

Policy on Teaching and Learning Arabic Language, Islamic Education, and Social Studies in Kindergarten – Early Childhood

Yas American Academy – Aldar Academies

Introduction

At Yas American Academy, we place great importance on teaching the Arabic language from the earliest years, believing that early childhood is the golden stage for shaping identity and developing communication and thinking skills. Arabic is not just a tool for communication; it is the vessel of culture, values, and emotions, and a bridge that connects our children to their authentic Emirati and Arab roots.

Islamic Studies is the foundation for instilling moral and religious values such as honesty, respect, and integrity, and for introducing children to the pillars of their faith in ways that are simple and age-appropriate—so that Islamic values naturally become part of their daily behavior inside and outside of school.

Through Social Studies and National Education, we nurture love for the homeland and belonging to the United Arab Emirates by introducing children to national symbols (the flag, the national anthem, and national occasions) and connecting them to their heritage, culture, and community, so they grow up proud of their Emirati and Arab identity.

This policy sets out the educational philosophy and vision adopted by Yas American Academy in teaching the three MoE subjects (Arabic Language, Islamic Studies, and Social Studies) at the Kindergarten level. It also explains how the school, parents, and the community work together to enable children to acquire language, values, and national identity with love, joy, and confidence.

Educational Philosophy and Vision

We believe that learning in early childhood must be an enjoyable and enriching experience—rooted in play, discovery, and participation—rather than rote memorization. Every child can learn in their own way, and the teacher’s role is to inspire and guide, not impose.

Through the three MoE subjects, we aim to build a well-rounded child. Arabic is learned naturally through songs, stories, and interactive activities. Islamic values such as honesty, respect, and cooperation are instilled through stories, simple practices, and child-friendly songs. National identity is reinforced through cultural events, heritage stories, and classroom activities.

Thus, Arabic becomes a tool for communication and creativity, Islamic values become daily habits, and national belonging becomes a proud feeling deeply rooted from the earliest years.

Policy Goals

This policy aims to:

1. Develop children's Arabic communication skills and self-expression.
2. Strengthen national and cultural identity through Arabic.
3. Encourage curiosity and a love of learning.
4. Instill life values such as respect, cooperation, and honesty.
5. Enable children to use Arabic in real-life contexts (greetings, conversations, group activities).
6. Introduce the pillars of Islam and faith in simple ways.
7. Encourage children to practice daily acts of worship (prayers, greetings, supplications).
8. Nurture Islamic values such as honesty, kindness, and compassion.
9. Strengthen children's love and pride for the UAE.
10. Connect children with heritage and Emirati culture through stories and activities.

Teaching Approach

MoE subjects in Kindergarten are taught using modern, child-centered methods that address developmental needs and interests:

- **Learning through play:** introducing new words and concepts through games and role-play.
- **Story-based learning:** using illustrated and heritage stories to explore language and values.
- **Songs and chants:** helping children memorize words and religious concepts in a fun way.
- **Class projects and interactive activities:** linking language with hands-on experiences like "Color Day" or "Animal World."
- **Multi-sensory learning:** using visuals, sounds, movement, and objects.
- **Practical simulation:** teaching children etiquette, greetings, cleanliness, and cooperation.
- **Mini field-based activities:** recreating cultural practices like "Little Market" or "Heritage Day."

School Values in Practice

The five Yas Academy values are reflected in MoE subjects:

- **Respect:** polite communication, listening, and honoring national and religious symbols.
- **Integrity:** honesty and truthfulness in daily actions.

- **Collaboration:** group work, shared stories, and teamwork in activities.
- **Creativity:** re-telling stories, expressing love for the UAE through art and performance.
- **Determination:** perseverance in learning Arabic, daily prayers, and representing the nation with pride.

Family and Community Partnership

We believe that early childhood education is a shared responsibility. Therefore, we:

- Involve parents in class activities and national/religious events.
- Share simple ideas for home learning (stories, songs, family conversations).
- Communicate regularly with families about their child's progress.

Expected Outcomes

By applying this policy, Kindergarten children are expected to:

- Express themselves in simple, clear Arabic.
- Join classroom conversations and group singing with confidence.
- Show enjoyment in listening to and re-telling stories.
- Acquire vocabulary linked to everyday life.
- Demonstrate Islamic values (honesty, respect, kindness).
- Participate in activities showing national pride (singing the anthem, coloring the flag).
- Build a strong emotional connection to Arabic, embrace their Emirati identity, and live Islamic values daily.

Assessment in Kindergarten

Assessment in Kindergarten does not rely on tests or grades but on continuous observation and documentation. Teachers use:

- **Observation:** monitoring language, behavior, and social interactions.
- **Portfolios:** collecting children's work (art, writing, activities).
- **Conversations:** discussing children's thoughts and ideas.
- **Self-reflection:** encouraging children to express feelings about their work.
- **Parent communication:** sharing progress through reports and meetings.

Assessment focuses on individual growth rather than comparison, in line with our school values:

- Respect for differences.
- Integrity in reporting progress.
- Collaboration with families.
- Creativity in showing achievements.
- Determination in valuing effort and persistence.

Conclusion

Teaching Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Social Studies in Kindergarten is an investment in the child's identity, values, and future. At Yas American Academy, we are committed to providing a stimulating and joyful environment that makes learning an exciting journey full of songs, stories, and interactive activities.

With the support of families and the community, we are confident that our children will grow proud of their Emirati, Arab, and Islamic identity, able to communicate effectively, and inspired to express creativity—making these MoE subjects a cornerstone of their growth from the very beginning.