



# Hay Al-Sharooq International School

## Statement and Commitment to Internationalism

HASIS brings children together from many nations to learn and grow together. Although the majority of our students are Omani, the community is an international one, with over fifteen nationalities at the time of writing. This diversity assists us in meeting our vision, mission and key goals. We have agreed a shared definition of international mindedness, and both our academic and co-curricular programmes are designed to further and support its development amongst our community.

### **Statement of International Mindedness**

The School community has discussed and agreed the following definition and scope of acting and thinking in an internationally mindful manner.

We believe that thinking and acting internationally is a force for good in this world. Those with this mind-set believe in the equality and common humanity of all. We are tolerant of each other, and thus create trust. We communicate freely, and thus enhance mutual respect and understanding. By respecting the cultures, traditions and beliefs of others, we enrich both ourselves and those around us. In practice, we strive towards the development of an international, supportive and tolerant community of which we are all members in the hope of building a united world at peace.

### **International Mindedness in the Academic Programme**

HASIS provides education for boys and girls from the ages of three to seventeen, following a broad curriculum based on part on the National Curriculum of England and Wales but adapted in order to reflect the international and Omani context of the School. Our team of local and expatriate teachers are dedicated to providing all children with a truly international education throughout the School. A common core covering Mathematics, English and Science is provided for all children from Key Stage One to Key Stage Three, taught in English. For Omani children, the remaining periods are devoted to Arabic (First language), Islamic studies and Social Studies as required by the Ministry of Education. All these subjects are taught in Arabic. Non-Omani students follow the curricular of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) in the primary phase and the International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC) for Key Stage Three, where cross-curricular links are made to enhance and contextualise international perspectives.

Older students follow the Cambridge IGCSE programme during Grade 9, completing and taking examinations at the end of Grade 10. Senior Students in Grades 11 and 12 study for the General Education Diploma of Oman, which constitutes their final certification from School. Furthermore, the children at all ages are exposed to a number of languages in addition to English, receiving lessons from specialist teachers for French and Arabic. Each language strand taught at the School provides an introduction to the culture and lifestyles of speakers of that language through activities in lessons and whole School cultural events such as Omani National Day, International Week, United Nations Day and other cultural celebrations from around the world. These elements combine to provide our pupils with the knowledge and skills to thrive in a globally mobile, competitive world.

International awareness is furthered through our PSHE program, which is both comprehensive and compulsory. It seeks to develop the student's awareness of life skills and their role in the various communities they inhabit, be they family, school or on a national and international level. The changing face of the world, with regard to world history, geopolitics, the global environment and the role of young people is at the forefront of what we study. Our goal is to give our pupils the confidence and knowledge



required to adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing region. Our units and activities seek to promote team building and understanding of others, while encouraging individuality and flexibility. This is extended and facilitated with presentations given by our parents from the country in question at specific times and by invitation. These range from the geography of the country to its national cuisine.

### **Extra-Curricular Activity Programme**

Education does not only take place in the classroom but on the sports pitch, performing on stage or through exploration in the field, and so all students at HASIS are encouraged take risks, develop existing interests and try new ones via participation in our programme of extra-curricular activities. We have many different activities running each week, a great many of which provide an opportunity to increase a child's level of international awareness; these include learning additional languages outside our normal curriculum such as Spanish, environmental groups dedicated to improving the School's energy and resource efficiency, or debating philosophical and geopolitical perspectives on world events and current affairs. All ECAs are open to all students, and thus bring many different nationalities and age groups together for a common purpose.

Charity work is a non-compulsory but highly important part of life at the School. A large number of events dedicated to helping members of our community take place over the year including fundraising and material donations to local schools in more remote locations in the local area to disaster relief. Each of the School Houses will adopt a local cause as a 'House Quest' which range from educational, medical and community needs in the villages located the deserts and mountainous areas in the interior of Oman. As the children age, they have the chance to not only to raise money but volunteer and work in these communities, helping our diverse student body learn about the lives of those in rural Oman.

The School also aims to make a difference to the environment by helping the children understand the global implications of ecological impacts of humanity in this area. The importance of the sea to Sur's heritage and current economy cannot be overstated. By connecting with our local sailing school, and bringing in Scuba Diving programmes to be taught both in the School and in local open water, the needs and pressures on the maritime environment will be brought to their attention. Discussion on the practical ways in which the school can make a difference in this area will be part of both programmes.

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