



Rayyan Campus  
Information for parents  
2009 / 2010

Page 3	Welcome from John Todd, Head Teacher
Page 4	About us
Page 5	School Organisation
Page 6	The School Day
Page 7	Encouraging Good Behaviour
Page 8	The School Curriculum
Page 9	The School Curriculum
Page 10	Further Information
Page 11	Registration & term dates

Welcome to Compass International School Doha, a school where we want to make sure that your child and every child is 'Learning Well, Enjoying Life and Exceeding Expectations'.

We know that it is important for your child to settle down quickly in a new school and the aim of this booklet is to give you a general idea of the school and how we hope to work together with you for the education of your child for now and the future.

Your child is genuinely at the heart of our school. We hope that they will quickly feel at ease here and will continue to feel that way throughout his or her time with us. Wherever he or she comes from, your child will be respected and will learn to respect others. Your child will learn well. We will keep you informed about the learning taking place.

Our School is a learning community and we hope that you will be fully involved. Please take a keen interest in your child's school work and keep in regular contact with the teachers. If we work together, your child will benefit.

Our Gharaffa Campus has been really well adapted to provide a conducive and safe environment for our primary school students aged 3 to 11. Our new Rayyan Campus offers secondary education for students aged 11 - 13. Additional year groups will be added over the next few years.

Our school is a listening school and we are always ready to listen to any ideas or concerns that you may have about your child or the school in general.

Yours sincerely,

**John Todd**  
Head Teacher



## Our group

Compass International School Doha is a part of the WCL Group. As well as Compass International School Doha, the group owns and operates five schools in the USA that provide high quality learning to children of over 50 nationalities. You can find out more by visiting [www.britishschool.org](http://www.britishschool.org). Through another part of the group, Fieldwork Education, we also manage a number of schools around the world, and provide training, development and consultancy to many others. You can find out more about Fieldwork Education at [www.fieldworkeducation.co.uk](http://www.fieldworkeducation.co.uk). Our group has also developed the International Primary Curriculum ([www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com](http://www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com)), currently used in more than 500 schools in around 50 countries. Through all of these activities, our whole group is committed to improving learning.

## Location

The school is situated in the Rayyan district of Doha close to the newly developed and prestigious Education City.

## Access to school

Our main gates are manned by uniformed security personnel 24 hours per day. Please park cars near the front entrance of the school and bring students inside the main entrance gates. From here, they will be able to go directly to their classrooms. If you wish to contact our School Secretary, please walk to the main entrance of the building. Staff will invite you into the office. You may be asked to identify yourself. Should you wish to see Mr. Todd or Mr. Cottenden, please contact the School Office to make an appointment.

## Teacher qualifications and experience

Our staff are well qualified teachers with experience of working with young people in a variety of teaching and learning situations and school systems around the world. Some have recent experience of teaching in Doha or elsewhere in the Gulf, others are new to living and working in the region. This gives us an important mix of experiences that helps to enrich the educational provision for our students, and also adds to our international approach to the curriculum.

## Pupil numbers

Our growth in student numbers has been considerable and we are constantly reviewing our provision to ensure that the students have the best possible learning opportunities. Currently, we are able to provide education for students aged 11 to 13. As our school develops our intention is also to provide education for students aged 3 to 18

## Class sizes

We are aware of the impact of class size on student's learning. Except in special circumstances, our maximum class size is 22. This is consistent with the situation in comparable private international schools.

## Facilities available to our Students

Our bright and spacious classrooms are well resourced and equipped with the latest technology including interactive whiteboards. There are also extra rooms available for small group activities. These include designated areas for Language, Library, and Information and Communications Technology and Science. In the first instance, until our own sports facilities are completed students will be bussed to the Gharaffa Campus where they will take advantage of the Sports Hall and swimming pool. Our own Sports Hall will be completed this term. We also have outdoor shaded areas for use during the school day.

## Year Groups

The Secondary School will start with three year groups - Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9. Together, these are known as Key Stage 3. Key Stage 4 covers the next two years - Years 10 and 11. During Key Stage 4, IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) courses are followed. The first IGCSE classes will start in September 2010.

## Tutoring and support

Each student has a Form Tutor. The Form Tutor will be a teacher who has responsibility for supporting, monitoring and developing the academic, social and emotional development of each individual. The Form Tutor will be an important first point of contact for both students and parents.

## The school day

School starts at 7.30am.

Students should arrive at school no later than 7.20am.  
Staff supervision will be available from 7.00am.

The school day is divided into ten learning periods and two breaks, each of 30 minutes.

- 7.10am** gates open
- 7.20am** students move to their Form Rooms
- 7.30am** lessons begin
- 9.30am** first break
- 10.00am** lessons resume
- 12.00pm** second break
- 12.30pm** lessons resume
- 1.30pm** end of school day

From 1.30pm, staff will be on duty at the school gate.

- 1.45pm** Extra-curricular activities
- 2.45pm** Extra-curricular activities end

## Eating arrangements

Please provide your child with something healthy to eat at break times in a suitable container marked with their name. Please provide drinks in containers other than glass, which can be dangerous. Cold drinks may be brought in flasks, but please make sure that these have foam, rather than glass, insulation. Please notify the school office if your child has any allergy of which we should be aware. Students are allowed to drink water during lessons, so please make sure that they each have a plastic water bottle. Drinking water is available in every classroom.

## Medical appointments

If students have a medical appointment in school time, please let us know in writing or by email and, if necessary, arrange for them to be collected from school.

## Absences

Please notify us by letter, fax, email or telephone, giving brief details of any absences. This will then enable registers to be completed correctly. However, please do everything that you can to ensure that your child has full attendance at school. Whenever possible, please make medical and dental appointments out of school time.

## Code of Conduct

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The main aim is to help students learn and develop self discipline, to help students gain self respect, respect for others, and respect for property - their own and that of others.

The aim is also to learn and develop a sense of responsibility towards the school community and the environment.

We expect all members of the community to observe basic rules of behaviour and for students to follow instructions given by teachers, support and supervisory staff. It is our expectation that all students will be co-operative, considerate and sensible in carrying out their primary task of attending school in order to learn. Students should set a good example to others.

Staff in school will be promoting, modeling and rewarding good behaviour. Our aim is not to seek out and look for poor behaviour, but to promote, encourage and model good behaviour.

## School Uniform

We believe that a school uniform actively helps to support our school ethos. The practical design and colours of our uniform also project an image that encourages smartness and generates a pride in appearance.

Our school uniform to be worn by all students is as follows:

**Shirt or blouse with school logo (white)**  
**Trousers/shorts/skirts navy blue**  
**School cap**

All school uniform plus Reading Bags, PE Bags and fleece tops may be purchased from our uniform suppliers, **Zaks**, on Salwa Road.

All clothing and equipment should be named so that mislaid items can be returned easily.

Students should wear black shoes, and white socks.

## Physical Education (P.E.)

School PE T-shirts and shorts should be worn plus pumps / plimsolls / trainers.

PE kits should be kept in labelled PE bags. For safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed – including earrings.

## Swimming

Boys should wear either trunks or swimming shorts. Girls should wear a one piece swimming suit.

Please bring sun screen, particularly if your child is prone to burning.

## Content

All pupils will learn English, mathematics, science, ICT, art, French, geography, history, music, physical education and personal, social and health education (PSHE). A first language Dutch (NTC) programme is also offered.

## Standards

The Key Stage 3 curriculum will be based on the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum for England. We will not follow this curriculum blindly, rather, we will select the elements that best suit our context as an international school in Qatar.

The pursuit of excellence will be our goal - world class results in a world class school. Literacy, numeracy and high order skills in ICT will underpin everything that we do.

English is vital for communicating with others in school and in the wider world, and is fundamental to learning in all curriculum subjects. In studying English, students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing that they will need to participate in all curriculum areas, society and employment. Students learn to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others confidently and effectively. The world belongs to the articulate.

English, mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT) are taught as discrete subjects but are also incorporated into the schemes of work of all subjects across the curriculum, so that there is constant re-enforcement of literacy and numeracy whenever possible.

## Assessment

Assessment will be based on National Curriculum Levels. The purpose of assessment is to:

- Identify a base line and potential levels of achievement
- Identify students strengths and areas for reinforcement and development
- Inform regular dialogues between teacher and learner about standards and progress
- Provide teachers with information on which to base their mid and short term lesson planning for individuals and groups of students

The most important function of assessment is to assist learning.

## An International Curriculum

In developing international mindedness in our students, we will encourage students to think about:

- knowledge and understanding beyond that related to their own nationality
- an understanding of the independence and interdependence of peoples, countries and cultures.

It should enable students to:

- adapt to other education systems
- develop both a national and an international perspective.

It will include:

- a degree of focus on the host country
- a degree of focus on the home country.

These characteristics will be reflected in the whole curriculum and in all aspects of school life.

## A Creative Curriculum

The secondary curriculum will be creative and stimulating and designed to meet the needs of our students. To this end the secondary Curriculum, whilst including the traditional range of subjects, will be based on the following elements and developments:

## International Context

Our school, being in the Middle East, and with staff, parents and students from many cultures and countries, provides a fabulous resource for learning. We have a great opportunity to internationalise our creative curriculum and to give our students opportunities to learn in real world situations. In the first year we will link with communities in Kenya and India.

## Focus days and events

Events throughout the year which can be a vehicle, a focus for learning. For example 13th September is Roald Dahl Day. In October there is Space Week and in December, the UN stages its Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

## Extended Curriculum days

These are selected days throughout the year when the normal curriculum is suspended to enable more time for enrichment activities. These can be directly curricular or cross-curricular, with science, maths, history, art and ICT for example running a What did scientists ever do for us day. These days can be used for visits off campus, expedition preparation, service activities in the community, Model United Nations, etc. Any educational experience that does not fit into our normal schedule.

## Oman Expedition

One central focus for our creative curriculum will be an expedition to Oman for all secondary aged students, who will camp in the mountains. The second half of the expedition will be a Floating Classroom. The pupils will live, sleep and learn on a traditional dhow, whilst sailing for three days down the beautiful coast of Oman. The first half of the school year will include preparation and contextual learning in advance of the expedition, the second half will enable follow-up work back at school.

## IGCSE (Key Stage 4)

In September 2009 we will have students in Years 7 to 9 in school. The KS4 curriculum, starting in September 2010, will follow IGCSE programmes provided by Cambridge International Examinations.

## Dutch Language and Culture

We provide 3 hours of Dutch Language and culture (Nederland Taal en Cultuur / NTC) lessons for children from Dutch and Belgian families. These are built into the curriculum and are set against French lessons for other students.

## Sports activities

Students will participate in a variety of sporting activities. All students are expected and encouraged to participate in these activities to enhance general fitness and also to introduce them to concepts such as team building and social interaction with children from other schools.

## Admissions

Our intention is for Compass International School Doha to be as inclusive as possible. For that reason, we have no admission criteria, apart from age, and no examination that children must take before being offered a place at the school.

Decisions about the admission of students whose first language is not English or of children who have special educational needs are taken by the Head Teacher in the light of this policy. Such decisions are based on the extent to which the school is able to meet your child's needs.

In all cases we do our best to be sympathetic and helpful and do whatever is possible to enable us to admit all children.

Parents who wish their child to be admitted to Compass International School Doha are invited to visit school before completing the Application Form provided.

## Parental Involvement

At Compass International School Doha, we believe that good home / school co-operation is essential for the benefit and welfare of the students in our care. As far as possible, our door is 'always open' to parents. However, we would like you whenever possible to make an appointment to see the Head Teacher or other members of staff.

## Extra-curricular Activities

In the second week of term, students and parents will be given information about the extra-curricular activities on offer for the term. Most activities will be run by school staff and will usually run from 13.45 - 14.45. We encourage all students to participate in at least one activity every week. Some additional programmes, where specialist instructors are required, may involve an additional cost.

## Learning at home

Students will be expected to complete some tasks at home on a regular basis. This might be additional subject activities, preparation for a future lesson, revision, reading research and so on. It is important that students develop the ability to manage their time effectively and learn to work independently. However, it is also important that students have a full and stimulating home life and engage in a wide range of social and physical activities with their family and friends. The key is getting the balance right.

## Registration

To register your child for a place at the school, please:

- Read through the Application Form carefully. It is available either from our website ([www.cisdoha.com](http://www.cisdoha.com)), or direct from the School Office.
- Complete the form and return it to the school ([rayyan@cisdoha.org](mailto:rayyan@cisdoha.org)) along with copies of your child's school reports for the last two years, plus the Personal Statement completed by the student.
- An application fee of QR 550 is required when submitting the completed forms.

You are most welcome to complete the form in school and our School Secretaries will guide you through the process, whether you are paying the fees directly or via your company.

Our Secondary School Tuition Fees are QR 65,050 per annum. A one-off Development Levy of QR 7,360 is also charged, as well as a QR 3,680 deposit.

## Term dates

### Term 1 (2009)

Tuesday 1 September - Thursday 17 September  
Sunday 27 September - Tuesday 24 November  
Wednesday 02 December - Thursday 17 December

### Term 2 (2010)

Monday 4 January - Thursday 11 February  
Sunday 21 February - Thursday 1 April

### Term 3 (2010)

Sunday 18 April - Thursday 27 May  
Wednesday 2 June - Thursday 1 July

## Further information

This booklet aims to provide an overall picture of life at Compass International School Doha. Information is correct at time of printing, but certain aspects of the contents will change from time to time.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

# Learning Well, Enjoying Life, Exceeding Expectations

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