



**GEMS WELLINGTON SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION
STAGE HANDBOOK
2025-2026**

Achieving Excellence Together



Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to GEMS Wellington School – Qatar (WSQ), a leading school delivering quality education within the region. At WSQ we place the core values of respect, honesty, integrity and hard work at the heart of all we do, with each and every student given the very best opportunities to succeed and realise their potential.



Through highly qualified, experienced and dedicated staff, as well as a broad and rigorous curriculum, our focus is on delivering outstanding personalised learning experiences in the pursuit of academic excellence. We encourage students to be inquisitive, passionate and fully immersed in their learning journey to develop into independent and socially responsible critical thinkers.

We also place significant importance on the development of physical and creative skills by offering an extensive array of wider co-curricular opportunities catering to each student’s interests and talents, be it through sports, art, music, dance or drama.

In a rapidly changing, interconnected and global society, our younger generations will continually face new challenges and opportunities. At WSQ, we ensure our students are equipped not only with the required knowledge, but also the necessary personal, social and emotional skills to be successful, confident, ambitious and resilient citizens in their lives beyond school. That is why the provision of outstanding pastoral care, wellbeing, guidance and support is a key focus for all of us at WSQ.

Embracing and celebrating the fact that every member of our school is unique has contributed to creating the fantastic sense of community that is tangible from the very moment you walk through the doors at WSQ. Our students are happy and secure and have a sense of purpose and belonging, knowing that they are supported, cared for and respected for who they are.

While our website is a good place to start, providing you with an overview of who we are and what we do, I strongly encourage you to come and visit us in person so you can see GEMS Wellington School – Qatar for yourselves.

Kind regards,

David Wilson
Principal / CEO



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Early Years at GEMS Wellington School, I would like to extend a warm welcome. I take great pride in leading and being the Head of EYFS and supporting your son/daughter in their educational journey.

GEMS Wellington is a British curriculum school in the heart of Al Wakra. We want every single child at our school to have a personalised education; the kind of education that instils exemplary behaviour, inspires academic curiosity and a life-long interest in the wider world. We expect our teachers to lead by example; inspiring our young people to learn through a knowledge-rich curriculum and the experiences we create for them inside and outside the classroom.



All our children are encouraged to be thoughtful and reflective, to understand their place in the world and to set themselves high standards both in terms of their commitment to work and discipline. Also, our children are encouraged to adopt a positive mind-set and use determination and perseverance to overcome challenges and take pride in all that they achieve. We want learning to be fun and exciting, teachers ensure rich experiences await the children in their classrooms every week.

For all the very latest news, events, calendar dates and further information about our school, please visit our website, and don't forget to follow our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter account.

The best way to find out about our school however is to come and see for yourself. Our doors are always open, and we would be delighted to share our experience and time with you. We do personalised family tours upon request.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our School. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Kind regards

Yasmin Sherbaz

Head of Early Years

Welcome to our Foundation Stage Department

This separate handbook for early years is intended to provide parents with details about day to day life in our foundation stage department as well as some key information about policies and procedures. At GEMS Wellington, we believe that every year of a child's education is vital. It has been scientifically proven that the early years is when children reach key milestones which can impact on their future learning. It is at this stage that educationalists and parents lay the foundations for a child's success, both academically and personally, through life.



Our department is set in a brand new, purpose built building with all classes on the ground floor to allow easy access to the outside area. Our classes are light and airy and separated from the rest of the school. All classrooms are well resourced in order to meet the needs of the children. We have a fabulous spacious library, music rooms and ICT is integrated into the curriculum. Our foundation stage children are in the same building as their older siblings, but separated from the mainstream school population. We cater for children from the ages of three to five before they transfer to our Key Stage One department.

In Foundation Stage we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS). We ensure that this meets the needs and interests of our children, as well as the culture and history of our School's international community in Qatar and the Middle East. We provide a unique high quality learning experience for our children. Our philosophy is that children need to be independent, self- confident and creative. We work in very close partnership with our parents to ensure that their children achieve their best.

We believe that every child who attends a GEMS school is unique with their own talents, strengths and dreams. We believe that our children have limitless potential and it is our job to provide them with the individual care, guidance and support that will bring out their best. We do this by laying the foundations for education and preparing our student for life in an ever changing world.

If you have any queries about life for your child in Foundation Stage at GEMS Wellington School, then please come into school and see a member of the team



We look forward to welcoming you and your child into the Wellington Family!

What does a typical day look like?



Early Years Foundation Stage 1

Activity	From	To
Child initiated learning, Self-Registration	7:20am	7.45am
Circle Time with their friends and teacher, learning to listen to each other, develop confidence and speak in a group	7.45am	8.00am
Teacher directed and inquiry based free flow learning begins	8.00am	10.00am
Outdoor Gross Motor Activities	10.00am	10.30am
Pre reading and phonics activities	10:30am	10.45am
Teacher directed and inquiry based free flow learning	10.45am	11.35pm
Lunch & gross motor session	11.35am	12.05pm
Continuous Provision/child initiated/adult led learning	12.05pm	1.10pm
Creativity and expressive arts design activities and learning	1.10pm	1.50pm
Story time and end of the day procedures	1.50pm	2.00pm
Parents collect their child from class	2.00pm	
Children who leave on the bus	2.15pm	

Early Years Foundation Stage 2

Activity	From	To
Staff available to meet and welcome children and their parents. Child initiated learning and self-registration	7.20am	7.45am
Teacher directed activities & inquiry based learning	7.45am	9.35am
Gross Motor session	9.35am	9.55am
Teacher directed activities & inquiry based learning	9.55am	11.55am
Lunch & gross motor session	11.55am	12.05pm
Teacher directed activities & inquiry-based learning	12.05pm	1.10pm
Continuous Provision/child initiated/adult led learning	1.10pm	1.50pm
Story time and end of the day procedures	1.50pm	2.00pm
Parents collect their child from class	2.00pm	
Bus children	2.15pm	

Please note session timings may vary slightly

On a Thursday both GEMS Wellington School and The American Academy will close at 1:30pm. There will be no child care facilities available on this day. This is to allow for essential, weekly professional development sessions for teachers and teaching assistants.



Dear Parents,

Hello, I'm Hannah Longstaff and I am the Foundation Stage Leader at GEMS Wellington School.

I am very passionate about Early Years education and I really enjoy seeing the children develop throughout their time at school and watching their confidence grow.

Within Early Years here at GEMS, we provide the basis for the social, emotional and intellectual and physical development of your child in a way that is fun and stimulating. We encourage children to become independent, secure and confident individuals who are aware of the world around them. Please feel free to contact me on h.longstaff_wsq@gemsedu.com



Kind regards

Hannah Longstaff

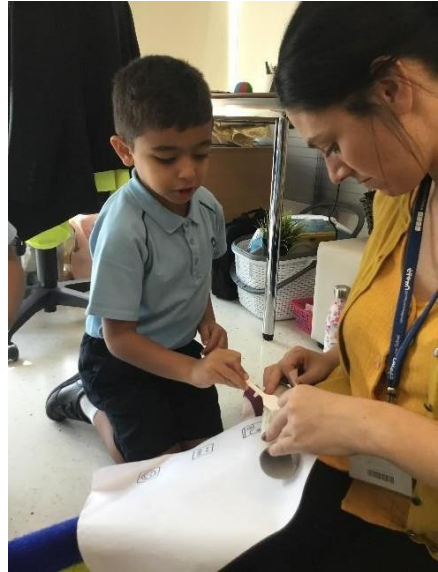
Phase leader

Our staff

We recruit the best English first language speakers from the United Kingdom. All of our teachers are trained to at least degree level and have had experience working in schools in the United Kingdom. Our fantastic teachers are ably supported by our teaching assistants who we train in house. Our Early Years' team work in close partnership to disseminate and share good practice. Our teaching staff are supported by our front of house Parent Relations Executive.

Specialist Teaching in Foundation Stage 2

Arabic	PE-Gross Motor Skills	Music
Conversational Arabic 1 session a week	2 sessions a week	1 session a week



What should children in foundation stage bring to school?

- A school hat in house colours. As a school we have a policy of 'no hat no play' due to the hot climate and intense sunshine in Doha.
- A GEMS Wellington School backpack
- A labelled water bottle
- A small healthy snack for the morning in a container with their name on it
- All children in Foundation Stage 2 and children in Foundation Stage 1, who use the bus or have an older sibling in school will also need a separate container (with their name on it) containing a healthy lunch

Lost and Found

- Lost property is kept in our resources department near the main reception area.
- Staff and children are expected to respect the property of GEMS Wellington School and others and to take reasonable measures to look after it.
- Children are responsible for looking after any personal items they bring to school.
- GEMS Wellington School cannot accept responsibility for personal items brought to school or used on the school bus.

Sun Protection

- Please send your child to school with their school hat every day.
- Please apply sunscreen to your child every day.

Settling in

It is important that your child arrives during the daily soft drop off (7.10am until 7.40am) in order to give them time to settle in and prepare themselves for the day ahead. You are very welcome to come into class and train your child to put away their belongings. It is a good opportunity for you to see the learning activities that are happening in the room and look at displays.

Starting school can be quite daunting for some children and during the first few days or weeks your child might find it difficult to settle into class as there may be some separation anxiety. Usually this only lasts for a few days but it can continue for extended periods of time depending on the child. It is important that parents and staff work together to settle your child in and develop a regular routine. Please ensure that you tell your child when you are leaving the room and give them a quick hug and kiss and remind them they will have fun. Remember, if you are anxious, your feelings and emotions will transfer to your child. You are welcome to go to our reception area for a cup of coffee and if you wish, a member of our team will check on your child for you. Once you have said goodbye to your child please do not return back to the classroom as your child will find this upsetting.



Healthy eating habits start when children are young

At GEMS Wellington School we want to work alongside families to improve the health and happiness of our children and the wider Qatari community.

The food we eat as a child often set the pattern for the food we will consume in later life. By modelling and encouraging healthy, balanced eating for the children, we will lay the foundations for better food habits in adulthood.

Drinking adequate water, eating nutritious snacks and accessing a healthy balanced lunch has been demonstrated to improve the attention, energy levels and academic performance of children.

Regularly consuming fatty, sugary, salty junk food or highly processed foods can be addictive for children and lead to complications like: unhealthy weight gain/obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancers and other chronic illness, low self-esteem and even depression. Children's small bodies are a lot more sensitive to the negative effects of preservatives, food colouring, sugars and fats so the more these can be avoided the better. Highly processed foods can also adversely affect a child's behaviour at home and in school



In many cases simple, home cooked, whole foods combined with fresh fruits and vegetables provide much more nutrition to support health and wellbeing

Healthy lunch boxes

At GEMS Wellington School we have a healthy eating policy to encourage our children to adopt a similar lifestyle for life. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your child/children to eat healthily. Below are some suggestions for healthy lunch boxes. We will encourage the children in school to try all the food in their lunchbox.

Research has shown that children who have a healthy lunch find it easier to concentrate in class and take part in physical exercise. Please provide your child with a water bottle, we have water stations situated around the school, so children are able to fill these up during the day. It is important that children are well hydrated.





Healthy lunch box suggestions

TIP: Think about portion sizes, the amount of food is relative to the size/age of your child. Children will not need as much food as an adult as their stomachs are a lot smaller

- Fresh fruit e.g. apple, banana, pot of strawberries
- Dried fruit e.g. box of raisins, portion of apricots
- Vegetables e.g. carrot batons, cucumber sticks, cherry tomatoes
- Starch product e.g. brown rice, wraps, bread, noodles, couscous, crisp bread,
- Protein e.g. cooked meat, kidney beans, chickpeas, borlotti beans, peeled boiled egg
- A variety of salads
- A sandwich or wrap with a savoury filling such as cooked meat, cheese, tuna fish and some salad
- Dairy e.g. yoghurt, milk, cheese spread, babybel, haloumi, labneh, feta
- Dips e.g. hummus, tzatziki
- A small treat e.g. a slice of cake, muffin or plain biscuits (not containing chocolate)
- A bottle of water



Please do not send the following

- Crisps, chocolate bars or food containing chocolate
- Fizzy drinks, sweets and takeaway food are not allowed.

We are a nut free school, as we have students who have severe, potentially fatal allergic reactions to nuts. Consequently, we do not allow children to bring any products to school that contain nuts. Pork is not allowed in accordance with local customs and law.

It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the class teacher and school nurse of any allergies their child might have.

We advise that you use insulated lunch bags to ensure your child's lunch stays cool and fresh. These will be stored in a separate unit in the classroom.

If you would like any further information about providing your child with a healthy lunch box, then please contact our Parents Relationship Executive and he will arrange for a member of staff to work with you on ideas for healthy lunches.

Birthday treats

On birthdays the class will sing your child 'Happy Birthday' and make your child feel special. We politely ask that you do send in any class treats to celebrate your child's birthday. If you would like to prepare individual gift bags for children please speak to the class teacher in advance. If you wish to send in a platter of fruit for the children to share, then we can accommodate this.

We do not allow children to bring in a cake to celebrate their birthday.



Parents' Cafe

Our parents' café is located in the main reception area. The café offers a selection of hot/cold drinks and light snacks for you to purchase. A variety of cold sandwiches, wraps, pastries, croissants, muffins etc. are served between 7:10am – 11:45am & 12:30 -4:00pm. We also have free Wi-Fi facility for parents to use. (Please ask at reception for the username and password.)



Start and End of the School Day Procedures

Drop off procedures

Parents with children in Foundation Stage can park outside of the school grounds and bring their children through Gate 5 and then through the side doors into the building. Children need to be taken directly to the class and handed over to the class teacher. It is vital that children are punctual in the morning for their lessons, as arriving late in school disrupts their learning and also the learning of the other children in the class.

End of the day procedures

Children must be collected punctually at the designated time. If parents are unable to collect their child themselves, they must make sure that their child's teacher is aware of the alternative arrangements. Under no circumstances will a child be allowed to depart from the premises unless they are with a person who is known to the teacher or they are with a person able to provide proof that they are authorised to collect that child and are wearing the security badge provided.

Young children become very anxious if their parent or carer is not there to collect them at the end of the day. To avoid unnecessary upsets, it is important that you are on time. If you are delayed unnecessarily then please inform our Receptionists. Please note that it is not acceptable to be late on a regular basis. School finishes at 12.15pm in Foundation Stage 1 and 2.00pm in Foundation Stage 2. If this is not convenient then you will need to make alternative arrangements for pick up as we are unable to offer after school supervision for children whose parents are consistently late

When it is home time please wait by the classroom a few paces back from the door. This enables the teacher to clearly see who is there. Please remember that during the start and end of the school day it can be very busy so please allow plenty of time to drop your child off and collect them. All adults need a school security pass to enter the school building these will be available from our reception, you will need to provide a passport photograph.



Collection of children during the school day

If you need to collect your child early due to an emergency appointment, then you need to let the class teacher know well in advance. On collection the class teacher will give you a permission slip to present to the guards so they allow you to leave the campus, without the slip you are unable to take your child



Absences

Illness

From time to time children will be ill and we ask that you do not send them to school when they are sick. If they are absent due to illness, parents should contact the child's class teacher before 7:30am. Please e-mail our receptionist reception_wsg@gemsedu.com as well as the class teacher, or you can telephone the school on +974 4041 7445/444

Holidays

We do not authorise holidays during term time. We only authorise time off for Religious Pilgrimages or for a family emergency.

What are the medical arrangements in school?

We have two Qatar Registered School Nurses on site from 7:30am – 3:30pm. The clinic is near the main reception area.



If your child needs medicine through the day e.g. antibiotics, then you will need to see the nurse to fill out an authorization form.

If your child is ill during the day, the nurse will contact you on your emergency numbers and may ask you to come in to collect your child. If they have a minor bump or scrape, then we will still call you, just to let you know.

Please follow these exclusion periods from school for illness

Illness	Time off School
Chickenpox	6 days from the appearance of the last spot
Conjunctivitis	Children may return to school once treatment has began
Diarrhea & Vomiting	24 hours' symptom free. Child must be eating and drinking normally
Fever	24 hours after temperature returns to normal
Measles	At least 5 days after the rash appears
Mumps	5 days after swelling appears
Ringworm	Until commencement of treatment
Hand Foot and Mouth	Remain off school until the blister has dried
Rubella	7 days after the rash appears

Head lice

If a case of head lice is discovered, then the school nurse will send out a letter to all the parents in that class asking them to check their child's hair and treat it if necessary. The school nurse will be happy to check your child's head if you ask her to. If lice are visible, we will ask you to collect your

child to give them a treatment. Chemical treatments will kill the lice but not the eggs – you still need to use a specialist comb and conditioner every day for 9 days to ensure no eggs are left in the hair. Children can return to school once they have been treated.

Infectious disease

If your child has suffered from an infectious disease, a certificate from the doctor stating the child is symptom free and able to return to school will be required.

Toileting

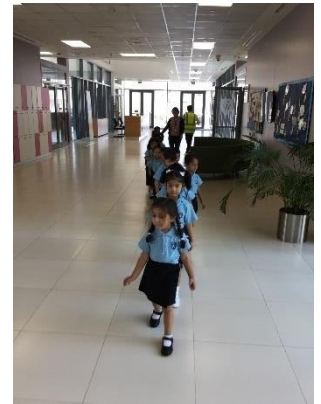
All children attending school must be toilet trained. Children are not able to attend school until they are toilet trained unless there is a medical diagnosis that causes complications to training. This would need to be supported by doctors' notes and an action plan. The expectation is that all children should be able to use the toilet independently and exit the bathroom clean. Children are not allowed to wear nappies or pull-ups during the school day. They need to wear underwear.



Behaviour and Discipline

It is important that all our children feel valued, respected and are treated fairly. We are a very caring school and our ethos is based on trust and respect for all. We have in place a very clear behaviour policy with established system for rewards and sanctions. We want all our children to feel safe, secure and happy.

As a school community, we aim to reward positive behaviours throughout the school and educate students to promote the expected behaviours of their peers.



GEMS Star of the Week: One certificate will be awarded to the student who for that week demonstrates one (or more) of the following:

- Consistently exceptional behaviour;
- A personal academic achievement;
- Demonstrating a high level of emotional intelligence towards others.

Each week a student also gets to take home the class mascot, which is there to promote home and school connection. Taking the class mascot home is a big deal for our students. They are so excited to bring a piece of the class home to their families and share about their day. It's also meaningful for the students to share a bit of home with the class. Blending home and school into the same world for students is so powerful.

GEMS Jewels of Kindness: This award is given out every term to one student that exemplifies the following qualities and behaviours:

- HPL Hardworking
- HPL Empathy
- HPL Agile
- Principals Award



We are a High-Performance Learning School (HPL) which enables students not only to achieve academic excellence but to develop a way of thinking and learning that develops mental agility, reasoning skills and an appreciation of the benefits of working hard. HPL helps each individual to develop a multitude of cognitive and emotional attributes that give them the skills and resources to break through learning barriers.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that the class rules are enforced and that all the children in their care behave in a responsible manner. Teachers keep a record of inappropriate behaviour as part of the behaviour policy. If children are unable to follow our behaviour rules, the child may be excluded from school for a fixed period of time and this could even lead to a permanent exclusion.

Biting in school

Sometimes very young children will bite other children.

1. If a child bites another child for the first time they will be told to stop and will know that their behaviour is very unacceptable. If you collect your child from school, we will inform you and also make a note in their file.
2. If it happens for a second time we will tell you when you collect your child from school, and also make a note in their diary. Your child will be given a time out in class.
3. If a child bites for a third time, then the child will be removed from the classroom for a short period of time.
4. If the child continues to bite other children, then we will have to remove the child from school until they have stopped biting.

The role of parents

We believe that parents play a crucial part in supporting good behaviour in school and we welcome and value your support in setting high expectations of your child. Please work with us to ensure that your child understands the standard of behaviour and expectations so that the children receive a consistent message about how to behave at home and in school.



School Buses

We have a fleet of high quality buses which collect the children from a number of fixed points around Doha. When collecting your child/children please be on time, as the buses can only wait a couple of minutes before they need to carry on to the next drop off point. If you are not there, your child will have to stay on the bus until the other children are dropped off. Please ensure that if you are unable to collect your child that you contact the bus monitor with the name of the person collecting your child. They will need to provide ID in order to take your child. Children in Foundation Stage will be looked after by our teaching assistants until the end of the day at a stay and play session.

Please can you share the bus rules with your child and ensure that they fully understand them. It is vital that they are respectful and courteous to the bus monitor and driver. We have clear sanctions in place and if these are breached then we may have to remove the child from the bus for their own safety and the safety of the other children. If you have any concerns about the buses, then in the first instance you need to speak to the bus monitor then the bus manager t.operations_wsq@gemsedu.com If you are unsatisfied with the outcome, then please contact our Parent Relationship Executive at school pre_wsq@gemsedu.com or telephone +974 40417300.

Bus Rules

1. We stay seated throughout the journey.
2. We keep our seatbelts done up at all times.
3. We speak quietly and sensibly to other children on the bus.
4. We keep our hands and feet to ourselves at all times.
5. We listen to the adults on the bus, follow their instructions and treat them with respect.



These rules are designed to keep children happy and safe on the journey to and from school.

If for any reason your child will not be taking the bus after school, please inform class teacher before 12pm

Partnership with Parents



Working in partnership with parents is key to how successful a child is in school. We are here to support you and your child and work in partnership with you to solve any concerns that might arise during your child's education. We have an 'open door' policy so please discuss any concerns you have with the class teacher no matter how small. A senior member of staff is available by appointment to meet with parents to listen to further concerns that may not have been resolved. Your child's wellbeing has a direct impact on their attitude towards learning. We can provide you with advice and support from

our experienced qualified Early Years Practitioners

You can help us and your child by;

- Encouraging your child to have excellent attendance and punctuality.
- Not organising family holidays in term time or allowing your child to take odd days off.
- Ensuring that home routines support school life by ensuring that your child adopts appropriate sleep habits and patterns.
- Regularly updating your parent information.

Parent consultation

This is an ideal opportunity to come into school to look at your child's work and a chance for you to discuss how your child is progressing both academically and socially. You will be able to go into the classroom and your child will show you their work.

You will be contacted in advance of the event and asked to make an appointment

Reports

Each term you receive a written report, the reports explains the progress your child has made that term and the next steps in their learning. The report at the end of the third term comments on progress throughout the year and the next steps in their learning.

Parental engagement mornings

Each term you are invited into school. This is an opportunity to attend a short meeting about the activities you will see in the class. You are then able to work with your child in the classroom and participate in a variety of activities.



School events and performances

Children in Foundation Stage will take part in at least one production a year.

Special events

Over the course of the year children participate in the following activities, events and celebrations: Qatari National Day, Book Week, Sports Day, Health Week and International Day (children can come to school in the national dress for their country).



Parent Portal

We have a parent portal and parents will be sent a link and log in details at the start of the academic year. Parents are asked to check this on a weekly basis for information about home learning, school events and the curriculum covered.

Wellington Weekly Newsletter

Every week you be emailed our weekly newsletter every Thursday during term time. Past newsletters will be available on the portal. The newsletter contains key dates for forthcoming events as well as information about life in school.



Emails

As means of communication parents will have access to teachers' emails, generally speaking, teachers will endeavor to respond to an email within 24hours during the working week. If an email is sent during the weekend our teachers are not expected to check work emails until the working day, so there may be a delay in response.

Curriculum newsletter

At the start of each term you receive a curriculum newsletter. This will tell you about the theme for the term and some of the activities that the children will be participating in.

SeeSaw

Teachers will share students most important learning moments in school, through, videos, photos and messages.

Facebook and Instagram

We have a school Facebook page and Instagram account which are regularly updated. You will find our GEMS stars of the week, information about forthcoming and past events that have taken place in the school.



www.facebook.com/gemswellingtonschool.qatar



[gemswellingtonschoolqatar](https://www.instagram.com/gemswellingtonschoolqatar)



Website

The school website contains a variety of information about the school, please visit our school website by following the link below.

www.gemswellingtonschool-qatar.com

WESPA

Wellington School Parents Association is a voluntary parent organisation that provides a focal point for the school community. WESPA welcomes new parents into the school community and organises a series of fund raising events during the year. They are always looking for new parents to be involved. If you would like to be involved, then please e-mail our Parent Relationship Executive and she will pass on your details. pre_wsq@gemsedu.com



Educational Trips

Children will have the opportunity to take part in educational trips whilst in school and parents will be asked to volunteer and help out.

The Early Years' Curriculum

The curriculum in our Foundation Stage is based on the English Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS), which provides a framework for the education of children from birth to 5 years old.

The Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development,
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

The Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Please follow this link to look at the framework for EYFS
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework>



The curriculum is thematically based and themes change two to three times a term to engage the children. Teachers plan holistically to cover the prime areas of learning and these are developed further through the specific areas. The children's individual interests are observed and then developed further to extend their learning. There will be a number of different interests being developed at one time to meet the needs of individuals. This enables each child to achieve the goals and objectives appropriate to their individual stage of development.

Our dedicated and experienced teachers and full time teaching assistants in each class provide the highest standards of care, learning and development of children from the first day they arrive at GEMS Wellington School.

We aim to create a learning environment in which children are encouraged to be confident, curious and self-motivated and to take pride in their achievements. Learning is exciting, multi-sensory, collaborative and fun with an emphasis on active learning and learning through play. Child initiated learning is at the centre of the curriculum and this enables us to personalise the learning experience to meet the needs of the individual, through adult facilitated play. The curriculum is designed to enable children to work at their own level and pace. The Foundation Stage provides a happy and purposeful introduction to school life.

Will the children be using Computers and iPads to help them learn?

These are a part of all our lives and in our view we should embrace 21st Century digital learning opportunities. However, we will use these tools when they are the best tools to use – we will never stop teaching our children's the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics. We will use technology to enhance learning.





Year Group	Foundation Stage Themes		
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
FS1	All About Me Traditional Tales	Superheroes Transport	Under the Sea Animals
FS2	Ourselves Traditional Tales	People Who Help Us Dinosaurs	On the Beach Around the World

Music

All children in Foundation Stage learn to sing a variety of songs and rhymes. The children have a daily discreet music session. They are taught to a range of movement activities to develop a sense of beat and rhythm. Children play instruments to recreate the atmosphere in stories. They are taught to play a variety of percussion musical instruments.

Library

Children in Foundation Stage have the opportunity to visit the library on a weekly basis to establish a love of books and reading from a very early age. The students will be able to choose a book to take home.

'He that loves reading has everything within his reach.' —William Godwin (1756-1836 English Journalist)

Gross Motor Skills

Children in Foundation Stage have a daily gross motor session, which is usually outside; weather permitting. In Foundation Stage One children have a weekly indoor session and in Foundation Stage Two, the children have two, physical education (PE) sessions with our specialist teachers. The children learn basic movement, a sense of direction, foot, eye and hand eye coordination, balance, spatial awareness and how to move with control.



Learning support

We have a specialist Inclusion department for children who have learning difficulties. We have a number of programmes for children who may at some point find learning difficult. All provision is aimed at the individual child's specific learning needs and is cross curricular. Support is through small group work or individual withdrawal. Learning strategies are put into place to remove barriers to learning in mainstream classes.

English as an additional language (EAL)

We have an EAL department within our Inclusion team who provide specific programmes so we are able to support a limited number of non-native speakers of English who need to develop their understanding and use of English in order to access the curriculum. Our EAL teachers will support children either in the classroom or within small withdrawn groups away from the classroom. The children follow specific programmes of support.

How much home learning will there be?

Parents are expected to read to their child every night and play games with them.

In Foundation Stage 2 children in October will start to bring a reading book home with them.

Assessment

The Learning Profile

Children in our foundation stage are assessed against early learning goals through;

- The prime areas of learning; Communication, Language and Literacy, Physical Development, and Personal Social and Emotional Development
- The specific areas of learning; Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design

Assessment for Learning

Assessment for Learning (AFL) or formative assessment, as it is also known is the key to effective learning and teaching. These methods are embedded into class routines to ensure that teaching is adapted to meet the needs of all learners.

Assessment of Learning

Assessment of Learning or summative assessment is also important. Summative assessment summarises assessments at a particular time, usually the end of term and supports a range of purposes including tracking a child's progress, reporting, evaluating, planning and target-setting. Children are on a termly basis assessed against the Early Learning Goals.

Assessment Techniques

The assessment techniques that we use reflect the different abilities and learning styles of the children in school. During the day teachers observe children during the learning, making notes and taking photographs. They note their interests and learning styles. Teachers are highly skilled in the questions they use and this helps them to assess children's understanding of key concepts and also how to extend a child's learning further. These observations are used to design future learning experiences for the children.

At the end of Foundation Stage 2 we Internationally Benchmark our attainment against all children who have taken the UK Early Years Programme.



Houses and House Points and Rewards

Your child will join one of our four school houses. The houses are named after 4 GEMSTONES. The houses are:

House Name	Colour	What it stands for
Diamond 	White	The Peace and respect that exists between all the nations that live in Qatar.
Ruby 	Red/Burgundy	This represents the burgundy of the Qatari Flag.
Onyx 	Black	This represents the oil and natural resources of Qatar
Emerald 	Green	Drive for greater Environmental understanding in Qatar and the beautiful natural landscapes and animals that live in them.

- The school house system at GEMS Wellington School helps to teach children the value of teamwork and good behaviour. All children are placed in a house, with siblings in the same house.
- Throughout the year, children receive points which contribute to the house competitions.
- The house points are collected and totalled every week and are shown on the electronic screens around school.
- At the end of the year, all points are counted and the winning house for the year is announced. The School Libraries will be named after the winning house for the next academic year.

Health and Safety Practices

Fire Drill practice

We have termly fire drill practice and a plan of the school and the fire exits is displayed on the corridor walls at key points around the building. In the event of a fire the alarm will sound and the children will be escorted from their classrooms or play areas with their teacher to a central assembly point where the register will be taken.

Lock down practice

We have a termly lock down practice and procedures for this in place. This is to ensure the safety of the children and staff should an intruder enter the building.

What is the policy for school uniform?

The School Uniform is available from school.

Foundation Stage

Boys:

- Blue Polo Shirt.
- Navy Trousers/Shorts in Wellington uniform fabric.
- Black socks.
- Black Velcro or buckle shoes (no trainers allowed – this includes black leather ones).
- No Tie.
- Wellington PE shirt in house colour. (Not required for FS1)
- Wellington PE shorts. (Not required for FS1)
- School Cap in house colour.





Girls:

- Blue Polo Shirt.
- Navy Skorts/Shorts in Wellington uniform fabric.
- Navy Trousers in Wellington uniform fabric.
- White socks.
- Black Velcro or buckle shoes (no trainers allowed – this includes black leather ones).
- No Tie.
- Wellington PE Shirt in house colour. (Not required for FS1)
- Wellington PE Shorts. (Not required for FS1)
- School Cap in house colour.
- Hair must be tied back and off the face with black, white or dark navy hair accessories
- Summer dress
- Discreet black, white or dark navy hair accessories

All Children:

- No extreme hairstyles/cuts/hair sculpture
- Jewellery - one very small stud earring in the lobe of each ear
- Jewellery for religious reasons can be worn
- No other piercing is permitted
- No temporary tattoos or body art other than for religious reasons
- No makeup or nail varnish
- Religious head coverings - plain black, white, or dark navy
- Religious arm coverings – plain matching the school shirt
- All items of uniform are compulsory.
- All hair accessories need to be in shades of blue; the main colour of our uniform.
- Hair longer than shoulder length have to be tied.

What equipment will my child need for the first day?

- We will provide children with everything they need to learn i.e. pens, pencils, coloured pencils etc.
- Foundation Stage 1 children will not need to purchase a PE kit.
- Foundation Stage 2 will need a PE kit. Children are expected to come to school in their PE kit when it is their PE day.

School bags

- **School bags must not have wheels as these are a trip hazard and unsafe to use in school.**
- A simple rucksack worn properly means we do not have trip hazards in our busy rooms and corridors at the start and end of day.
- Foundation Stage school bags must not be bigger than 15 x10 inches (38 x 25 centimetres) to ensure that they fit in the storage space provided for each child in class.

