

The Foundation Stage

Nord Anglia International School
Al Khor

A guide to giving
your child the
best start to their
education



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The Foundation Stage Curriculum

At NAISAK, we offer a British, play-based curriculum for our Foundation Stage 1 and Foundation Stage 2 children. This is the EYFS statutory curriculum in England, and all children between the ages of 3 and 5 are taught this way.

What does 'play-based' mean?

Play is more than just fun for babies and children. It is how they learn, how they work out who they are, what their world is and how they fit into it. Play is essentially a child's 'work': it helps their brain to grow and develop while being fun.

The classroom environment is carefully planned and structured to ensure there is a rich variety of learning opportunities for the children. The adults in the setting engage with the children to extend their thinking and challenge them further. Teachers observe the children playing and ask carefully considered questions to promote thinking and to encourage the children to develop their own problem solving skills.

It is vitally important to us that the children within the setting are

continuously thinking and being creative. Within their play, children develop the ability to think independently. Therefore, play also enables children to develop social, language and communication skills.

The day is structured so that the children are provided with ample opportunity to play for extended periods of time. They will have short teaching sessions over the course of the day. They will be encouraged to use what they have learned in these sessions during their play through a targeted 'objective-led' approach from the teachers.



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*Preparing
your child
for school*

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When your child begins in the Foundation Stage, there are a few things that will help them have the best start and allow them to engage in learning from the very beginning.

- Partnerships

At NAISAK, the forming of partnerships with your child's teacher is vitally important in developing good communication links between home and school. It not only boosts the teachers understanding of your child, but it involves you as a parent in your child's education. The 'exchange of information' from parent to teacher and vice versa is the key to unlocking your understanding of your child's education within NAISAK.

In Foundation 1, your child is sent home with a happy chart, which outlines the routine of their day such as: toileting, activities participated in, how many bottles of water consumed, snack participation and nap times. This chart also tracks their mood and if there were any negatives or positives throughout their day at school. Parents are encouraged to comment on their child's day at the bottom of the happy chart in the comment box (Arabic speakers must not feel isolated or apprehensive in communicating with your child's teacher, as there is always an interpreter on hand to help).

In Foundation 1 and 2, the 'two way Communication Book' is also an effective tool for communication and it is used for personal messages between you and your child's teacher. Responses or enquiries should be made in this book. Emails and phone calls also help in keeping the lines of communication and partnership open between teachers and parents. Face-to-face meetings can be set up through school Reception.

- Talk to your child

Encourage your child to ask you questions and to be curious about the world around them. Narrate what you do around the house as the more language they hear, the more fluent and confident they will be in developing their own communication skills.

- Play with your child and take them to play with other children

Your child will feel much more comfortable at school if they have opportunities to be in an environment where they feel comfortable to learn and know how

to play cooperatively with others. They might enjoy building a Lego house, doing a puzzle, making a den – the list is only limited by their imaginations!

- Read to your child

As a parent, reading to your child is one of the most important and nurturing activities you can engage in with your child. Talk about the pictures and encourage them to remember what has happened so far. Not only will this help in developing their imagination, it will also develop their language skills. Reading with your child is always a special time and should be encouraged at any time of the day.

- Take them on trips and visits

Nothing inspires a child's imagination and enthusiasm like a visit somewhere interesting. Not only is it an exciting activity to do as a family, it will also give you and your child more opportunity to talk and develop language skills.

- Teaching your child independence

• Independent use of toilet

The expectation is that all children can use the toilet independently.

• Independent eating

Again, this is a skill that will help your child settle easily into their new setting. Most children are able to do this independently by the time they are three.

- Label everything

Anything that your child will bring to school, should be labelled clearly with their name. This will help prevent items being misplaced.

- Start talking about school

If you know the name of your child's new teacher, start using it around the house. Talk about the things they will be doing when they are at school and keep it positive. You want them to feel like they know what to expect so they feel comfortable and relaxed on their first day at school.



*Tips for the
first week and
beyond*

We know that both you and your child may be feeling a little anxious about the first day of term. How you feel about that first day will affect how your child feels about their first day. Ensure that all conversations that you have with or in front of your child are positive. If you can encourage them to feel happy and relaxed, this will help them to have a smooth start to the beginning of their academic year.

If you have talked about school with your child prior to the beginning of the term, this should make the first day much easier. That said, most children will still be nervous about leaving their parents behind, especially if it is the first time they have attended school.

If your child seems upset or distressed when you are about to leave them, reassure them that you will be returning to pick them up. Be honest with your child. It is important that they trust what you have said in order to feel relaxed at school. Encourage them to join in an activity that they have enjoyed on the previous two days. Once you have said good bye, it is important that you leave immediately so as not to prolong the situation. Again, keep this happy and cheery, for example “You’re going to have a wonderful morning! I’ll be back to pick you up soon.”

Please be reassured that the teachers and learning assistants will do their very best to ensure that your child is calm and happy during the time that you are away from them. We want them to enjoy their first experience at school with us!

- **Talk positively about school before your child begins**
- **Stay and play with your child to establish routines and relationships**
- **Tell your child you will be back to collect them shortly**
- **Keep good byes quick and fuss free**

Assessment in the Foundation Stage

The children are assessed in the seven areas of learning:

Communication
and Language

Physical
Development

Personal, Social
and Emotional

Knowledge and
Understanding

Numeracy

Expressive Arts
Development

Literacy



How?

- Through observations - short and long written comments about the children's actions and interactions within their play. This documentation is added with photographic evidence to their learning journal.
- Practical assessments are done every term to track the children's understanding of Phonics and Numeracy.
- Long observations track child's engagement for an extended period of time.
- All this helps to assess a child's development and to check if a child is meeting their expected milestones.



Behaviour system

We aim to create a happy, caring and safe environment, which will be conducive to both students' well-being and learning. In the Foundation Stage, we follow the 'Sunshine Rules' approach, which is simple for the children to understand. We will inform parents immediately if we have concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour.

Snack times

Foundation 1 have lunch 2 snack times everyday. The children are carefully monitored with guidance given to support healthy eating habits and good manners.

Foundation 2 have a snack during the day.

What your child needs to bring to school every day

Foundation 1

Arabic and English Communication Folders

A spare change of clothes

Underwear

A hat

A large water bottle

A healthy packed lunch

A small pillow and small blanket for those children who rest in the afternoon. They may be kept at school in a named bag.

No toys should be brought into school.

Foundation 2

Arabic and English Communication Folders

A spare change of clothes

Underwear

A hat

A large water bottle

A healthy packed lunch

No toys should be brought into school.



At home

Continue to talk to your child

Encourage them to ask you questions and to be curious about the world around them. Narrate what you do around the house as the more language they hear, the more fluent and confident they will be.

Encourage thinking skills

As mentioned in the curriculum section, we encourage children to be able to think for themselves to promote independence. At home, if your child has a problem, ask them to think about what they could do to solve it. Children love to ask why. Ask them back, "why do you think?". Always encourage a response and try to refrain from telling them they are wrong. Children quite often come up with brilliant ideas, which may have a logic to them that we would never have considered! Talk to them about their logic and encourage them to identify the flaws in their reasoning on their own.

Play and talk

Playing with your child is one of the most important activities you can do to spend time with your child. Playing builds a bond that will last forever. It lets the child know he or she is loved and appreciated. It opens the door for sharing problems and concerns when the need arises. It helps the parent get to know the uniqueness of your child. The benefits of playing with your child will develop not only relationship, it embeds patience, develops problem-solving skills, encourages social skills and inspires creativity. Above all, it promotes communication between you and your child. Talking with your child during play and in other activities during their day helps children to acquire language. Through the acquisition of vocabulary, children learn about the world around them through you, the parent, so it is vitally important that you spend the time in developing these two areas, so that your child has a good start in developing their communication.

Continue to read to/ with your child

Read a story to your child, talk about the pictures and encourage them to remember what has happened so far. Not only will this help to foster their imagination, it will develop their language skills and be a really nice bonding time for you and your child. It will foster a love of reading and can be done in any language!

Children do not only learn at school, they learn at home too. So once they are at school, how can you help their learning?

Phonics

Make yourself familiar with the concept of phonics by attending the parent workshop in the first term. The staff will share with you what phonics is and how you can best support your child with their reading and writing development.

Fine motor skills

'Fine motor' simply means to coordinate the small muscles in the hands and fingers with the eyes. Some children may find this easy, others take a little more time to coordinate their movements. Developing fine motor skills are important because the muscles in the hands are used to help a child hold a pencil and write. Provide materials and activities that require the use of fingers and hands, for example, puzzles, screwing of bottle tops (loosen them for them initially), playing with small lego pieces, painting or 'making marks' with large implements or search 'Fine Motor Activities' on the internet for further ideas.

School uniform

In line with our ethos of Pride and Respect, we expect all students from FS1 to Year 11 to wear clean and smart school uniform to school each day. We are introducing a new uniform for the 2017/18 academic year, which is pictured below. Each item is customised for the school in very specific colours and design. There will be a number of ways to purchase items: a 'Pop Up' shop at school from 28 August to 9 September, in Zaks store in Doha (Al Maszhabiliya St, near Al Meera Izghawa and Garrafa Sports Club) and online through the Zaks website: zaksstore.com/shop/naisak/en or uniformmart.net/naisak.

Tie & Accessories



Also available in clip-on version



Legionnaires cap



Baseball cap



P.E./Swim bag

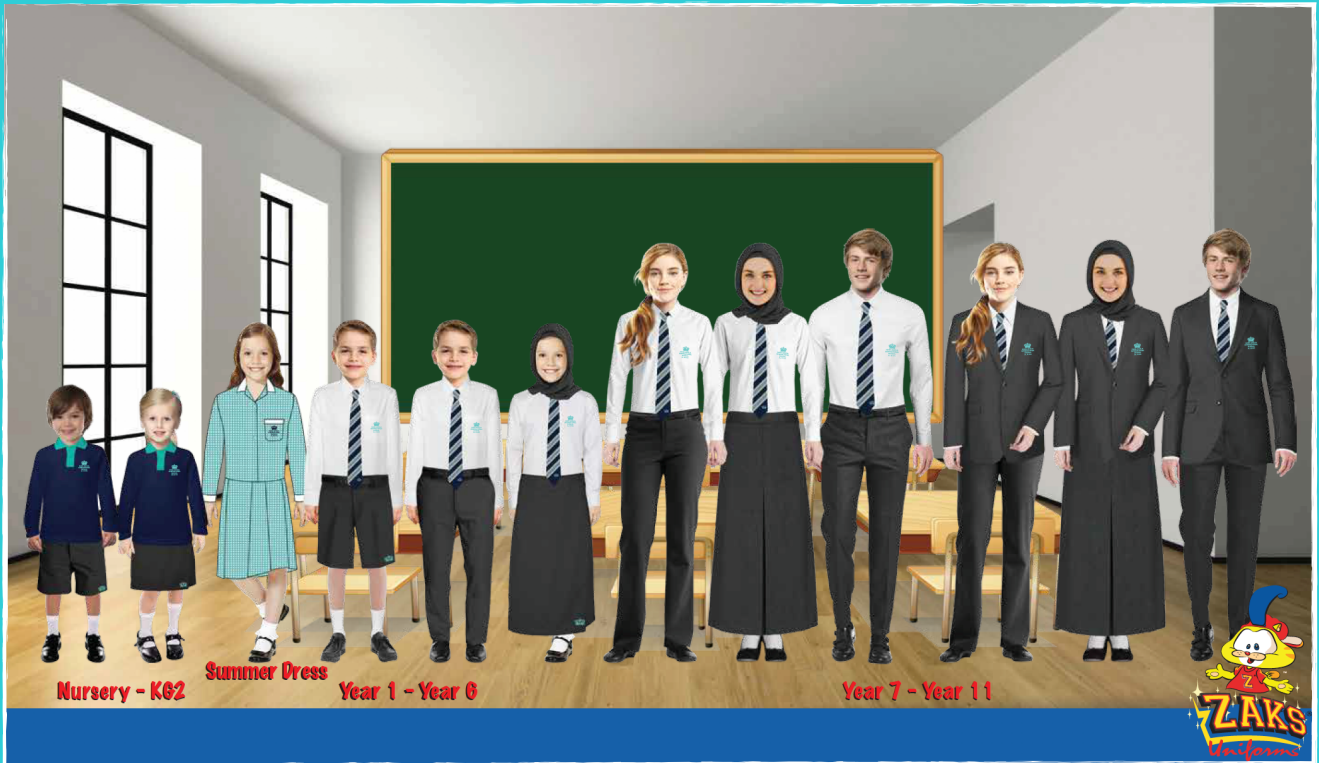


Grey sweater



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zaksstore.com/shop/naisak/en/
uniformmart.net/naisak



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[zaksstore.com/shop/naisak/en/
uniformmart.net/naisak](https://zaksstore.com/shop/naisak/en/uniformmart.net/naisak)

PE kit

House
T-shirts



*Teal PE polo also available with long sleeves

Back To School Event
Monday 28 August 13:00-17:00
&
Monday 11 September 13:30-17:00
@ NAISAK in the Gym

*You can also purchase items online. Simply log on to www.saracenwear.com, locate your chosen school, create an account using the code NK1106 and you can shop.





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SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018

August						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October						
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29	30	31				

November						
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December						
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31						

January						
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28	29	30	31			

February						
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March						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April						
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29	30					

May						
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27	28	29	30	31		

June						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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July						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- End of Term Holidays
- Eid Al-Adha
- First Day of Term
- Last Day of Term
- Half term Breaks & Official Holidays
- National Sports Day
- Inset
- Eid Al-Fitr

* Eid Holiday subject to confirmation from MoE

Communication with parents



e-Newsletter

The e-Newsletter is published weekly on a Sunday. This publication is emailed out to parents as well as posted on the school's Facebook page. The e-Newsletter contains news from students, staff and parents as well as notices and reminders.

Facebook

Daily communication is posted on Facebook. Posts include notices, reminders and news of events taking place in school that day. The school uses Facebook to celebrate student achievement and to share learning moments with the school community. We highly recommend that all families set up a Facebook page to follow the school.

Notice Board

Important notices and reminders are printed and posted on the notice board at the entrance to the courtyard. These will be reminders of communication that will have already been sent home.

Communication Book

Every student is issued a Communication Book. This book is for teachers and parents to communicate. Please check your child's Communication Book each day for any notes written by their teachers. In the same way, you can write any messages you wish to communicate to your child's class teacher/form tutor. Students also use this book to record homework or personal reminders. Communication Books must be signed by parents every weekend.

Communication Folder

Foundation Stage and Primary School students are also issued with a Communication Folder in which school letters and documents will be placed. Please check this folder every day for any printed communication sent home.

School Phone Number

Should you need to reach your child's teacher by phone, please call the school reception and leave a message with the school secretary. Contact the school on +974 4437 9600.

School Absence

Please contact the school as soon as you can if your child is unexpectedly absent from school due to illness or other unplanned event. The school will send a text message to families of absent students once morning registration is completed, if no phone call explaining the absence has been received. If your child is absent for a planned event, please inform the school via the NAISAK app so that the information can be processed for attendance records. Please also write a note in your child's Communication Book for your child's class teacher/form tutor.

Any planned extended absences need to be communicated to the school through the app. Extended absences can affect your child's academic progress at school; therefore, the Principal will need to approve the absence.

School Website/NAISAK app

The school website provides parents with curriculum documents, dates, calendars and photos. The 'Parent Resource' area on the site will support parent enquiries in particular.

How to contact us

Communication Books/Folders

School Phone Number: +974 4437 9600

School E-mail: infoalkhor@nais.qa

School Website: www.nordangliaeducation.com/our-schools/al-khor

School App: Search 'NAISAK' in the app store

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Lunches

- In line with our Healthy Food policy, chocolate, sweets, gums and fried food are not allowed at school.
- Students should be equipped with a transparent bottle so they can stay hydrated throughout the day.
- Only plain water and non-sugary fruit juices are allowed at school.
- To ensure all students are being fed healthily and protected from potential food allergies, our students must not share their packed lunch.

Reminders

- Phones are not allowed at school. Phones are confiscated if seen or heard, and parents are contacted to come and retrieve them.
- On PE days only, students can attend school in their NAISAK PE kit, as long as they wear the complete NAISAK PE kit and no non-NAISAK items. Shorts and leggings are not allowed outside of PE lessons.
- We expect students to show pride in their school uniform and should therefore not mix the school uniform with the NAISAK PE kit.

Attendance & Punctuality Policy in brief

- Registration is open from 07:10 - 07:40 for morning registration. Any students arriving after 07:10 must report to Reception and will be marked as late on the attendance record.
- At NAISAK, we recognise that regular and punctual school attendance is important for academic success. We encourage all students to be ambitious and to strive for 100% attendance across an academic year.
- Students are expected to attend the whole day, every day. If a student needs to leave school during the day, the day will count as an absence if more than one lesson is missed.
- Parents will be contacted if attendance is a concern. If it drops below 90%, you will be informed in writing and will be called in for a meeting.



NAISAK

Building 3, Zone 74, Taimiyah Street
PO Box 60256, Al Khor, Qatar

General Enquiries: +974 4437 9600

Admissions: +974 4437 9660

Email: infoalkhor@nais.qa

www.nordangliaeducation.com/our-schools/al-khor



Facebook: [/Nord-Anglia-International-School-Al-Khor-1454248841471083/](https://www.facebook.com/Nord-Anglia-International-School-Al-Khor-1454248841471083/)



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