacher when you drop your child off in the classroom.

Medical Matters and School Nurse

We have a nurse at school and a sickroom. Please make sure that your child is fit and well enough to cope with a busy day in Early Years.

Do not send your child to school if they are feeling ill in the morning, have a temperature, or have vomited. If a child gets hurt or feels ill at school then they will be checked by the nurse. If the nurse feels they are too sick to remain at school, parents will be informed to come and collect the child. Please make sure the school knows your emergency contact number. Please inform the school about any health, allergy or medical issues concerning your child.



Leaving Early

If your child has a medical appointment during school hours, please collect an exit slip from the School Reception Desk which must be handed in to the Security Office upon departure.

Essential Trips and Visits

As part of our IPC units the children go out of school on organised trips and visits and we invite special visitors in to school to talk to us. These help bring each unit to life and make it relevant to the world around us. We seek parental permission for trips.

Birthday Policy

Whilst we recognise that birthdays are a very special day for our children, we do not allow celebrations to disrupt our normal routines. We will sing 'Happy Birthday' and present a school birthday card. In line with our healthy eating policy we would ask that you do not provide cupcakes, cookies, sweets and other food stuff for a class celebration.

At Compass International School Doha birthdays are celebrated at school. Please do not bring food as a treat.

Instead of food treats, if families wish to do something special, we suggest that you send an item such as a book for the whole class to enjoy or party bags (without sweets or cakes) for the children to take home at the end of the school day. This policy has been created in consultation with Parents, the School Advisory Council and teachers to reflect our desire to positively influence our pupils' overall health and wellness.

Behaviour

Good behaviour is encouraged and praised at all times. Our Early Years children are taught to follow our Classroom Behaviour Promises:

- ▶▶ Good Listening
- ▶▶ Good Looking
- ▶▶ Good Sitting
- ▶▶ Kind Hands
- ▶▶ Kind Feet
- ▶▶ Kind Words



10. Communicating with our School Community

Regular Class Emails

We are aspiring to reduce the amount of paper we use in schools and so we will not be issuing Early Years communication books.

Instead, we use email as the preferred method of communication. Your child's class teacher will be in touch regularly via email, including Weekly Learning Letters. Whole-school communication will be sent by the school secretary using our iSAMS (school database) email system.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is a communication app that we use in Early Years and Primary for use between the teacher and parent, connecting our school day with our parents, in a digital fashion.

Students take pleasure in their parents being able to see the work they have achieved during their day. Parents get to "like" and add their own comments – making for great fluid communication.

Newsletters

A weekly newsletter is sent out for the entire school.

This newsletter will include whole school news, information on events, important reminders as well as highlighting our whole school or individual achievements.

If your child has a particular success out of school, maybe in sport or music, it would be lovely to hear from you and to include their success in our school newsletter.

Parent Workshops

We will be running a series of Parent Workshops on a range of topics to help you with your child's learning at home.

Website and Parent Essentials

Our website provides parents with regular news blogs, calendars, photographs and important dates. Please access the 'Parent Essentials' section in the top right hand corner of our website. Our website can be found at: www.cisdoha.com and we would encourage you to visit it regularly.

School Calendar

Please check 'Parent Essentials' School Calendar on our website.

Social Media

Please like and follow us on our Social Media pages:

 [@CISDOHA](https://www.facebook.com/CISDOHA)

 [@CISDOHA](https://twitter.com/CISDOHA)

 [@CompassDoha](https://www.instagram.com/CompassDoha)

 [Compass International School](https://www.youtube.com/CompassInternationalSchool)

You will find all our latest photo albums, news, videos, events and happenings.

Annual School Year Book

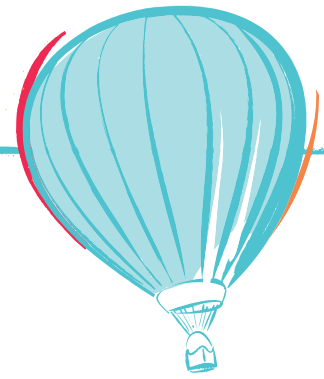
In June we produce our annual School Year Book, this is a wonderful colour A4 magazine-style publication which chronicles the full year of our schools news, events and activities.

It includes samples of outstanding work, details and photographs of our trips, artwork displays, IPC topics and more.



“Early Years at Compass is a special place. It is the wonderful team that make it such a great place to learn. My son has flourished under their care.”

11. Relevant Information



School Events

We hold many school events throughout the year, which quite often require your children to dress-up in costume and bring in food contributions. The events are enormous fun and bring the whole school community together to learn and share. Please try to become involved and share your child's enthusiasm. Events include International Week, Qatar National Day, Book Week and Sports Day.

Our Early Years children also take part in awards ceremonies and performances, which parents are welcome to attend.

School Photographs for Marketing Purposes

The school takes photographs for use in classroom displays, promotional material, the school website and social media sites.

All photographs are taken with respect and in line with cultural sensitivities.

Lost Property

If a pupil finds something that someone has lost please hand it in at the school reception. If a pupil has lost something they should inform their class teacher and check with reception. Items that have the owners name clearly labelled are easy to return. Please make sure you label all belongings.

In the event a school item is accidentally taken home, please return it the following school day.

Parent Involvement

We run a 'Friends of Compass School' (FCS) committee at each campus. The parent community is very strong at our school and we would encourage you to become involved either as an FCS member, a class representative, or a volunteer to help with listening to reading or joining us for school trips. It is very much a partnership at Compass and we welcome your suggestions, thoughts and help.

Change of Contact Details

Please notify the school immediately of any changes to your address, telephone number or email. It is essential that we have updated emergency contacts for your child. As our main direct communication with you is via email, please ensure that you inform the school office of your preferred email contact details for all school communication.

Invoicing and Tuition Fees

Any fee-related queries should be addressed directly to the Finance Department.

Our Finance Office is located at our Madinat Khalifa Campus and can be contacted by calling the main school office at Madinat Khalifa on 4034 9888.

Transferring and Withdrawing

As soon as you are aware that you will be leaving Qatar and/or Compass International School Doha, please contact our Admissions Office. You are required to complete a Withdrawal Form, so that we can make the necessary arrangements and inform the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar. Contractual obligations will be overseen by our Finance Office.



Up and Down

I am the Music Man

Rock-a-bye Baby

Who's There, Spot?
An original lift-the-flap book

بيبو الفيل اللطيف
BIBO THE CHARMING ELEPHANT

Angelina's Special Week
with poster & stickers

First Readers
Read Together
The Big Book of

ZENITH
RANGE ROVER
LEG

Be Ambitious



Gharaffa Campus

Waab Al Abareeq Street, Building 55,
Street 670, Zone 51
Doha, Qatar

General Enquiries: +974 4034 9666

Email: info.gh@nais.qa

Rayyan Campus

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Street 856, Zone 53
Doha, Qatar

General Enquiries: +974 4034 9777

Email: info.ry@nais.qa

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 Compass International School

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