



مدرسة دبي للتربية الحديثة

Dubai Modern Education School

# Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) Policy



## School Vision

Empower learners to contribute to the global community through innovation, exploration, and citizenship.

## School Mission

DMES cultivates reflective scholars, bold innovators and passionate leaders equipped with the content knowledge, skillset, and ethics to make a positive contribution to society. The learning environment prepares students for lives of meaning and purpose emphasizing academic excellence, high expectations, and enthusiasm for life. Our school emphasizes the development of a character loyal to GOD and country identified by integrity through self-discipline and tolerance.

Through our authentic programs, conducive learning environment, and strong partnerships with families and the wider community, our learners experience rich language acquisition, appreciation for diversity, and become lifelong learners.

## Core Values

- ✚ Citizenship
- ✚ Respect
- ✚ Leadership
- ✚ Responsibility
- ✚ Tolerance
- ✚ Commitment
- ✚ Excellence
- ✚ High Expectation

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## Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) Policy

### 1.0 Primary Values

The primary values promoted in this policy are as follows:

- **Happiness** through the students' participation in activities of their choice and interests.
- **Equality and individual differences** through the inclusion and involvement of different groups of students in various activities.
- **Cooperation and teamwork** by engaging students in collaborative and interactive activities.
- **Leadership and responsibility** acquired through the activities provided in clubs, student council, and sports.
- **Care and respect** that students will manifest with their peers and teachers, including such values, learned from community service and charitable work.
- **Excellence** through a variety of hands-on and challenging activities that promote creativity, innovation, and critical thinking.

### 2.0 Rationale

Our school strives to achieve our ultimate goal of developing well-rounded and holistic students. Therefore, our school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities (ECA) that will target all aspects of students' personal development such as physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual development apart from the learning opportunities provided inside the classroom. In line with the DMES Vision, the school endeavors to provide a wide range of ECA opportunities for students that foster their sense of "internationalism" and "global citizenship".

### 3.0 Purpose

This policy is developed to ensure that the provision of a wide-range of ECA will empower students to broaden their experiences, promote lifelong learning, and provide opportunities for holistic, inclusive and sustainable education. It is also created in order to unify the approaches of the school staff on the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the rules and regulations of ECA in school.



## 4.0 Aims

Through the ECA Policy, DMES aims to:

- Ensure the consistency of the approaches and procedures with regards to the planning and implementation of the ECA.
- Instill understanding of the relevance of ECA to the students' overall development.
- Inspire parents to support the school in promoting the holistic development of their child through the ECA.
- Provide clear guidance for all staff members to effectively implement the objectives of each activity.

## 5.0 Principles

This policy is developed based on the following principles:

- Participating in ECA is a privilege of all students.
- Developing solidarity, sense of belongingness, and leadership among students are entailed with the engagement to various team-building activities.
- ECA are a vital part of the educational process which creates a balance between formal and non-formal learning experiences.
- ECA serve as complementary and supplementary learning activities to extend learning outside the classroom.
- ECA are students' channels to showcase their exceptional talents and skills which will create a positive impact on overall students' success.
- All rules and regulations of the school apply to ECA.
- Implementation of the ECA becomes more successful if its goals are implemented collaboratively by all stakeholders.
- All students especially SOD are welcomed to participate in ECA.



## 6.0 Definitions

**6.1 Extra-curricular Activities:** Any activities that are done beyond and outside the regular teaching classes that are used to support student learning.

**6.2 Holistic Education:** Is a philosophy that comprises all the aspects of education such as moral, intellectual, physical, and social aspects.

**6.3 Inclusion<sup>1</sup>:** Access, support for learning and equal opportunities for all students, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability or background.

## 7.0 ECA Guidelines and Procedures

### 7.1 KHDA Reopening Protocols<sup>2</sup>

In compliance to the health and safety protocols from KHDA, DMES implements the following rules with regard to extra-curricular activities and special events:

- Special events such as festivals, celebrations, and assemblies can take place within certain parameters. There must be enough space to accommodate all students while following physical distancing recommendations. Interactions between groups of students should be kept to a minimum; entry and exits to such events should be staggered, and event spaces must be cleaned before and after every event.
- Performances should be designed with an adaptive approach to reduce risk (physical distancing must be maintained).
- Both schools and external sports providers can offer extracurricular activities. Non-sport extra-curricular activities will follow the same protocols that are adopted during school hours. Sports-focused extra-curricular activities will follow the guidelines of the [Dubai Sports Council](#).

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<sup>1</sup>UAE Inspection Framework 2015-2016, page 124

<sup>2</sup>KHDA: Protocols for Face to Face Learning at Dubai Private Schools 2021-2022 Academic Year



- School trips are allowed as long as they follow all the basic precautionary measures, such as physical distancing, staggered entry and exit and minimizing interactions among groups of students. The venue's capacity must be able to accommodate the number of students with the recommended one metre of physical distance between each.
- Group activities such student camps and sports tournaments must adhere to the guidelines of the [Dubai Sports Council](#).
- For all events and group activities, proper contact tracing procedures must be followed for positive Covid-19 cases.

## 7.2 Eligibility and Inclusion

- All students, including students of determination (SOD), shall be privileged to participate in any ECA.
- Students shall maintain acceptable academic and behavior performance to become eligible to participate in any ECA.

## 7.3 Field Trips and Off-School Activities

- DMES ensures that the activities in the field trip are in accordance with the UAE culture and religious requirements, aligned with the curriculum and the school's guiding statements.
- Every Thursday, the Activities Coordinator shares the Weekly Activity Bulletin which outlines the schedule of activities and events for the coming week to all teachers and staff.
- Students and teachers answer and submit an "ECA Evaluation Questionnaire" after the virtual field trip. The questionnaires are collected and analyzed by the Activities Department to further enhance ECA provision in school.



#### 7.4 School-Based and Off-School Events

- The Activities Department coordinates with various departments across the school including external partners (e.g. local agencies, businesses, UAE authorities, associations, etc.) for internal and external ECAs.
- The activities and events are ensured to be sensitive to the UAE culture and Islamic values, aligned with the school curriculum, and DMES guiding statements. The conduct of school-based events observe health and safety protocols from KHDA, DHA, and relevant UAE authorities.
- The Activities Department shares the ECA Weekly Bulletin to all teachers and staff every Thursday outlining the schedule of school-based activities and events including international and local celebrations, virtual workshops, training, internal/external competitions, conferences, performances, department-based activities, etc.

#### 8.0 Related Policies

The ECA Policy is linked to the following school policies:

- Curriculum Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Child Protection Policy