

Welcome

Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our updated Parent Handbook. The aim of this handbook is to give a clear guide about our school, our processes and procedures as well as to provide clear information.

As a fully authorized IB School, we nurture the attitudes and attributes of the ISL four pillars of Diversity, Passion, Identity and Understanding and of the IB learner Profile. We have a diverse and unique community with students from over 80 countries attending our school. This provides a wealth of opportunity for global learning, international understanding community action which are key components of our school.

Please look out for regular communications that are sent by email, including a weekly school bulletin, providing information regarding forthcoming events and celebrating recent successes.

If you are not receiving emails from the school, please contact our Front Office:

Rowena Geraldizo: RGeraldizo@islqatar.org Parent and Student Liaison Coordinator

Aylin Alsayedali AAlsayedali@islqatar.org Parent and Student Liaison Officer

Please also feel free to contact either Rowena or Aylin if you have any general inquiries

As an international school, we strive to create an atmosphere of warmth and caring which is also challenging at individual levels. In the following pages, we have summarised how we work across the entire school, with some specific information for Primary School and Middle and High Schools. Please note that this is a 'work in progress' document; if there is additional information that you would like us to include, please let us know.

As always, we welcome feedback, suggestions and ideas. Feel free to contact us as shown below:

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Section 1: Guiding Statements & Introduction

1.1 ISL Qatar Mission Statement and Definition of Learning:

At ISL Qatar we believe that our Mission Statement should begin with our reason for being, our 'why':

WHY

We are committed to developing a passion for life and learning that leads to the betterment of the world in which we live.

HOW

We aim to foster creativity, empathy, integrity and resilience, founded on respect for self, for others and for the environment.

WHAT

We strive to maintain a diverse community of learners that promotes, nurtures and celebrates individual growth, talent and mastery within a culture of collaboration.

Definition of Learning:

Learning at ISL Qatar is a joyful, dynamic process of discovery, inspiring innovation, and transformation, whereby learners connect and engage purposefully with the world.

1.2 IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate (IB) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students from across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

1.3 ISL Qatar Core Values

The ISL educational philosophy is based on the following core values and applies to our students, teaching and administrative staff:

- a commitment to the acquisition of knowledge and the achievement of personal potential
- the pursuit of excellence in all areas of activity and effort
- respect of self and others including the recognition of the uniqueness of each individual
- social and civic responsibility which seeks to explore and promote the common good and values, social justice, cultural diversity and the emotional and physical well-being of others
- concern and respect for the natural and cultural environment.

1.4 ISL Qatar Profile

We have further elaborated our mission statement and values into the ISL Qatar Profile that indicates the attitudes and attributes we aim to encourage and develop in all members of the school community.

ISL Qatar Profile <i>Developing Global Citizens, Striving for Excellence</i>	
Balanced Caring Committed Communicator Courageous	Inquirer Knowledgeable Open-minded Principled Reflective Thinker

The ISL Qatar Profile:

- makes an explicit link between the mission statement and what we do in practice
- identifies the expectations we have of all members of the community
- demonstrates the attitudes and attributes we are aiming to develop in students
- indicates that we are aiming for excellence in all areas
- links the teaching programmes to the mission statement, and becomes an explicit part of those programmes
- drives our assessment policy

There are eleven sections in the ISL Qatar Profile reflecting the different attitudes and attributes that we regard as important in developing our students (and other members of our community) as global citizens.

- **Communicator:** We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.
- **Inquirer:** We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.
- **Thinker:** We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.
- **Balanced:** We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives - intellectual, physical, spiritual and emotional - to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.
- **Caring:** We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.
- **Courageous:** We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change. We are brave and articulate in defending our beliefs.
- **Committed:** We demonstrate a strong sense of perseverance and determination in completing tasks to the best of our ability. We work on tasks with purpose and engagement, always striving for excellence.
- **Knowledgeable:** We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

- **Open-minded:** We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.
- **Principled:** We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.
- **Reflective:** We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The ISL Qatar Profile is based on the IB learner profile, which is a requirement for all IB world schools.

1.5 A School for the 21st Century

The International School of London Qatar:

- cares for its students and puts them first
- uses the most effective teaching methods to cater for students' different learning styles
- believes that each child has a unique way of learning and has the potential to succeed
- acknowledges that how children learn is as important as what they learn
- bases future success on creativity, problem-solving, communication, team-work, intercultural understanding and self-reliance, as well as on academic skills
- prepares children for the information age that is revolutionising the world they will inherit
- provides an environment that is safe, friendly, caring, challenging and innovative
- is passionate about helping children to grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and morally
- sets the highest standards of academic achievement and enables students to gain the highest examination grades of which they are capable
- gives students a lifelong love of learning
- aims to be a learning centre for the whole community
- takes learning so seriously that it makes it fun!

1.6 Background

The ISL Schools Group began in 1972 when the International School of London was founded as a private co-educational school. It was one of the first schools in the world to offer the IB Diploma, graduating its first Diploma students in 1978. It now offers the IB Primary and Middle Years programmes in addition to the IB Diploma and is especially well known for its world languages programmes. As part of the core curriculum, students receive mother tongue or foreign language literacy lessons from early childhood. Because of the strength of its languages programme, ISL was selected by Qatar's Supreme Education Council to open a school in Doha as part of the Outstanding Schools initiative. Continuing its expansion, ISL was chosen by Shell to acquire the Surrey-based Prins Willem Alexander School which was the highest performing Dutch school in the world. The ISL Schools now enrol over 1300 students across their three campuses in Chiswick, West London; Woking, Surrey; and Doha, Qatar.

1.7 International Accreditation, Inspection and Authorisation

Our authorisation as an IB World School (see details below); our accreditation through the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC); and our membership of the Outstanding Schools Programme through the Supreme Education Council in Qatar; all provide independent, external validation of the quality of education at ISL Qatar. This also allows us to offer a wide range of accredited International and Qatari programmes to our increasingly diverse student population of nearly 70 nationalities.

- Qatar Supreme Education Council - Outstanding School Status: July 2008
- IB PYP Authorisation: January 2012
- IB MYP Authorisation: June 2013
- IB Diploma Authorisation: June 2011
- NEASC/CIS School: November 2014
- IB DP Evaluation: February 2016
- IB PYP Evaluation: November 2016
- IB MYP Evaluation: April 2018

