



MAS Admissions Policy 2025-2026

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Overview

Al Maaref American School (**MAS**) welcomes students of all nationalities, religions and abilities, who, in the school's opinion, will benefit from the academic and social learning environment we offer. Our school is committed to providing an inclusive and intercultural learning experience with a focus on global mindedness.

Your child's academic, social and personal growth is taken very seriously. To serve your child's individual needs and to support his or her transition to our school, it is important that we have complete information regarding previous academic experiences or other relevant personal insight.

AMPS seeks to nurture the holistic development of every child. We seek to develop every child's talent and potential so he/she can achieve his/her greatness. We encourage you to share your child's interests, special needs, gifts and talents with us, so we can fully service his/her needs.

Parents or guardians of any applicant having a specific need must submit complete reports with their application. These might include Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or educational evaluation and psychological reports from health professionals. In the case where a child's specific need has not been previously identified or disclosed, the school reserves the right to review the situation to assess the capacity to address his/her needs within their existing level of provision.

The school adheres to UAE law and KHDA guidelines. Please refer to Parent School Contract.

1. Age Requirements and Grade Placement

Till 31st August	KG 1	4 Years	
Till 31st August	KG 2	5 Years	
Till 31st August	GR 1	6 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 2	7 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 3	8 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 4	9 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 5	10 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 6	11 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 7	12 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 8	13 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 9	14 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 10	15 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 11	16 Years	
Depends on Last Grade	GR 12	17 Years	

2. Language Proficiency Entry Requirements

Kindergarten 1 (KG1)

During the intake period, non-native English-speaking students will be expected to demonstrate an acceptable level of fluency in English to be eligible for admission. During the intake process, should language proficiency appear to be an issue, the applicant will be further assessed to determine whether his/her level of fluency in English is acceptable for admission.

Kindergarten 2 (KG2) to Grade 12

The language of instruction at Al Maaref American School is English. All non- native English-speaking students admitted to AMPS from K2 - Grade 12 are expected to demonstrate near or at grade-level mastery of the English language. During the intake process, should language proficiency become an issue, the applicant will be assessed to determine whether their level of fluency in English is acceptable for admission. Non-native English speakers, whose fluency in English (speaking, reading and writing) is found to be below grade level, may be eligible for admission with learning supports should resources and/or staffing be available.

3. Admissions Procedures

Applications for admission are always accepted during the school year although there are cut-off dates during the year which may prevent admission, which are designated by the UAE Ministry of Education.

Applications must be completed, and the required non-refundable application fee processed. If there are no places available at the time, then the application is placed onto the school's waiting list. When a place becomes available, the school will contact the first eligible applicant and invite them to attend an assessment.

Selection Criteria

Selection is based on multiple criteria. These include:

- Priority will be given to siblings of those who have secured admission to the school.
- Performance in the entrance test in English Language (even if it's the native tongue).
- KG1- KG2 applicants are also assessed for school readiness. They must be toilet trained and have a level of independence.
- Past school results and reports
- Full details of any special education needs and individual education plans (IEPs) plus educational psychologist's reports if completed.
- Face to face interview with section principal/school principal or other designated school staff.

- Age appropriateness for the year/grade level to which admission is sought.
- Transfer certificate from the previous school.
- Students entering high school (grades 10-12) must have a valid transcript from their previous school.
- The child's previous curriculum is taken into consideration as well as limitations with regards to transfer dates for local transfers.

Conditional Offers of a Place at MAS

You may be offered a conditional placement at MAS. This means your child's application to the school doesn't satisfy one or more of the admissions criteria. You may be asked to provide / sign:

- Further documentation about your child's schooling.
- Evidence of application for residency or your residency status.
- An educational psychologist's report in support of identifying your child's learning needs.
- A review period may be set at which point the student's progress will be reviewed to establish if MAS is the most suitable school to meet the child's particular needs.
- A consent form due to low academic performance.

If the conditional criteria are not satisfied, MAS retains the right to withdraw the placement and asks the parents to seek alternative arrangements for their child's education.

4. Entrance exam

All invited applicants from grade 2 to grade 12 will undergo English assessments while KG 1 to Grade 1 applicants will be interviewed by the section principal. Assessments are conducted at the school premises. Applicants will sit for MAP screening computer-based test in **English** subject, pertaining to the respective grade admission is being sought in.

Note: For KG1 and KG2 the school assesses a child's readiness to start school before making offers for admission.

The decision of acceptance is at the discretion of the principal and is final.

5. Admission Requirements

Passing the school entrance exam in the subject of

English

Applicant's age.

Submission of the following documents:

3 recent colored passport size photographs.

Copy of the birth certificate.

Original vaccination card from grade 1 to grade 12 (not COVID vaccination).

- a. Copy of the student's passport with a valid residence visa for non- UAE citizens.
 - b. Originally emirates ID from students and parents.
 - c. The student's last 3 years report card from the school he/she last attended. If the student is transferring from a school located outside the UAE, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UAE consulate should attest the report in the country where the school was located.
 - d. Other Emirates except Dubai – Ministry of Education only.
 - e. Transfer certificate attested by the school last attended transferring from a school located outside Dubai.
 - f. Photocopy of immunization records
- 2- Admission exam fee **AED 500** non-refundable and non-deductible, charged only after approval of applicant.
- 3- The registration fee of **AED 1000** is deductible from the total fees.

6. Identification as Students of Determination or SEN - Inclusion

In alignment with Federal Law 209 (2006), Law no.2 (2014) and the Dubai Inclusive Education Framework (2019) regarding the education and outcomes of individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, we have an open-door policy and welcome all students with the exception that the school has the resources and staffing to meet the unique needs of the applicant. The aim is to promote inclusion so that children with special educational needs can achieve their full learning potential through access to broad, balanced, creative and challenging curriculum with a wide variety of opportunities and experiences.

To understand individual needs and to support students of determination, parents should provide the school with complete information regarding previous academic experience, formal assessments, and psychometric and/or medical reports if present so, the best possible pathway can be determined within the existing level of provision.

The school has appropriate procedures in place to assist identification of Students of Determination on entry. If the student is identified with Learning Support need at any point of assessment process, an interview is set up with a Learning Support Coordinator who will then liaise with the section and school principal regarding acceptance of the student.

Additional KG – Grade 1 Procedures for SEN Admission include:

- Verbal interview with Learning Support team members and observational play- based interactions
- Additional evidence may include home video of interactions and speech should the child be hesitant in formal interview.
- Should speech, behavior, or learning disability be detected, the team may request a medical or psychological report before admission.

Additional Grades 2 – 12 Procedures for SEN Admission include:

- Verbal interview with Learning Support team members
- Additional evidence may include MAS diagnostic screening tools as determined.

The decision of acceptance is at the discretion of the principal.

7. The Admissions Process

The processes outlined below are managed and administered by the admission department, in collaboration and consultation with the principal.



8. Process Length

The admission process for each child needs to be completed within 3-5 working days of the assessment if the student is based in Dubai.

To achieve this goal, the following process and service standards have been defined:

- Receiving assessment/ interview results the same day and informing parents directly.
- Responding to parents after receiving the results, 24-48 hours only in special cases

9. Registration & Selection Process

- Following assessment, the school management will decide upon whether a place is to be offered or not, based upon all the information from assessment and provided in the application.
- The decision taken by the school is final, and all admissions follow the guidelines and regulations set by the KHDA.
- Parents must respond to an offer within 7 days of receipt to secure the place. A child's place is held only after the deposit fee has been paid to the accountant's department. In the event, the desired grade level becomes full, the child is then placed on a waiting list (that is generated on a first come first serve basis).
- Prior to admission a Transfer Certificate (attested where required) is to be submitted.

10. Registration and Admission Fees

The registration and admission fees are regulated as follows:

Existing students:

A 5% of the school's tuition fees as a re-registration deposit to confirm the return of existing students in the new academic year. This deposit is deducted from the total tuition fees for the academic year in which admission is being sought.

New students:

A 10% of the school's tuition fees as an admission fee to confirm that selected students will opt to take up the offered places. This fee is deducted from the total tuition fees for the academic year in which admission is being sought.

Refund:

In the cases of both existing and new students, deposits and fees will not be refunded if students choose not to return to school for the next academic year or choose not to take the offered place. However, a school must refund the deposit under special circumstances. These circumstances include, but are not limited to, evidence of family travel to another country, a move to another Emirate or any unforeseen circumstances. Such cases may be submitted to KHDA for study.

In the case of refund and recovery, the school fees will be calculated as follows:

- If the student attends school for two weeks or less, a month's fees will be deducted.
- If the student attends school for a period ranging between two weeks and one month, two months' fees will be deducted.
- If the student attends for more than a month, three months' fees will be deducted.

11. Notice of Leaving

When fees remain, unpaid students are not entitled to receive a transfer certificate or their final reports until fees have been paid.

The principal's decision is final in all matters of admission.

Annual Policy Review:

This policy is to be reviewed annually, though; any deficiencies or weaknesses in admissions will be remedied without delay. The CEO, Principal, and Director of Admissions will undertake an annual review of the admissions policies and procedures and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged.

MAS Administration