



*LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS
TOMORROW*

Parent-Student Handbook



General School Information

School Name & Postal Address:

Canadian International School
SE-43
Khalifa City A
P.O. Box 3976 Abu Dhabi, UAE

[Location](#)

School Contact Information:

Telephone: +971 556 4206

Website: www.cisabudhabi.com

School Operation Times:

| | Monday – Thursday: | Friday: |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| KG1 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm | 8:00 am – noon |
| KG2 | 8:00 am – 2:50 pm | 8:00 am – noon |
| Grade 1- 3 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm | 8:00 am – noon |
| Grade 4 – 6 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm | 8:00 am – noon |
| Grade 7 – 12 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm | 8:00 am – noon |
| Reception | 7:30 am – 4:00 pm | 7:30 am – 12:30 pm |

Who to Contact:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
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| Student Performance Coordinator (9-12) | Rob Longhurst | rlonghurst@cisabudhabi.com |
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| Administration Team: | | |
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| Head of Inclusion | Stacey Marianchuk | smarianchuk@cisabudhabi.com |
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Welcome to CIS

A Message from the Administration

We're excited to welcome back our returning families and to get to know those who are new to our school community. At CIS, we're committed to creating a supportive environment where every student can grow academically, socially, morally, and physically.

Like any community, we rely on shared guidelines to help our school run smoothly and ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities. Strong communication between parents, students, and teachers is essential. That's why we've prepared this handbook to clearly outline our policies, procedures, and expectations.

Please keep it handy and refer to it throughout the school year. It's important that all families take the time to read and understand the information it contains.

We look forward to partnering with you for a successful year ahead at CIS.

— The CIS Administration

Our Vision, Mission and Values

The Canadian International School is committed to providing educational excellence that meets each student's interests, abilities and needs within a common curricular framework. CIS strives to continuously develop a learning environment which reflects and promotes an understanding of, and appreciation for, diversity in our community as an integral part of school life. CIS challenges each student to develop intellectual independence, creativity and curiosity, to achieve their potential, to pursue excellence, and to contribute responsibly in the world of today and tomorrow.

Vision

CIS students embrace challenge, respect diversity, and achieve personal and academic excellence.

Mission

To provide a rich learning environment for students to develop the self-confidence necessary to achieve their potential, pursue excellence, and contribute responsibly in the world of today and tomorrow.

Values

We believe:

- that all children can learn and are entitled to a safe and caring learning environment;
- that students from many countries and cultures can work together to create a unique and caring learning community;
- in the importance of developing students who become contributing citizens of the world and who have the abilities and attitudes to make our world a better place.



Students at CIS are:

Challenged

Learning experiences that stretch the students' capacities ultimately lead to personal and academic growth. Success is defined by having been challenged and, consequently, learning and growing from the experience.

Respected

As members of our global community, students bring diverse experiences to the classroom. To contribute their voices to the community of learners, students need to feel respected and to be respectful of others.

Encouraged

What students DO with knowledge is more important than simply comprehending it. Students need the support of parents, teachers and colleagues to take the risk to develop knowledge beyond the recognition and comprehension stages. Being able to analyze and evaluate information leads students to creative and critical thinking.

Academic, Artistic, Athletic

Engaging students in all aspects of school life allows them to achieve their individual potential and to ignite learning across a variety of dimensions.

Thinkers

When students are encouraged to develop the skills and strategies needed to interpret, analyze, evaluate, infer, synthesize and explain information, they reach a level of metacognition that enables creative and critical thinking. Developing creative and critical thinkers today ensures that our next generation of leaders will have the cognitive skills to solve problems locally, regionally and globally.

Empowered

Developing a positive sense of SELF (Self-directed, Self-reliant, Self-confident, Self-motivated) in a child is a long and patient process that is very rewarding for parents, teachers and students alike. Independence comes in stages and emerges when children are continuously provided with and participate in positive learning experiences.

We C.R.E.A.T.E an environment for student success!



Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students, parents and staff have responsibilities for ensuring welcoming, caring, and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self.

All students have the right to a welcoming and inclusive environment where they will:

- be provided with a high-quality education
- be in a welcoming school environment where they are physically and emotionally safe and respected
- be treated with respect and fairness
- be supported by parents, guardians or designated members at school meetings
- be provided with high quality education that includes activities that promote their talents, abilities and potential

All students are responsible for:

- Following all [policies](#), rules, and regulations set forth by ADEK and the school.
- Following the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- Engaging as an active learner and contributing to the learning environment.
- Contributing to the school community.
- Contributing to and promoting a positive school environment.
- Acknowledging and being responsible for their behaviour.

Policies and expectations for a CIS student apply to all students. These policies encourage everyone to develop the self-discipline required for future success. Policies are not designed so that every situation will be covered, nor are they intended to be a complete guide to conduct. The policies apply to all students while they are under the school's jurisdiction, including when away on school-related activities and traveling on school buses. Failure to comply with any of the guidelines will result in disciplinary action.



Academic Information

Alberta Education (ABED)

The curriculum at CIS follows the [Alberta Program of Studies](#) in coordination with the UAE Ministry of Education. The CIS Academic Program will lead to an Alberta High School Diploma from the province of Alberta, which is one of the most renowned and respected curricula in the world. An Alberta high school diploma will afford students the opportunity to enter post-secondary studies at prestigious universities and colleges anywhere in the world. Our curriculum has been designed to stimulate, motivate, and challenge students whose personal goals and love of learning allow them to thrive in an enriched environment.

Alberta High School Graduation Requirements

To graduate with an Alberta High School Diploma, Grade 12 students must fulfill the following provincial requirements:

- English Language Arts 30
- Social Studies 30
- Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics) 20
- Math 20
- Career and Life Management (CALM) 10
- Physical Education (PE) 10
- A total of 100 credits

Academic counselling is available to support students with course selection choices in grades 7 through 12 to ensure that each student fulfills the requirements for graduation and preparation for post-secondary studies.

Arabic Curriculum

The CIS Arabic Department delivers the required courses in Arabic, Islamic Studies, Moral Education, and UAE Social Studies, following the curriculum, guidelines, and standards set by the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK).

Students are grouped by language proficiency into two main categories: native Arabic speakers and non-native speakers. Non-native students are further divided into beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. This structure enables teachers to tailor instruction to each student's language background and learning needs.

To support non-native speakers, the department develops additional lessons, projects, and activities that build on the core curriculum. In addition, the Arabic Department hosts competitions, initiatives, and extracurricular clubs that encourage students to practice Arabic in real-life contexts, deepen their cultural understanding, and stay actively engaged in their learning.



UAE Higher Studies Certificate – Grade 12

All Arabic speaking Grade 12 students will have the opportunity to complete the Ministry Examinations for their Arabic and Islamic courses. Successful students will receive the High School Equivalency Certificate from the Ministry of Education, explained below.

The Arabic Language Exam is required for all students; non-Muslim students (Arab and non-Arab) are exempt from taking the Islamic Studies exam.

Passing these exams is mandatory for students to receive the High School Equivalency Certificate from the Ministry of Education, which attests that the student has completed a foreign or private school course of study that is equivalent to the UAE Higher Studies Certificate. The Equivalency Certificate is required by all UAE universities for admission and in some cases may be required for some job applications within the country. Students who do not acquire this certificate may find it difficult to find jobs or admissions into UAE universities in the future.

Homework Expectations

At CIS, we value a balanced lifestyle for students—both academically and socially. We understand the importance of family time and participation in community activities. Teachers aim to assign homework that is reasonable in both frequency and volume, appropriate to each grade level.

Effective learning requires timely and meaningful feedback. To support this, teachers assign a range of tasks throughout each term to assess understanding and guide future instruction. For students to benefit fully, it's important they complete and submit assignments on time.

The time needed for homework will vary based on each student's abilities and work habits. While homework should be done independently, parents are encouraged to monitor progress and provide support when needed. All homework must be submitted by the due date set by the teacher.

Homework in Primary Grades (KG1 - Grade 4)

In the lower grades there is an informal expectation for parents and students to engage in activities at home which will enhance children's basic skills development, especially literacy and numeracy.

Reading and Writing skills:

It is important to set aside time to read with your child every day. The time spent reading should gradually increase from 10 minutes in KG to 30 minutes (or more) in G4. Find a comfortable, quiet space. Make sure there are no distractions, screens, or loud noises. This should be quality time to enjoy and embrace reading and talking about text. Physical books or online texts, such as RAZ Kids can be used for reading.

Parents can support children's reading skills by chatting about what has been read, asking questions, recalling the main elements of the text, discussing facts, characters, beginning, ending. Embrace opportunities to find real reading and writing opportunities for your child: lists; invitations; messages in cards; thank-you notes; recipes; signs and posters.



Numeracy:

Support your children’s numeracy by encouraging them to engage in real tasks, such as shopping; cooking; measuring; sorting; practicing times tables; adding or subtracting in real-life situations.

Teachers will occasionally set age-appropriate homework tasks to reinforce skills which have been introduced in class. These tasks will be communicated directly using ClassDojo.

In preparation to move to grade 5, grade 4 students should spend 45 minutes per week reviewing concepts taught in Class. Through SOLARO, TEAMS & ClassDojo, students can review new terminology and concepts with videos, worksheets, or assigned tasks.

Homework in Middle School – Grades 5-8

As children progress through school, homework becomes a key part of their learning. While your involvement is important, research consistently shows that students learn best when they are the ones actively thinking through and completing their assignments.

The role of a parent, guardian, or caregiver isn’t to do the work for them, but to support their understanding. That means helping them read instructions, asking guiding questions, encouraging them to explain their thinking, and creating an environment where they can focus. When adults take over the task, students miss the chance to build problem-solving skills, independence, and confidence—all essential for long-term success.

When students do the work themselves, they build independence, problem-solving skills, and confidence—key traits for long-term success. Educational research emphasizes that students retain more and perform better academically when they take ownership of their learning. Your support matters most when it helps them learn how to approach a task—not when it removes the challenge altogether.

Reading Together at Every Age

Daily reading remains one of the most important habits for academic growth, and it doesn’t stop being valuable once children can read on their own. In fact, older students benefit just as much from being read to. Listening to more advanced texts expands their vocabulary, deepens comprehension, and opens the door to conversations about complex ideas, values, and emotions.

You can support your child by reading aloud together, discussing what they’re reading independently, or simply making time to talk about books, articles, or stories they find interesting. These moments help build a love of reading and reinforce the skills they need across every subject area.

On average, students should expect about 45 minutes of homework per day, including reading. Your involvement—especially as a guide, listener, and encourager—makes a lasting difference.

Daily reading is one of the most important habits for academic growth, no matter your child’s age. Even older students benefit from being read to and discussing books. Listening to more complex texts builds vocabulary, strengthens comprehension, and sparks meaningful conversations. You can support your child by reading aloud, talking about what they’re reading, or simply making time to discuss stories and articles they enjoy.



Students should expect about 45 minutes of homework per day, including reading. Your support—as a guide, listener, and encourager—makes a lasting impact.

Homework in High School Grades 9 - 12

Time Guidelines

Starting in **Grade 7**, students should anticipate approximately **60 minutes of homework per day**. This workload may gradually increase in later grades depending on course requirements and academic demands.

Purpose of Homework

Homework is assigned to help students:

- Reinforce learning and practice key skills
- Develop independent study habits
- Prepare for assessments
- Extend classroom learning

Daily Homework Time Should Include:

- Completing teacher-assigned homework
- Finishing incomplete classwork
- Reviewing and studying for tests, quizzes, or projects
- Reading—both assigned and for personal enjoyment

Improving Homework Practices

To ensure that homework is effective and manageable, we encourage the following best practices:

- **Purposeful assignments:** Homework should be meaningful, not just busy work.
- **Student reflection:** Reviewing teacher feedback helps improve future performance.
- **Study skill development:** Students should learn to organize, plan, and manage their workload.
- **Balance:** Students need time for physical activity, hobbies, rest, and family.

Parent and Guardian Involvement

Parents and caregivers play a key role in supporting academic success. While homework should:

- Be completed by the student, parents can help by promoting responsibility and understanding—not by doing the work for them.

Research shows that students learn best when they actively engage with tasks themselves. Your role is to guide, encourage, and provide structure so your child can build confidence and independence.

You can support your child by:

- Ensuring daily, on-time school attendance
- Making sure your child wears the correct school uniform each day
- Checking that homework is completed and supplies are organized
- Providing a quiet, structured environment for homework and study
- Encouraging daily reading and interest in learning
- Contacting the classroom teacher as the first point of reference with any questions or concerns



Student Assessment and Evaluation

Instruction includes the tasks, activities, and discussions students engage in at school, planned by their teachers to support learning. Assessment is the process of gathering and interpreting information about how well students understand and perform in response to that instruction.

Effective assessment happens in many forms and is most impactful when it includes clear, specific, and timely feedback. Research shows that student success is closely tied to assessment and instructional practices that focus on constructive communication between teachers and students.

Assessment and evaluation:

- guides the development of learning tasks
- is shaped by the nature of the learning outcomes
- engages learners in understanding and adjusting their approach to learning
- leads to adjustments in instruction

The student participates in developing criteria for learning tasks, in gathering and reflecting on evidence of their learning and in identifying goals and strategies to support individual growth and progress. Assessments inform teaching practice, so it is critical that students complete and submit assignments on the due date. Please see the Assessment Policy for late submissions.

Formative and Summative Assessments

The goal of assessment and feedback is to support student growth by tracking progress and guiding improvement over time. All assessments are aligned with the specific learning outcomes students are expected to achieve at each grade level.

- **Formative Assessment** is assessment for learning. It is not graded and is used during the learning process to provide timely feedback that helps students improve. Formative assessments guide both teaching and student learning by identifying strengths and areas for growth.
- **Summative Assessment** is assessment of learning. It is graded and used to evaluate how well a student has understood and met the learning outcomes after instruction. Summative assessments reflect the student's level of achievement at a specific point in time.

Late Assignment Policy

At the Grade 6 to Grade 12 levels, students will be assessed a 5% deduction for each late day, to a maximum of 25%. Submission of all assignments is an expectation of all students at CIS. Failure to do so on an ongoing basis will result in teacher and/or administrative intervention, which may result in a mark of zero. Classroom evaluation criteria will be sent out by teachers at the beginning of the year. Late assignments will not be accepted after the end of a term/cours



Academic Integrity

Optimum learning takes place only when students approach their work with intention and integrity. To prevent situations where cheating or plagiarizing may take place, students will learn how to properly document sources (e.g. bibliography, endnotes, quotations) and will be taught effective notetaking and study skills. Parents should also take care when helping students with projects, assignments, etc., and ensure their children do their own work and resist the temptation to do it for the student. Part of learning is making mistakes—it is important to allow your children to make them, too!

Below are some behaviours that would result in disciplinary action:

- “Plagiarism” occurs when a student knowingly represents any idea or work of another person in any academic assignment, test, or examination as his or her own. A common form of plagiarism involves copying and pasting from electronic source materials
- “Cheating” occurs when a student obtains an unfair advantage over other students in the context of preparation or performance of any academic assignment, test, or examination
- “Collusion” occurs when a student knowingly allows his or her work to be submitted by another student or allows another student to copy his or her work

Responsible Use of AI Tools

With the increasing availability of artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as writing assistants and content generators, students must also learn how to use technology ethically. Using AI to complete an assignment without teacher permission, or presenting AI-generated content as original work, constitutes a form of academic dishonesty. Students will be guided on how to use these tools responsibly, such as brainstorming, checking grammar, or organizing ideas, but not submitting AI-written work as their own.

Submitting any assignment or portion of an assignment generated entirely by an AI tool, without teacher approval, will be considered Academic Dishonesty. As the work does not reflect the student’s original thinking or effort, it violates the expectations of academic integrity, and the school’s Academic Dishonesty Policy will apply.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. To ensure that student work is original and that standards of academic integrity are upheld and ingrained, students and staff will adhere to the following:

- In the first instance of documented academic dishonesty, the teacher will notify the student and parents, log the incident in PowerSchool, and the student will receive an opportunity to complete a replacement assignment under supervision. (If the teacher notifies parents by email, and the parents have not responded within 3 days, a follow-up phone call is required to confirm notification.) Administration is notified.
- In the second instance of documented academic dishonesty, the teacher will log the incident into PowerSchool and notify the student and parents, confirming receipt of notification within 3 days. The student will receive a zero on the assessment without the opportunity to rewrite or replace it with an alternative assessment. Administration is notified for follow up with the student.



- In the third instance of academic dishonesty, the teacher will log the incident in PowerSchool and notify administration. The student will receive a zero on the assignment with no opportunity to rewrite or replace the assessment and may also be subject to further consequences. The administration will meet with students and their parents to discuss steps forward.
- Continued academic dishonesty is an administrative matter and may impact a student's eligibility for re-enrollment, the ability to secure character references for post-secondary and may result in disciplinary action which may include suspension and in extreme cases expulsion.

Students and parents should be aware that acts related to Academic Integrity are part of many post-secondary applications and require references. Students whose behaviour repeatedly violates the expectations associated with positive academic integrity will be denied character references by CIS.

The detailed Academic Integrity Policy is [here](#).

Progress Reports Grading

Progress reports are used to formally communicate student achievement of learning outcomes to students, parents, the school, ADEK, and ABED. Grading for reporting requires teachers to summarize a term, a semester, and/or a year's worth of learning. Grades or descriptors are used to represent the extent to which the student has demonstrated achievement of learning outcomes. Formal progress reports are issued at the end of each trimester. Dates may be found on the [Official School Calendar](#).

Parents will have ongoing access to student grades through the CIS Parent Portal (grades 6 - 12). Grades on report cards will be a cumulative grade from September (grades 6 - 12). Teacher Conferences are scheduled throughout the year to discuss student progress. Please refer to the school calendar for the interview schedule.

*Report cards will not be released if school tuition fees are not paid and the documents for students are not up to date

Progress Report

KG1 – KG2:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| E Excelling | AI Achieving independently | AS Achieving with support | D Developing | NE Not evaluated |
|-----------------------|---|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|

**Grade 1 – Grade 5:**

| E Excelling | P Proficient | A Achieving | D Developing | B Beginning |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| The student exceeds expectations, applying learning in complex and innovative ways within grade level outcomes | The student consistently meets expectations independently within grade level outcomes | The student demonstrates grade-level understanding with occasional support | The student is developing understanding with frequent guidance | The student is beginning to explore the learning outcome. Requires significant support |

Grade 6 – Grade 12:

The marking scale for grades 6-12 is percentage based. Students will be awarded a numerical mark, between 0-100, for each subject. Fifty percent (50%) is considered a passing grade in most subjects, exceptions being Arabic and Islamic (60%) in grade 12. Eighty percent (80%) is considered an honours grade in all subjects. Please refer to the Awards section of this handbook for more information regarding the calculation of honours awards.

Alberta Examinations

Students in grades 6 and 9 will participate in the Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT). The tests are administered in May and June in all 4 core subjects. Information for parents on these tests can be found [here](#).

Students in Grade 12 will write Alberta Diploma examinations at the end of core academic courses. These exams are mandatory and must be written on the date and time set out by ABED. These exams account for 30% of a student's final course mark and thus are extremely important. Missing a diploma exam will result in a mark of 0% on the exam and may result in an overall failing grade in that individual course which could lead to a student potentially not graduating. Guides and supporting information for students and parents can be found [here](#).

Student Recognition

Academic success and personal growth are at the core of the CIS philosophy. Therefore, the celebration of that success is very important. The school will recognize the achievement and effort of students throughout the year, in our classes and in school assemblies. At the end of the year, students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement will be recognized at our end-of-year awards ceremony.



Honour Roll

Students in grades 7 - 12 will be recognized for their achievement and hard work at the end of each trimester. The average will be based on all courses, with Mathematics and English having a double weighting. Arabic, Science, Social Studies, and PE receive single weighting, and all other subjects are weighted at 0.5.

Honours – students who achieve an overall average of 79.5 - 89.4%

Honours with Distinction – students who achieve an overall average of 89.5 - 94.4%

Honours with Great Distinction – students who achieve an overall average of 94.5% or higher

Year-End Awards: Grades 7-12

- Valedictorian (Grade 12): awarded to the student in Grade 12 with the highest overall average for the year. The average is calculated based on the term 2 progress report and will include all registered courses. The Valedictorian must be enrolled in:
 - Social 30-1
 - English 30-1
 - Mathematics 30-1
 - At least one 30 level Science course
- Academic Excellence Awards (Grades 7 - 12): Based on overall average, one male and one female student in each grade will be recognized with this award.
- Athlete of the Year: awarded to the most outstanding male and female athletes in each of the following grade categories: U15/U16 and U18/19. A Grizzly Spirit Award will be presented to an athlete who shows the spirit of sportsmanship throughout the year in each of the same age categories.
- Community Leadership Award (Grades 7 – 12): awarded to one or more students in each grade, as selected by staff, for their contributions to a positive school culture through leadership endeavors, positive role modelling, and exemplary behaviour.
- Full Year Honours (Grades 7 - 12): awarded to students who have made the honour roll in all three terms.
- Subject Excellence Awards (Grades 7 - 12): awarded to students achieving the highest grade in each subject and at each grade level.
- Combined Science Award (Grade 12): awarded to the grade 12 student taking all three sciences who has the highest combined average in Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30.

Parent Involvement at CIS

Parent Rights and Responsibilities

Parents play a vital role in their children's education, and CIS believes that parental involvement in and support of the school and its staff helps to maintain a safe and happy environment for all our students. In doing so, parents also help their children meet their own responsibilities (academic and otherwise) and enable them to become successful learners today and great leaders of tomorrow.



Parents' Rights

- To ensure his/her child receives proper education and care by the school
- To be well-received, well informed and respected by all school staff
- To inquire about his/her child's progress and confer with the school concerning school programs, educational, learning, and behavioural issues pertaining to his/her child
 - To be informed about all developments or changes in his/her child's behaviour and achievements
 - To approve or reject his/her child's involvement in extracurricular activities conducted outside school
 - To be invited to various school activities

Parents' Responsibilities

- To support school efforts in creating an optimal school environment
- To promote positive behaviour and ensure their children are aware of the appropriate behavioural practices
- To respond positively to school instructions and remarks on student behaviour and discipline
 - To read all school regulations and policies and discuss them with their children
 - To show appreciation and respect for all school staff
 - To attend school meetings and information sessions related to student behaviour and discipline
 - To communicate with the whole school community to discuss and find solutions for student behavioural issues and carry out the appropriate corrective actions
 - To ensure their children conform to, and abide by ADEK and school guidelines, instructions and corrective/disciplinary procedures applied by school
 - To comply with the school's educational and administrative regulations for the good of their children
 - To keep the school informed with any emergent or unexpected problems that their children may be facing [Parental Complaints and Communication Policy](#) (Please refer to the table on page 3 in the policy)
- To pay for the expenses needed to fix any intentional damage caused by their children to school facilities or school property

Parent Payment of Fees

The payment of tuition and other school fees is governed by ADEK Policy 39. Updated information on school fees is available [here](#). The accounts department of CIS works to support parents with scheduled term fee payments or regular monthly instalments. In the event of non-payment of school fees, the school will invoke all steps outlined in ADEK policy, which after ongoing communication, may include progress reports being withheld and/or a 3-day suspension of students from school, up to 3 times in the school year. Any outstanding balance at the end of the year will result in final progress report and transfer certificates being withheld until payment is made. We communicate regularly with families to ensure that the above actions are not needed, but it is important that parents are aware of the potential outcomes for children because of non-payment of fees.



Parent Communication Channels

CIS uses a variety of channels to communicate with parents.

- Weekly Parent Memo
- Social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#)
- PowerSchool notifications
- CIS Parent PowerSchool Portal
- Class DOJO (KG – Grade 4) and TEAMS (Grade 5 - 12)
- Teacher e-mail
- School Website: www.cisabudhabi.com

Should parents have any questions or concerns regarding their child's classroom experience (grades, progress, behaviour, etc.), they are expected to contact the classroom teacher directly prior to contacting the school administration. [Parental Complaints and Communication Policy](#)
Teachers will respond within two working days.

Please note that teachers are not required to check emails or messages after 6 pm or before 7 am, or on weekends/holidays.

To ensure that the school can contact parents in case of an emergency, all parents must keep the school updated with their most recent contact information.

To update the school with a new email, telephone number, or address, please contact Student Records at studentrecords@cisabudhabi.com.

Parent Council (Very Important Parents – VIPS)

At CIS, the parent-staff committee is a volunteer group dedicated to providing opportunities for parents and teachers to work together for the benefit of all CIS students. The Parent Council meets regularly to coordinate various special events and exchange ideas throughout the year. Any interested parents are welcome to become a part of the committee.

Listed below are a few of the events that the Parent Council will plan, organize, and run throughout the year. In addition to these events, the committee may also organize a monthly Pizza Day and various bake sales which help fund our yearly activities.

- **Fall Festival:** At Fall Festival the children dress up in their favourite costumes and enjoy many exciting activities. This is an evening event and provides a great opportunity for the families in our community to meet each other and start establishing those all-important friendships

- **International Day:** This is a celebration of the diversity of nationalities at our school, including a Parade of Nations, student performances, and food and decorations provided by the parents

- **Iftar:** The council has added this event during Ramadan. This special event celebrates unity, generosity, and cultural tradition with our CIS Abu Dhabi families.

- **Staff Appreciation Lunch:** The Parent Council organizes a buffet style lunch for all CIS staff to say thank you for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year

Any parents who are interested in joining Parent Council should contact one of the team leaders at cisadpc@gmail.com.



School Calendar

A school events calendar will be shared at the beginning of the school year. Please see the website for the most up to date calendar.

Explanations of National and Islamic Holidays

***NOTE:** Islamic/National holidays and days of observance may change and are subject to ADEK announcements. Please see the above calendar for dates.

***Eid Al Adha:** The Eid Al Adha holiday honours the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son, as an act of submission to God's command. To greet others during this time, you can say "Eid Mubarak" which roughly translates to "Have a blessed Eid."

***Hijri New Year:** This holiday marks the time of the migration of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) from Mecca to Medina and is the beginning of the Islamic calendar.

UAE Flag Day: Honours the pride, dignity and duty of all citizens and residents of the UAE to the country. As part of the UAE Flag Day observance, the UAE flag is raised at 11:00 AM throughout the country, including CIS.

UAE Commemoration Day: Previously known as "UAE Martyr's Day," this day recognizes the sacrifices and dedication of Emiratis who have given their lives in civil, military, and humanitarian service. The UAE flag is lowered and a minute of silence is observed.

UAE National Day: This day celebrates the union of the seven Emirates (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, & Umm Al Quwain) to form the United Arab Emirates. This is a major Emirati celebration with festivals, parties, and celebrations occurring all over the UAE during this time.

***Prophet Mohammed's Birthday:** Also referred to as "Al Mawlid Alnabawi Alsharif," this day celebrates the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Mecca.

***Isra'wal Miraj:** This holiday marks the night that Allah took the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on a journey from Mecca to Al-Quds, and then to heaven.

***Ramadan:** This is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. While not a holiday, it is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an (Holy book) to Prophet Mohammad according to Islamic belief. This annual observance is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The month lasts 29-30 days based on the visual sightings of the crescent moon. During Ramadan, Muslims refrain from certain activities, such as eating or drinking, during daylight hours. Muslims are also instructed to refrain from sinful behaviour that may negate the reward of fasting, such as false speech and fighting.

Please note that school hours will be reduced, but classes will be in session during Ramadan, and students are expected to attend their classes.

***Eid al-Fitr:** Eid al-Fitr or "Festival of Breaking the Fast," is a Muslim holiday and one of the biggest celebrations of the year that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. It is celebrated on the first day of Shawwal, and it usually lasts for three days.



Prayer Room

We encourage our Muslim students to perform their prayers during lunch break under the supervision of their Islamic teachers. Students are expected to respect the fact that this is a sacred place that is used for worship by the Muslim members of our school community.

The Prayer Rooms are located on the second floor of the school building, opposite the Elementary Library. They are accessible to Muslim students, staff, and parents at lunch time and after school. Students are not permitted to access the Prayer Room during lessons. The Prayer Rooms will be closed at 3:15 pm.

Daily School Schedule

Morning Drop-Off

School gates will open at 7:30 am; therefore, students are not to be dropped off at school prior to 7:30 am as they will not be allowed on school grounds before this time. Families are asked to ensure that students arrive in class before the bell so that they can be prepared and on time for the first class. All school buses will drop students off in the designated bus parking lot on the RIGHT side of the main building. Parents who drive children to school are asked to park their car in a parking spot in the designated lot on the LEFT side (Dubai side) of the main building. The Parent Gate side also has a drive-through drop off area in the morning. Parents are asked to proceed down the drop-off zone and assist students in exiting the car on the curb side. Any students arriving after 8:00 am will enter through the parent gate and will collect a late slip from reception before proceeding to class.

All parents, students, and staff are expected to show respect during the playing of the UAE National Anthem by standing still and quietly while the anthem plays.

Late Arrivals

Students are expected to be on time for each class. Any student not in class by 8:00 am must sign in at reception, where they will receive a Late Slip before continuing to class. After receiving a late slip, the student's attendance status will be changed from "Unauthorized - Absent" to "Late" in PowerSchool.

Attendance reports are sent to ADEK at 10:00am every day. Any tardy student who arrives at school after this time will be reported to ADEK as absent. If students arrive late to school due to their school bus being late, they will not be marked as late and do not need a late slip to proceed to class.

CIS recognizes that traffic in Abu Dhabi can often delay trips to and from school, however "heavy traffic" will not be accepted as an excuse for tardiness (unless the student is riding the bus), and these instances will count toward overall attendance. Parents driving students to school should leave ample time to allow for any delays.



Leaving Early

At CIS, we stress the importance of regular and consistent attendance for the full day to ensure the students' academic success. We acknowledge that on rare occasions, students must miss class for emergent reasons, e.g., medical appointments, family obligations. When necessary, students are permitted to leave school early; however, they must be signed out by a parent or guardian to leave. In such cases, parents/guardians must notify reception in person, have a note

for the appointment, and then the student will be called from their class. A permission slip signed by the receptionist must be shown to security for the student to leave the school campus. Parents are asked to avoid taking children from school during recess/lunch breaks, as delays can be expected when locating them in the playground.

Afternoon Pick-Up

- KG1: The school day is completed at 1:00 pm. Parents are asked to meet their children outside the picket fence on the kindergarten playground (left) side of the building. The classroom teacher will escort the students there for parent pick up. Students who ride the bus home are escorted to the bus by their bus monitor. All students must be picked up by an adult.

- KG2: The school day is completed at 2:50 pm. Parents are asked to meet their children outside the small gate on the left side of the building. The classroom teacher will escort the students there for parent pick up. All students must be picked up by an adult.

- Grades 1 - 3: The school day will end at 3:00 pm. Students who ride the bus home will be escorted by a Teaching Assistant to meet their bus monitor. Students going home with their parents in Grades 1 - 3 are asked to proceed directly to the gate on the left side of the building to meet their parents. Grades 1 and 2 must be picked up by an adult.

- Grades 4 - 12: The school day will end at 3:00 pm. Students going home with their parents in Grades 4 - 12 are asked to proceed directly to the parent gate (Cafeteria side) of the building to meet their parents. Students who take the bus home should proceed directly to their assigned bus.

NOTE: All students not engaged in extracurricular activities should be off campus by 3:15 pm, when staff supervision ends.

Parking and School Access

The safety and security of all staff and students is our priority. All visitors, including parents, are asked to park their vehicles in the designated parking lot, which is on the left (Cafeteria) side of the main school building. All visitors are asked to enter the school through the front entrance and follow the visitor sign-in procedures. Visitors and parents entering the school must have a scheduled appointment with a staff member, teacher, parent council, or administrator. **No meetings will occur without an appointment.** Visitors or parents who stop by expecting to meet with someone should be aware that our staff have very busy calendars and commitments daily. To honour our parents and visitors' time and to be best prepared, scheduling a meeting is the only way to have your questions and concerns addressed.



Security Badges (No Entry without a badge)

All families are issued no more than four Parent/Guardian ID Badges that include the holder's name and photo. These badges are to be presented to security to gain access to the school grounds. By ADEK guidelines, visitors and contractor access to the school will be strictly limited and monitored. If a parent or family member forgets their badge, they are advised to remain outside of the assigned gate to collect their child. All parent/guardian badges must be returned to school when families withdraw their students from CIS, as part of our withdrawal process. Application forms for parent badges can be found on the CIS [website](#).

Bus Transportation

CIS provides students with school bus pick-up and drop-off services to and from the school. All buses are accompanied by a bus monitor to look after students and ensure that they are always safe while on the bus. Monitors are required to be focused on students and WILL NOT make calls to families regarding bus pickup.

All parents of students using a CIS bus must download, register with, and familiarize themselves with the Salama Parent application. The SALAMA is an initiative by Integrated Transport Center (ITC) of Abu Dhabi, that connects schools, school buses, teachers, parents, and bus supervisors into one app centralized and controlled by ITC, which is focused on safety of children.

From the moment your child leaves his/her home in the morning and enters his/her school bus; SALAMA will ensure that your child is safe. From checking in and out your child from the bus to monitoring the bus progress and environment. Any issues or incidents on the bus can be immediately reported to the appropriate authorities, including bus driver behaviour, school bus issues, etc.

Application Registration information is integrated with Department of Education and Knowledge Abu Dhabi (ADEK). Parents will receive an SMS with login credentials. This can be done [here](#).

Salama will be used to report any absences from the bus and will allow parents to track the bus location via a live update. Please see the user manual for Salama [here](#).

If parents wish to register their children to use bus transportation, they must complete and submit a [School Bus Registration Form](#) to the school. Hard copies may be submitted to CIS Reception, or a soft copy can be sent to cistransport@cisabudhabi.com. The school cannot guarantee bus services to families as buses are allocated to certain areas based on demand and spaces are limited. Bus routes are established on a "first on, first off" basis: the first student picked up in the morning is the first student to be dropped off in the afternoon. CIS has the final say regarding bus pick-up and drop-off timings and these are non- negotiable.

Students are expected at the bus stop at the assigned time. Bus delays caused by students arriving to the bus may result in suspension from the bus.



General Bus Rules and Guidelines

Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. If students and/or parents are found to be violating the rules listed below, the student(s) in question may lose their bus riding privileges as detailed below. To avoid this, we ask that all students and their parents read and understand these expectations. Students are not permitted to use bus services if fees have not been paid.

1. Students are only allowed to travel on their assigned bus. Students are not permitted to travel on another bus due to space limitations
2. Students are permitted to drink water on the bus; all other eating and drinking is prohibited
3. Students must always use seatbelts and remain in seatbelts for the entirety of their trip
4. Students will always show respect to the bus monitor and fellow students and follow the bus monitor's instructions to ensure the safety of all students and staff aboard the bus
5. Students will always show respect and kindness to their fellow learners and behave in a dignified manner
6. Students are required to be ready for pickup at the stop every morning and at the bus gate immediately after school dismissal
7. Parents must notify reception or the student's bus monitor if the student will not be riding the bus for any reason. Bus monitors should be notified if students are not riding the bus to school in the morning. Non-bus students are NOT permitted to ride home on the bus for any reason
8. Parents will be financially responsible for any damage done to the bus by their child(ren)

Bus monitors will provide administration with written reports of any repeat or serious behaviours. If a student is found not to be meeting the behavioural expectations of CIS, the following procedure will be followed:

First report: Administrator will meet with student to discuss expectations.

Second report: Administration will contact parents.

Third report: Student(s) will be removed from the bus for one week. Fees will NOT be reimbursed.

Fourth report: Recommendation for permanent exclusion from bus service. Fees will NOT be reimbursed.

NOTE: Each report will be logged in our PowerSchool student information system.

Morning Bus Pick-Up (Home to CIS)

Parents are asked to download the Salama app to monitor school bus progress. Students are expected outside at the assigned stop, so as not to delay the bus schedule. In order to keep the buses on time for all students, **buses will not wait for late students at the bus stops for more than two minutes** after the pre-designated departure time. ***NOTE Bus monitors will not communicate bus arrival times to parents.** It is important to understand that multiple delays in the morning can compound and cause late arrivals to school. Students who are regularly delayed getting on the bus will be warned and may be suspended from the bus for a period of time.



Buses are an extension of the school environment and as such, students are expected to follow all school rules and regulations as if they were in classes. Monitors and Drivers are valued employees of CIS and are to receive the same level of respect, from both students and parents, as all other CIS staff.

Afternoon Drop-Off (CIS to Home)

If for some reason your child(ren) will not be riding the bus home, please inform the bus supervisor or call CIS Reception no later than 2:15 pm (or 12:30 pm for KG1). If you call after this deadline, there will not be sufficient time to guarantee that your child will be kept off the bus. Students must go to their bus (or waiting area) as soon as school ends to ensure that the buses are not delayed leaving the school.

Parents should ensure that there is someone at the bus stop on time to collect their primary child from the bus unless the parents have provided a written note to the bus supervisor giving permission for their son/daughter (s) to walk home from their stop unattended. If no such note is provided, children who do not have an adult waiting for them will be returned to the school for their own safety and parents will be responsible for providing transportation home.

Before and After School Supervision

Supervision at the school begins at 7:30 am and ends at 3:15 pm. Parents are asked to note that although School Security is present on school grounds before 7:30 am, they cannot be responsible for the supervision of students and gates will not be opened prior to this time.

Students must leave the school grounds immediately at the end of the school day, unless they are participating in school scheduled extracurricular activities (ECA's). **Siblings of students engaged in ECA's are required to leave school campus at the end of the school day.** ECA teachers are only responsible for students enrolled in the activities.

Students are expected to arrive on time for school and are to leave school at the end of the school day. CIS does not provide after-school care or supervision for students.

Changes to Regular Home Transportation

If a student (KG to grade 6) is going to leave school with a non-parent or guardian, an email must be sent to school reception (before 2:15 pm) the classroom teacher (the day before) with permission to release the student into the care of the individual picking him/her up. This note must be signed by the parent or guardian, and the individual picking the child up will be asked to show identification.

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality on the part of the student is an important component of the learning process and the evaluation of student achievement. Attendance and late records will be noted on report cards and reported to the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). Consistent tardiness and/or absenteeism below 95% (maximum 9 days/school year) will lead to discussions concerning a more suitable educational setting for the student.



CIS is always mindful of the safety and well-being of its students, staff, and visitors. The school has implemented specific procedures to record students' attendance and presence on campus. Students must remain on campus during the school day and may only leave the campus with their parents'/guardians' knowledge and permission.

Student attendance is recorded on PowerSchool and reported to ADEK daily.

Attendance for elementary students is done first block in the morning and secondary students have attendance taken in every class they are enrolled in. Students are marked as one of the following:

1. Present

2. Authorized - Absent: Student is absent from school and provides official documentation as per ADEK requirements

3. Unauthorized - Absent: Student is absent from school and no information has been provided to the school

4. Late: Student arrives at school between 8:00 and 10:00 am. Students arriving to school after 10:00 am without an official explanation (see above) will be deemed Unauthorized – Late -or Authorized – Late based on parent contact.

All absences must be reported to CIS Reception no later than 8:00 am. To report an absence to the school, please send the following information to absent@cisabudhabi.com:

- a) Student's Name
- b) Student's Class or Homeroom
- c) Date(s) of Absence
- d) Reason for Absence

Any official documentation for excused absences must be submitted to Reception on the student's first day back at school. Students are responsible for all work missed while absent.

Extended Absences

CIS students are expected to attend all school days. Family vacations are to be scheduled during the school's holiday periods ONLY. Student attendance rates that fall below 95% (maximum 9 days/school year) could result in the inability to assess students' progress and promotion to the next grade, or in the achievement of course credit at the high school level. Families are required to inform the school a minimum of 2 weeks prior to any extended absence of more than 3 consecutive days. Parents are required to complete the 'Student Request for Extended Absence' [CIS Student Request for Extended Absence form](#). Following administrative review, families will be notified of a school decision regarding the coding of the absences, within 5 working days following the submission of the form. Extended absence will only be granted in line with ADEK Authorized Absences in Policy 55. Parents should attach official documentation to the Extended Absence Form.

Please note that it is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work during an absence. Parents/Guardians should review the Official School Calendar (located on the school website) or the School Calendar section of this handbook before planning extended vacations. We are aware of the varying costs of flights at different times of the year, but we will not support an extended absence for this.



The Ministry of Education requires any unexplained absences totaling over 10 days in one school year to be reported by the school. **Absences at this level in conjunction with academic achievement may result in the retention of a student at their current grade level for an extra year.**

NOTE: 1) The school is NOT able to reschedule Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma Exams, or Advanced Placement Exams; extended absences are not permitted during these times. 2) Students are required to write all school-based final exams.

Student Code of Conduct

Students in Abu Dhabi schools are expected to conduct themselves in a way that promotes a positive school environment. The following code of conduct is expected of all students attending schools in Abu Dhabi. The code of conduct applies while students are in school, on school grounds, participating in school-led field trips, and attending any extra-curricular activities sponsored by the school.

ADEK expects that all students will:

- comply with all instructions and rules of the school
- behave responsibly and will not endanger the safety and welfare of others and self
- care for the facilities and property of the school and of others
- arrive at school and lessons on time and justify any tardiness and absences
- participate in promoting a positive school community
- demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning and apply effort to their learning
- behave responsibly so as not to disrupt the classroom or the learning of others
- commit to the heritage and culture of the UAE in such a way that they behave

honestly and conduct themselves with dignity

- show respect to all teachers, school personnel, fellow students, their families, and members of the community

Food in the Classroom: with teacher permission

Students are permitted to eat healthy snacks during class time within the following parameters:

- Food is not permitted in the science labs, computer lab, libraries, music rooms, drama room, art room or gymnasium
- Students are expected to clean up after themselves. Food cannot be left in desks
- Snacks must be brought from home; **students are not permitted to go to the cafeteria**

between classes or during class.

- Food eaten in classrooms must not be a distraction or interfere with instruction
- The following food items are strongly discouraged: chips, pop, candy, or other junk food
- Energy drinks are not permitted
- The only drink allowed in classrooms is water
- KG to grade 3 classrooms are nut free due to severe nut allergies. Teachers will communicate expectations to parents. Grade 4 to 12 are nut-aware classrooms



Discipline Procedures

CIS does not accept physical or verbal abuse, e.g., rough play, wrestling, kicking, hitting, biting, bullying, teasing, name-calling or swearing. Such cases will be evaluated and addressed by the CIS Administration. All disciplinary action policies at CIS comply with ADEK regulations, specifically: Student Behaviour Policy of the ADEK Private Schools Policy and Guidance Manual.

All minor incidents are dealt with by a caring adult on the spot. In this way, inappropriate behaviour is identified and corrected immediately and in a manner that allows our students to take responsibility for their actions and to learn from the situation. If an incident is a repeat offense, it will be escalated using the steps outlined below.

More serious incidents and infractions may be escalated to a higher level of discipline, depending on the history and seriousness of the infraction/behaviour. When incidents require the attention of a member of school administration, the following steps may be taken:

1. Verbal discussion between student/teacher. Administration may be involved
2. Administration is formally involved in investigation and discipline procedures
3. The Student and parents will receive communication regarding the incident
4. Students and parents are issued a written warning about the student's behaviour which will be put on the student's permanent record
5. Final written warning is sent to parents and ADEK. The student may be suspended for up to 5 days
6. The student may be recommended to ADEK for expulsion, and a letter will be sent to the Ministry of Education

Suspension

Students who choose to act in ways that do not align with behavioural expectations may result in them being sent home (suspended from classes) for up to five days. If a student decides to act inappropriately, formal suspension notices are made as per the CIS discipline procedure above.

Offenses that could result in immediate suspension:

- Smoking or vaping on school property
- Theft of private or public property
- Harassment of peers or intimidation of others
- Physical aggression towards peers or staff members
- Vandalism or willful destruction of property*
- Chronic absenteeism
- Defiance or non-participation in the activities of school
- Use of obscene language
- Inappropriate use of technology (please refer to [Technology Policy](#))
- Bullying
- Cheating/plagiarism
- Non-payment of tuition and school fees as per ADEK policy 39
- Inappropriate use of cellular phones
- Frequent non-compliance with uniform requirements
- Leaving school grounds without permission



***Cost of damage or replacement will be paid by the student's family.**

NOTE: While we approach discipline as a supportive process to change, a student's ability to re-register at CIS may be revoked if they are unable to sustain a positive behaviour profile.

Expulsion

While CIS believes that it is more desirable to change the behaviour of a child, when a student deliberately chooses to act in ways unacceptable to the CIS Student Behaviour Policy, it may be necessary to deal more severely with problems that arise. Therefore, the following guidelines are established. Administration will investigate serious accusations thoroughly and objectively. In some circumstances, the student may have the opportunity in the presence of a parent to withdraw from CIS, or the Principal may decide there are sufficient grounds to proceed with a recommendation for expulsion. Offenses that could result in expulsion:

- The use, possession, sale, or distribution of illegal substances
- Sexual harassment, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, emotional or physical abuse leveled at peers, staff members or others
 - Chronic or severe bullying or unkindness (both verbal and physical) towards peers or staff members
 - Harassment of others
 - Cheating/plagiarism
 - Theft of property may result in the student choosing to be suspended or expelled, depending on the severity of the act
 - Vandalism of private, public, or school property*
 - Use of, or possession of weapons
 - The involvement in flagrantly immoral or socially distasteful acts
 - Leaving school grounds without permission.

***Cost of damage or replacement will be required.**

School Uniform

All students are encouraged to feel pride in being members of CIS, and their uniform identifies them as such. Appropriate dress is expected of all students and good grooming is equally important. Parents will be contacted if the uniform worn by the student is incomplete or inappropriate. Continued violation of uniform expectations will result in disciplinary action.

On designated theme days, students are permitted to wear non-uniform clothes; however, they are expected to wear appropriate, modest dress on these days for example: this means covering your shoulders and knees as well as avoiding any clothes that are too tight or revealing. Halter/tube tops, short shorts, ripped jeans, yoga pants and bare midriffs are considered unacceptable. Inappropriately dressed students will be asked to change promptly into a school uniform or will be sent home immediately.

School Spirit Days are held most months. This is a day to show either school spirit or house spirit. This is done by wearing CIS school colours or house colours. Spirit Day is not a free-dress day. Dress Up Days are held occasionally, and students are encouraged to keep to the prescribed theme. Students not following the theme will be asked to change into a school uniform.



CIS School Uniforms can be purchased on-line or from the CIS Uniform Store. The purchase form and measurement guide can be found [here](#).

Students are required to wear their CIS PE kit for all athletic and physical education activities. Students are reminded to maintain good hygiene after participating in strenuous physical activities.

While the uniform store carries a variety of sizes, there are occasions where sizes are not available. We appreciate parent support in ensuring that students' clothing is aligned with the school [uniform policy](#). The School Administration has final word on what constitutes appropriate school dress.

Uniform Requirements

Elementary (Grades KG1 - 6)

All students are expected to wear the CIS uniform, consisting of:

- Red CIS uniform shirt with the CIS logo
- Skirt/shorts purchased from the CIS Uniform Store
- Black dress shoe or lace up shoe. Black dress shoes are preferred but black athletic (trainers/runners) are acceptable. Shoes should be all black.
- Red CIS zip front jacket.

All uniform must be official CIS uniform.

NOT permitted during a regular school day:

- Non-black footwear
- Sandals, flip-flops, crocs, ballet flats
- PE Kit (except for KG students)
- Hats, caps, and hoods are **not** to be worn indoors, including CIS caps
- Zip up hoodies or any color, other than red

Dress-down/Special days:

- Clothing based on specific themes
- House league colours for Spirit Days

NOT permitted during dress-down/special days:

- Flip-flops/sandals, crocs
- Ripped jeans (Ordinary jeans may be allowed on designated days)
- Crop-tops, halter tops, tanks tops
- Short dresses, shorts, or skirts

Sun Protection:

Skin cancer and melanoma rates are on the rise all over the world, and overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is a contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. In order to protect students from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays of the sun, all primary students (KG1 - Grade 6) are strongly encouraged to wear a hat and apply sunscreen before coming to school.



Students wearing religious headgear are expected to wear a monochromatic colour, preferably black, or red, or white. Students are not permitted to wear hats or hoods up inside the school building.

UNIFORM SET BOYS

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6 UNIFORM

STANDARD UNIFORM



*PE KIT FOR KG 1 AND KG 2 IS VOLUNTARY

UNIFORM SET GIRLS

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6 UNIFORM

STANDARD UNIFORM



*PE KIT FOR KG 1 AND KG 2 IS VOLUNTARY



Uniform Requirements

Secondary (Grades 7 -12)

All students are expected to wear the CIS uniform, consisting of:

- White CIS shirt (no black t-shirts under the white shirt, white only, no logos)
- Red CIS sweatshirt (optional) or a V-neck red CIS sweater. Grade 12 students may wear their “grad jacket” throughout the year
- Black CIS pants (dress pants, no joggers\athletic pants)
- Black dress shoe or lace up shoe. Black dress shoes are preferred but black athletic (trainers/runners) are acceptable. Shoes should be predominantly black
- If a student needs an extra layer to stay warm, the CIS zip up hoodie can be worn. Students must wear the uniform under the hoodie and be prepared to remove the hoodie at the discretion of the staff member.

NOT permitted during a regular school day:

- Coloured or patterned t-shirts under CIS shirts
- Black jeans, leggings, yoga pants or tight-fitting garments
- Non-black footwear
- Sandals, flip-flops, CROCS, ballet flats
- PE Kit (except for KG students)
- Hats, caps, and hoods are **not** to be worn indoors, including CIS caps
- Zip up hoodies or any color, other than the CIS hoodie.

Dress-down/Special days:

- Clothing based on specific themes
- CIS House league shirts for Spirit Days

NOT permitted during dress-down/special days:

- Flip-flops/sandals, crocs
- Tight legwear
- Ripped jeans (Ordinary jeans may be allowed on designated days)
- Crop-tops, halter tops, tanks tops
- Short dresses, shorts, or skirts



UNIFORM SET GIRLS

GRADE 7 - 12 UNIFORM

STANDARD UNIFORM

WHITE BLOUSE W/H RED COLLAR



GIRLS TROUSERS



SWEATER



WHITE SHIRT W/H RED COLLAR



ACCESSORIES

CAP



PE UNIFORM

PE T-SHIRT



MICRO PE SHORTS



PE TRACK PANTS



HOODI



UNIFORM SET BOYS

GRADE 7 - 12 UNIFORM

STANDARD UNIFORM

WHITE SHIRT W/H RED COLLAR



BLACK TROUSERS



SWEATER



HOODI



PE UNIFORM

PE T-SHIRT



MICRO PE SHORTS



PE TRACK PANTS



ACCESSORIES

CAP





Uniform Shop

CIS uniforms are available for purchase from our Uniform Store, which is located in the school cafeteria adjacent to the Sport and Arts Complex.

Normal Store Hours Term Time Monday to Thursday, 8.00 am – 3.30 pm Friday, 8.00 am – 12.30 pm

Start of new school year hours

Thursday 3rd August to Friday 24th August, 8.00 am – 2.00 pm except for Fridays are from 8.00 am – 11.30am.

Monday 21 August onwards regular hours

Purchases can be made using cash or credit card.

Contact Details

Gibu Joseph – Manager

Email: gjoseph@cisabudhabi.com Phone: +971 2 556 4206

Student Safety

CIS has up-to-date and thorough Health and Safety procedures for emergencies across a variety of possible scenarios. Teachers will review and practice emergency procedures with their students; drills for emergency evacuation will take place periodically. For more details regarding the school's health and safety policies and procedures, please see the [CIS Health & Safety Policy](#).

Elevator

A new elevator has been installed in the school building to support accessibility for students and staff. To ensure the elevator is used appropriately and remains available for those with medical or mobility-related needs, the following policy is in effect:

- **Student use of the elevator is by permission only.**
- Students who require use of the elevator due to medical, physical, or temporary injury-related reasons must obtain **permission from administration**.
- Once approved, students will be issued a **designated elevator-use lanyard**, which must be worn and visible at all times when using the elevator.
- Students may not allow other students to ride with them unless explicitly authorized.
- Unauthorized use of the elevator will be treated as a **behavioral violation** under the school's Code of Conduct.
- Lanyards must be returned once the approved usage period ends.



Security

Procedures are in place so that students never leave the campus without the knowledge of CIS personnel, without parent/guardian permission. All gates around the campus border will always remain locked during the school day. The front gate will be accessible to visitors who will be asked to sign in and out with security and wear a CIS Visitor's Badge. Parents/Guardians are required to present their Parent or Guardian Badge to be permitted access to the school grounds.

Please note that the security guards are not allowed to leave their duties to assist students or staff unless there is proper gate security coverage maintained. CIS Administration expects that all parents, students, and staff demonstrate respect towards our security guards and car park attendants. Parents are to follow the instructions of security guards and car park attendants to ensure the safety and security of our school and the students within it. The car park attendants have the authority to report parking lot safety violations to the police if deemed necessary.

Daily Supervision

Teachers are assigned Supervision Duty to oversee the activities of students during all break and lunch times, including before and after school. Supervision begins at 7:30 am and concludes at 3:15 pm. Staff on supervision will be wearing yellow vests so they can be easily identified.

Emergency Procedures

When the alarm sounds or when an announcement is made, students must follow the directions of their teachers and move quickly and quietly to the exit as posted in each room. Students must remain with their teachers and classes in the designated area, and away from school buildings in the case of an evacuation, until they are instructed to return to their normal activities.

Any tampering with the school's security and fire protection system—including alarms and extinguishers—places the entire school community in a vulnerable position. Any such behaviour or activity is strictly forbidden and will result in immediate suspension.

Power Outage

In the unlikely event of a power outage, all students will remain in the classroom unless directed otherwise by the administration. School activities will proceed as normal, and students will follow their regular schedule. No calls are to be made to parents/guardians for pick-up unless announced by administration. The school must comply with ADEK directives regarding school closure and is unable to close the school without their explicit permission.

Prohibited Items at School

Weapons and Facsimiles of Weapons

Students are not permitted to bring any weapons, toy, or imitation weapons of any nature (except those used in traditional Emirati practices, and on appropriate days) to school. The potential danger of such items could warrant suspension and/or expulsion.



Lockers and Personal Belongings

All students from Grades 6-12 are assigned a locker at school. Grade 6 and 7 students will share lockers. All lockers are numbered and designated to specific students. Students are not allowed to switch or change lockers without permission from the administration office.

Books and supplies should be collected for classes before the start of class or after lunch to ensure that students are on time for class. Students do not have time to go to lockers between classes. During the lunch break, books and other belongings should be left in the lockers and not in the halls. Students are encouraged to keep their lockers clean and always locked (in the case of the secondary school) and should never share their combination codes with others. Students are solely liable for the contents of their respective locker at all times.

Lockers are the property of CIS, and the school administration reserves the right to enter a student's locker in the interest of safety and/or security at any time.

Personal Belongings

Any personal belongings brought to the school by students are the sole responsibility of students. Students should always secure their possessions in their school bag. The school is not responsible for any loss of or damage to personal property. Parents and students should ensure that the weight of school bags is in line with the ADEK 'Bag Weight' policy available on the CIS website.

Lost and Found

Lost items are turned into the Lost and Found located at the end of the Grade 1 hallway for elementary students and on the third floor of the school for secondary students. Any items of value, such as wallets, watches, phones, jewelry, etc. will be given to the Reception Desk. The Lost and Found area will be cleaned out at the end of each term, and contents will be washed and donated to prevent large amounts of items from accumulating. It is recommended that all items, including uniform tags, be labelled with the full student name and class.

Student Health

The school has a nurse's room, located on the ground floor across from the administration offices, staffed by two nurses who are qualified and licensed by the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi (HAAD). The nurses are equipped with all essential first-aid supplies and can address and treat any immediate health issues until emergency services, if necessary, arrive at the school. Several staff members around the school hold current First-Aid and CPR qualifications and can be called upon as first responders when necessary.

Medical Files

The school nurses keep a medical file for each student, detailing up-to-date medical and emergency information that is referred to in the event of an injury and/or illness. Parents and/or guardians are asked to advise the school nurses (nurse@cisabudhabi.com) of any changes or updates in a student's medical status for these files.



Medication

The nurses will not administer any form of medication to students without prior, written parent/guardian consent. In cases where students require regular medication while at school, parents/guardians must provide the nurses with a “Parental Consent for Prescribed Medication” form (filled out by HAAD licensed physician), along with the medication in a re-sealable plastic bag that is properly labeled with the student’s full name, classroom, date of birth, and dosage instructions.

Head Lice

If the school has reason to believe that a student has head lice and/or nits (eggs), the student will be checked by the school nurses. If lice/nits are confirmed, the student will be sent home to prevent spread to other students. Parents within the affected class will be notified so that they can check their children at home. Students will not be readmitted to school until all evidence of head lice and/or nits (live or dead) is gone. CIS asks that parents notify the school if they find lice or nits on their child as soon as possible so that proper precautions can be taken to avoid their spread.

Illness

Any student who becomes ill at school should report directly to the school nurses. If the student is deemed too sick to remain at school, the nurse will contact the parents/guardians to arrange for them to go home. Parents are encouraged to not send their children to school if they are sick until the student is completely recovered to avoid the spread of illness to other students.

If a student is away for multiple days due to illness, it is recommended that the parent contact their child’s teacher for any missed work that might be completed from home to avoid the child falling too far behind.

Accidents

Accidents occurring at school that result in injury of any student(s) will be reported immediately to the Administration Office, ADEK, and parents of the affected student(s). An incident form will be completed by the school Health and Safety Officer and filed for reference. If necessary, an investigation will follow to determine and address the source of any injuries.

Use of Computers, Technology, and Personal Devices

Acceptable use of School Owned Technology

Students in KG – Grade 4 are not permitted to bring any personal device to school. This includes laptops, any form of smart watch, iPad and any other electronic device that allows one to connect to the internet.

Students in grades 7 through 12 are required to bring a personal device (laptop) to school daily. Students in grades 5 and 6 are encouraged to bring personal devices when mandated by classroom teachers. Computers are used by students and staff for educational purposes, to facilitate writing, research, promote communication and presentation skills, advance technology skills, enhance learning and teaching, and conduct valid school business. Technology use is a privilege, not a right, and the expectation is that it will be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. All technology is governed by CIS Technology [policy](#).



School owned equipment is shared, and all users are asked to follow the user policy for their personal devices and those that the school provides for everyone's benefit.

- The school's technology resources should only be used for school-related tasks
- School computers will be used by students under supervision of a staff member
- Inappropriate computer use will result in revocation of privileges, temporary or permanent, depending on the gravity of the offense
- Parents/Guardians are liable to pay for any damage done to school technology/property that is willful, intentional, or as a result of negligence on the part of the student

School Computer and Technology User Guidelines

- **No food.** There is no gum chewing, drinking, or eating around the school computers, laptops, tablets, interactive boards, or other devices
- **Handle equipment with care.** Do not run with the laptop cart or use it in any way that may cause physical damage to the device or equipment. Please ensure that equipment is securely positioned when in use and safely stored and plugged in when finished using
- **Do not change any settings on the devices.** Do not change the homepage or any settings, do not move, add, or delete any items from the desktop that are not your own
- **Do not download any software on these devices without permission**
- **Save your work in the Cloud or often on a memory stick/flash drive.** Sometimes programs freeze or the connection to the server gets lost. When this happens, any unsaved work will be lost. Protect yourself! Working on One Drive or Google Drive is recommended, since these save automatically every few seconds to the Cloud
- **No non-educational games or inappropriate content.** Playing games or using internet relay-chat is prohibited unless authorized by a teacher for curricular purposes. Do not access web sites featuring pornographic, discriminatory, or hate group content
- **Help maintain your workspace.** Wipe the machine screen and keyboard if you notice it is dirty or smudged. Report any problems you notice with software or hardware, and any evidence of vandalism or theft

CIS Parent-Student Handbook Agreement

The success of our students is heavily dependent upon the relationship between school and home. This includes a mutual understanding of the expectations of students and parents while present at CIS. We respectfully ask that students and parents support this relationship by reviewing the contents of this handbook together.

Your enrollment at Canadian International School Abu Dhabi confirms your agreement with all policies, expectations and procedures outlined within this handbook. Should you have any questions or require further clarification please forward those to the corresponding Heads of School by email.