

SECTION 4

FACILITIES

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4.1 Overview

In September 2008, ISL Qatar opened in its new home, a modern, purpose-built campus in the northern suburbs of Doha. The buildings have been developed to embody the school's philosophy of child-focused education. It offers a curriculum appropriate to the 21st century, using methods and technologies that engage children while advancing their learning and knowledge. We also offer facilities for sport and recreation, for individualised learning and research, and personal development and growth.

4.2 Teaching Areas

The primary and secondary sections of the school share some facilities; however, the vast majority of classrooms are for dedicated age-appropriate use. To cater for the different ages and learning styles, specially designed teaching areas surround a central open atrium which is the heart of our school community. There are 28 primary classrooms including newly-built facilities for our early childhood students. Secondary classrooms include 5 Science labs, an Art room, Design Workshop, Drama Studio, Film Room, Music/Performing Arts classrooms, Mother-Tongue classrooms and subject-specific classes for delivery of each of the curriculum areas. We have a well-resourced main library, opened in November 2012. Instrumental lessons, available through our Rock School Programme (<https://www.rslawards.com/rockschool/>), are taught in a suite of purpose-built music practice rooms.

4.3 Sports facilities

Our commitment to outdoor and physical education is reflected in the sports facilities which include a large multi-purpose sports hall, 25 metre swimming pool, 14 metre splash pool for younger children, multi-purpose room for early childhood students, an all-weather sports pitch and outdoor football/ basketball/volleyball courts. Extensive use is made of these facilities for PHE lessons and the diverse extra-curricular programme offered by ISL Qatar.

4.4 Recreational areas

Students have access to extensive recreational areas inside and outside school to enable them to enjoy periods of having fun together in supervised recreational spaces. Recreational spaces include the main internal atrium, shaded areas, study areas and a common room for G11/12 students and extensive external play areas. There is space for all students to play together or simply expend some energy.

4.5 ISL Qatar Libraries

The ISL Qatar libraries consist of Book World, which serves EC1, EC2, KG, Grades 1 and 2; and the main library which is a shared space serving Grades 3-12.

The libraries are open during normal school hours from Sunday-Thursday 7:45 am - 2:35 pm. In the Primary School, additional times are allocated throughout the week for students to exchange their books, if they have forgotten to bring them on their normal book exchange day. Parents are welcome to become patrons of the library, and to borrow books to read to or with their children, and also to borrow from our fledgling Parenting Shelf.

4.5.1 Resources

Research and Inquiry: The library has a significant collection of print resources, and also offers access to online databases and encyclopedias that can be accessed from home as well as at school. We also encourage parents to register as patrons of the Qatar National Library so that their children have access to the vast collection of online resources on offer to all citizens and residents of Qatar. The librarians offer assistance with using these and other online resources and tools for accessing and ethically using and sharing information.

Reading for pleasure: The library has a fine collection of fiction, and general-interest non-fiction resources, and we encourage students to read for their own pleasure, curiosity and personal interest, becoming lifelong readers, as well as lifelong learners.

World Languages: The library holds a rapidly growing collection of books in different languages, providing both books in mother tongue languages and reading matter for students studying a second or third language.

4.5.2 Borrowing Policies

Primary Grades: All primary classes have a 30-minute library period each week to choose books and read stories, and the teacher often reads to students. Some instructional activities related to information literacy skills may also occur in this timeframe. Students in EC1 borrow books and keep them in their classroom for usage throughout the week. All other grades have the books for a week to use and enjoy at home and school. Grades 3-5 are allowed to check out two books each week.

Secondary Grades: In the secondary school, we are flexible with our borrowing policy, and try to ensure that students have the resources they need for research and for pleasure reading. The upper limit is generally 7 items, but most students find that 2 items at a time are sufficient. The loan period is 2 weeks, but books may be returned at any time during that period. If students have overdue books, they may not borrow further books until the books have been returned or renewed. There are no regularly scheduled library times, and students are responsible for finding time to visit the library.

4.5.3 Lost and Damaged books

The library staff will send a letter home indicating the fee to be paid for any material(s) lost, destroyed, or so damaged as to make the item unfit for future use. The fee takes into account the cost of the book, shipping and processing and will be a minimum of QAR 100. If the cost of replacing the book is greater than QAR 100, the fee will be the cost of the book + 15% shipping and handling. Parents will not be given the option of replacing the book themselves as the book will then arrive unprocessed, and it is likely that it will not be in library format. The fee will be paid to the Finance Office. Once it has been paid, the student may once again borrow books.