



AL AIN
BRITISH ACADEMY

Parent Information Pack

2025-2026



ACE School of
CHARACTER



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Principal's Message



Mr Pugh has been working in education since 2004 with over 10 years' experience of school senior leadership in the UK and UAE. Mr Pugh holds a Bachelor's degree in education, is a Level 2 qualified school inspector and has completed his National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH). A passion for developing future leaders, Mr Pugh facilitates the NPQ programme to train the next generation of school leaders in the UAE. Through his 10 years in school management, he has strategically supported schools graded as outstanding, worked in leadership teams tasked with taking schools out of special measures, in addition to leading Al Ain British Academy to become Al Ain's first outstanding BSO (British schools Overseas) school.

Mr Pugh takes great pride in welcoming you to Al Ain British Academy as Principal of the school. He joined Al Ain British Academy on the school's Senior Leadership team in 2019, bringing proven educational and assessment strategies to the school and building a strategic team of middle leaders to ensure each individual child gets the very best education every day. His philosophy is that each member of the Al Ain British Academy community should feel safe and happy coming to school, while being exposed to challenge, inquiry and excitement. Thus, our pupils will make progress every day, enjoying the learning experiences they are immersed in.

In the last year, the school has had the highest GCSE results at grades 9-8 in Abu Dhabi, seen individual pupils achieve the highest A-level mark in the world, reach the World Scholar's Cup finals at Yale University, USA, but also break Guinness World Records, win sporting events, robotics, coding, Quran competitions, run charitable campaigns and so much more. In summer of 2025, Mr Pugh was delighted that Al Ain British Academy won the ADEK award for student progress in their standardized assessments, which came with a 125,000AED prize.

The UAE, Aldar and Al Ain British Academy has a wealth of opportunities available to children. Mr. Pugh believes this is a time to inspire children and allow them to investigate a wealth of learning beyond the classroom, developing their love for sports, arts, drama, as well as collaborating with those similar and different from ourselves as we look to develop tolerant, visionary leaders of the future for the U.A.E and globally.

Ian Pugh

Principal, Al Ain British Academy

Meet our Senior Leadership Team



Máiréad Ralph
Head of Secondary

Mrs Ralph qualified with a Joint Honours degree in English and Geography from the National University of Ireland, Galway in 2011. She went on to complete her Postgraduate Diploma in Education with Honours at Hibernia College, Dublin in 2013. After achieving her Qualified Teacher Status in Ireland, she was eager to broaden her horizons and build international experience, leading her to the UAE, where she has worked in education since 2014. In 2023, Mrs Ralph completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), further strengthening her leadership credentials.

A passionate and experienced teacher of Geography, Mrs Ralph has guided students to exceptional success, including achieving accolades such as Highest in the World and Highest in the UAE. Alongside her academic expertise, she brings over nine years of dedicated pastoral leadership experience and has played a pivotal role in supporting student wellbeing, personal development, and academic achievement. For the past five years, she has also led the school's university and careers guidance provision, supporting students in gaining places at top institutions around the world.

Mrs Ralph is deeply committed to ensuring that every student receives the individual support they need to flourish. She is proud to lead the Secondary School at Al Ain British Academy, where she aims to foster a nurturing and aspirational environment in which every student can thrive and fulfil their potential.



Jasmine Jones
Head of Primary

Mrs Jones has been working in education since 2013 where she graduated with a first-class degree in Primary and Secondary Education with Spanish. Throughout her teaching career, Mrs Jones has been very fortunate to be able to teach in various contexts (in both Primary and Secondary schools in the UK and in the UAE) and has recently completed her National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership.

Mrs Jones has worked at Al Ain British Academy for a number of years as a teacher, middle leader, and as a senior leader; however, she is thrilled to be working at Al Ain British Academy as the Head of Primary.

Mrs Jones is committed to ensuring that Al Ain British Academy continues to provide a supportive and caring environment where every student is recognised as an individual. At Al Ain British Academy, we aim to ensure that students flourish both academically and personally, working in partnership with parents to develop our students into well-rounded members of our community – providing the foundation of learning which will enable students to achieve anything and everything they set their minds to.



Kimberley Ellis
Primary Assistant Principal
of Teaching and Learning

Miss Ellis joined AABA Primary School in 2018, initially leading KS1 literacy as well as year groups in both Year 1 and Year 2. As a dedicated member of the Senior Leadership Team, she now plays a key role in leading teaching and learning across the school. With a strong focus on high-quality classroom practice, she works closely with staff to ensure every child is supported, challenged, and inspired.

Miss Ellis values strong partnerships with families and actively promotes parental engagement as a vital part of each child's educational journey. She is currently pursuing the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) to further strengthen her leadership and impact across the school community.

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Steven Drinkwater
Primary Assistant Principal
of Data Assessment

Mr Drinkwater graduated with a BA (Hons) degree in Primary Teaching in 2013 from the University of Wales. Before moving to the UAE, he taught for 3 years in South Wales and has currently been working at Al Ain British Academy for 10 years.

Mr Drinkwater has taught in various KS2 year groups, held multiple subject lead roles, including core and non-core, as well as being a Head of Year for the previous 6 years. In his time at AABA, he has completed the National professional Qualification for Middle and Senior Leadership, which he has been able to apply to his leadership roles.

Last academic year, Mr Drinkwater took on the role of Assistant Principal for Data and Assessment and is now thrilled to be taking this role, along with Pastoral Lead in his new position as Deputy Head of Primary. Mr Drinkwater believes that all children should be given a chance to thrive and succeed in every lesson they undertake. He understands the value in treating all children equally, with fairness and respect and has the desire to ensure that children leave AABA with values, morals and the characteristics to ensure they are well-rounded, esteemed members of the community.



**Mohammed
Usman Nasir**

Deputy Headteacher
of Secondary
Teaching and Learning

Mr Nasir joined Al Ain British Academy as Head of Mathematics, bringing with him a strong track record of leadership and impact. Prior to his move to the UAE, he worked in a number of schools across Oxford, where he rapidly progressed into leadership roles. His previous positions include Deputy Head of Maths and Lead Practitioner, alongside his work as a facilitator for the National Professional Qualifications in Leading Teaching (NPQLT) and Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD).

A passionate advocate for high-quality teaching, Mr Nasir is an accredited Secondary Mastery Specialist and an NCETM Professional Development Lead. He has supported over ten schools in strengthening their teaching practice and curriculum design, contributing to improved outcomes for both students and staff. Since joining Al Ain British Academy, he has led the Mathematics department with energy and purpose, fostering a culture of high expectations, collaboration and continuous improvement.

Mr Nasir's educational philosophy centres on the belief that outstanding teaching and learning are the foundation of school success. He understands the transformative impact of effective classroom practice and is particularly enthusiastic about leading the continued development of teaching and learning across the secondary school. Mr Nasir will be completing his NPQH in the coming academic year and remains deeply committed to ensuring that every student is supported, challenged and inspired to achieve their full potential.



Welcome from the Parents Committee

Parent Testimonials

“ We’ve been with Al Ain British Academy since FS1, and it’s been an amazing journey. Our children (now in Year 6 and Year 4) have grown into confident, happy learners thanks to the dedicated teachers, supportive counselors, and strong curriculum. As expats, the school truly became a second home for us—a warm, welcoming community that always made us feel like family.

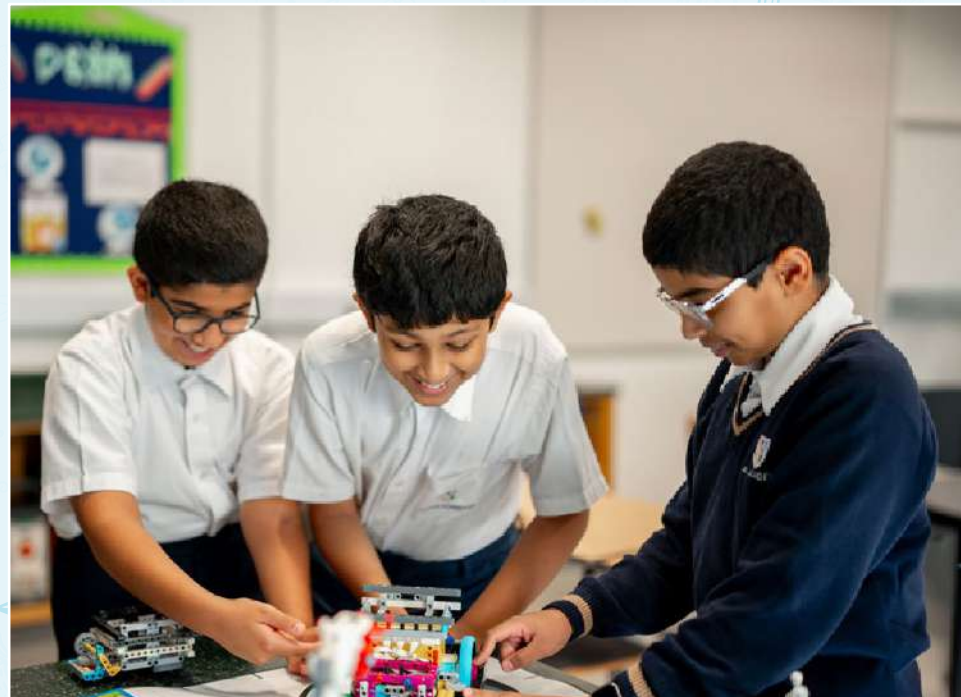
Special thanks to Mr. Pugh for his consistent support and guidance over the years, and to Ram, the always-smiling security guard who brightens our mornings and reminds us of the kindness at the heart of this school.

So grateful to be part of the Al Ain British Academy family! ”

Mrs Akkari, Mother of Amir and Jad Yazid

“ Dear All, my appreciation and gratitude to the educational and administrative staff in Al Ain British Academy. My child is happy in school and in constant development. ”

Mrs. Al Kuwaiti, Mother of Salem





Student Leadership

Within the school we have a student Junior Leadership Team (JLT), School Council, Eco Council, Al Ain News Team, Academy of Excellence, Playground Leaders, House Captains, Sports Captains and many other student leadership responsibilities.



Curriculum Information

The English National Curriculum is among the most in-demand study options the world, respected for its high academic standards and focus on developing confidence and individual thinking. The learning pathway is delivered through enquiry or project-based learning, a method of teaching which inspires a love of learning and deepens a student's knowledge by challenging them to complete real-world tasks. As a result, the English National Curriculum is one of the most engaging of all.

In Primary, the National Curriculum for England defines two 'Key Stages'; Key Stage 1 [Years 1 and 2] and Key Stage 2 [Years 3 to 6]. The curriculum builds on the fundamental skills developed through the Early Years curriculum in Foundation Stage 1 and 2 [3 to 5 years old]. The National Curriculum Core subjects are English, Mathematics and Science. With additional subjects offered, including Information and Communication Technology; History; Geography; Modern Foreign Languages [Year 5 upwards]; Music; Art and Design; Drama; Physical Education and Personal, Health and Social Development. As per the Ministry of Education regulations, Arabic, Islamic Studies and Social Studies are taught throughout the school. The curriculum gives a complete learning experience to all children. Children do not only learn in formal lessons or in the activities prepared by the teachers. At AABA, significant emphasis is also given to "the hidden curriculum". School life and education for all children is not wholly based on academics. The development of our students in a holistic manner, focusing on their personal, social and emotional health, leadership, moral

education and conduct to support their wider development is key.

Our school values- Respect, Responsibility and Resilience are truly embed this throughout the school. A curriculum not seen only in terms of experiences, but also the acquisition of knowledge and skills we believe students should acquire to prepare them for life beyond school. In planning the curriculum and putting it into practice, we ensure that excellence is pursued and valued, that lessons are challenging and have appropriate pace and direction. Whether the children are taught individually, in smaller groups or as part of a whole class, the teaching should meet the children's individual needs.

Throughout the year, on-going assessments take place in each year group.

Additionally, at certain times of the year there will be more formal assessments, including GL Progress tests and benchmark/external tests in reading, mathematics and Arabic.

In Secondary, the National Curriculum for England defines three 'Key Stages', Key Stage 3 [Years 7-9], Key Stage 4 [Years 10 & 11] and Key Stage 5 [Years 12 & 13]. In Key Stage 3, students are provided with a broad and balanced curriculum, encompassing the key subject faculties including English, Maths, Science, Creative Arts, Humanities, Languages, Physical Education and Computing.

At Key Stages 4 students work towards the GCSE qualifications, one of the most rigorous and highly regarded programmes of study in the world. Students must take English, Maths, and one Science, with the remaining subjects chosen through our guided options process. They will then complete their secondary education at Key Stage 5 by undertaking A-levels (Advanced Levels), one of the most rigorous and rewarding courses in the world.

For More information please visit our school website: www.alainbritishacademy.ae



Backpack Policy

As custodians of children's wellbeing, we at Al Ain British Academy would like to address the potential long-term effects of students carrying heavy school bags. It is recommended that a child's school bag does not exceed 5-10% of their body weight to avoid adverse effects on their spine and body. To ensure the wellbeing of students it is important to implement a policy on limiting school bag weight.

Implementation:

Introduced weighing scale in classrooms which allow children to check their bag weight and help them to determine whether their bag weight is exceeding the limit. School Wellness teacher and Physical education in charge will be responsible for the effective implementation of the policy under the supervision of the Principal.

- Awareness to the parent regarding the policy and their responsibility to ensure the bag weight before they are sending their child to the school

Monitoring, Evaluation And Review:

The school will have a daily basis checking of bag weights of the students to ensure their wellbeing. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will be done under the supervision of Principal and review this policy in accordance with ADEK guidelines.

Year	Max Weight (KG)
FS2	2.2
Year 1	2.4
Year 2	2.6
Year 3	3.0
Year 4	3.4
Year 5	3.8
Year 6	4.1
Year 7	4.5
Year 8	5.0
Year 9	5.8
Year 10	6.5
Year 11	7.3
Year 12	
Year 13	

*Source: Maximum school bags weight was calculated based on WHO Child Growth Chart

Registration Forms/ Documents Checklist

To ensure the school has accurate and up-to-date records, and to meet the registration requirements set by the Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), it is essential that all necessary documents are uploaded via the Parent Portal.

Steps to Upload Documents:

If you have not done so already, please log in to the **Parent Portal** using the following link: <https://www.aldar.com/education/parent/login>

1. Navigate to: My Application > View > Submit Documents
2. Upload any pending documents

Required Documents:

Please make sure to upload the following documents:

- ▶ Student Passport
- ▶ Student Emirates ID
- ▶ Student Visa
- ▶ Student Photo
- ▶ Student Birth Certificate
- ▶ Most recent school report (if applicable)
- ▶ Mother's Passport
- ▶ Mother's Emirates ID
- ▶ Father's Passport
- ▶ Father's Emirates ID
- ▶ Proof of Address

DocuSign forms:

You will also have received a separate email from **DocuSign**. Please follow the instructions in that email to complete and submit the electronic forms through the DocuSign platform. For more information, please contact the Admissions Department at admissions@alainbritishacademy.ae

Parents/Guardian ID

Parents Security Pass

Please note a maximum of 3 security passes can be issued per child. Additional and replacement for lost cards will be subjected to 50 dhs fees. Please collect your Parents Security Pass from the school receptionist.

STUDENT NAME	YEAR GROUP	FORM

Guardian 1		Insert Photograph
Relationship to Child		
Mobile Number		
Guardian 2		Insert Photograph
Relationship to Child		
Mobile Number		
Guardian 3		Insert Photograph
Relationship to Child		
Mobile Number		



School Uniform



SCHOOL UNIFORMS



You can purchase items online at www.magrudy.com/uniformlist?category1=School+Uniforms&category2=ALDAR+Al+Ain+British+Academy
Alternatively, you can visit Magrudy's store in Bawadi Mall branch.



Bus Information

Emirates Transport

Aldar Academies Emirates Transport provide high quality buses with enhanced student safety features. Emirates Transport is the largest school transport provider within the UAE. They regulate, manage, and supervise the operations of student transport in line with Department of Transport at the highest international safety standards. They deliver excellent customer service to ensure every passenger is happy and safe.



Contact Information:

8006006 / 03-7088907 / 0507921871



School Supplies

We provide textbooks and online resources where required, and exercise books for all students. From Year 7 onwards, students are expected to bring in their own stationery and a list of required equipment and stationery is provided to students at the start of the year.



Darna Rewards

Rewards by Aldar is a free application available to Aldar Academies' parents and enables our families to earn points upon payment of their tuition fees that can be redeemed against future payment of tuition or for experiences and purchases across Aldar and participating brands.





Bring Your Own Device

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing innovation and 21st-century skills, Al Ain British Academy (AABA) operates a compulsory Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative for students in Year 4 and above, and it's optional for students in Years 3. Our BYOD strategy is entirely aligned with Apple products — chosen to provide a leading-edge technology platform that supports creativity, collaboration, and digital safety in the classroom.

Teachers and students alike use Apple devices to seamlessly transition between tasks, screens, and subjects, allowing for a rich and interactive learning experience.

Aldar has teamed up with technology partner JTRS — an Apple Authorized Education Specialist — to establish the Aldar Education eStore. Through this platform, families can purchase recommended Apple products at competitive prices.

All pupils who bring their own devices will be enrolled in our Jamf School MDM platform. Jamf lets the school maintain high standards of online safety by managing and securing devices during school hours — blocking games, social media, and other distractions — while allowing full internet and app access once the school day is over.



Online Education Platforms

All children have access to a Microsoft 365 account, where they can use all Microsoft programmes. One login is used for all educational apps, including Education City, Minecraft, MS Teams, Class Dojo, and Purple Mash.



Nutrition/Catering

Discover Spare, Food Nation online canteen app, a first of its kind. Available in English and Arabic, it lets you pre-book food, manage payments, view transactions, and cut queues with a special collection counter.

Download today to make school catering faster, smarter, and more convenient for you and your child!



**DOWNLOAD
THE APP TODAY!**



ADEK Rating

Definition of report results: Teaching and Assessment exceeds expectation, in addition to safety & care of students and leadership of the school substantially exceeding expectations.

Quotes from the report:

“The strong relationships between staff and students, which permeate all aspects of the school’s life, promote high academic and personal development in all the phases.”

“School leaders have successfully raised standards of achievement in Arabic.”

“School leaders demonstrate an outstanding capacity for improving the school further because they have improved students’ achievement in the large majority of subjects and phases, and maintained previously noted very high standards in others.”



ADEK Rating:
Very Good



BSO Rating:
Outstanding

Quotes from the report:

“Al Ain British Academy is providing high quality education and care for its students. As a result, students achieve well in their education and development. Students and their teachers enjoy school. Leadership and management lead a strong sense of community. Parents recognise and value the strategic role of the school in their sons’ and daughters’ lives.”



Key Contacts

- **reception@alainbritishacademy.ae**
- **Administration related inquiry please send email to:**
admissions@alainbritishacademy.ae
- **Finance Inquiries please send email to:**
finance@alainacademy.sch.ae
- **Parent Relations, concerns, communications please contact:**
pre@alainbritishacademy.ae
- **School Counsellor: Disha Pasanna**
dpasanna@alainacademy.sch.ae



School Day Timings

MONDAY - THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
FS1	7:30 AM - 12:30 PM or 2:30 PM	FS1	7:30 AM -11:10 AM
FS2	7:30 AM - 2:30 PM	FS2	7:30 AM -11:15 AM
YEAR 1	7:30 AM - 2:40 PM	YEAR 1	7:30 AM -11:20 AM
YEAR 2	7:30 AM - 2:40 PM	YEAR 2	7:30 AM -11:10 AM
YEAR 3	7:30 AM - 2:45 PM	YEAR 3	7:30 AM - 11:15 AM
YEAR 4	7:30 AM - 2:50 PM	YEAR 4	7:30 AM - 11:20 AM
YEAR 5	7:30 AM -2:55 PM	YEAR 5	7:30 AM - 11:25 AM
YEAR 6	7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	YEAR 6	7:30 AM – 11:30 AM
YEAR 7-YEAR 13	7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	YEAR 7-YEAR 13	7:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Live Aldar Application Information

A key channel of communication at Al Ain British Academy is the Aldar Education App. We kindly ask all parents to download the live Aldar Application from your device's app store/ Google play to stay connected and informed.

Through the app, you can:

- Stay up to date with school announcements and updates
- View your child's timetable, attendance, subjects, and academic reports
- Submit requests directly to the administrative team
- Manage school-related payments easily and securely



Payment Information

To pay tuition fees, you can either pay via a bank transfer or cheque. Please note that when you make a direct deposit to our bank account, we do not necessarily recognise your payment unless you provide us the bank deposit slip. Kindly send a copy of the bank deposit receipt to the following email finance@alainacademy.sch.ae immediately, so we can allocate funds accordingly and send you a confirmation receipt.

For online transfer, please see the below bank details.

Bank Name: Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank
Bank Branch: Abu Dhabi Main Branch, P.O Box 2934 Abu Dhabi
Account Name: Aldar Academies-Alain INT.S.LLC-BR3
Account Number: 10482902020004
IBAN: AE020030010482902020004
Swift Code: ADCBAEAA

NOW YOU CAN PAY YOUR TUITION FEES ON LINE VIA CREDIT & DEBIT CARD

At Al Ain British Academy, we are always looking for ways to improve the services we provide to our students and their families. To enhance the convenience of managing school fee payments, we are pleased to introduce a new payment option through credit and debit card via payment link which have been included in the invoices for the up-coming Term 1 Academic Year 2024-2025.



CONVENIENCE

Enjoy the flexibility of making payments from anywhere whether you are at home, at work, or on the go. With a payment link, you can choose to pay using Google Pay, Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, or by entering your card details directly, and receive an instant payment receipt for your peace of mind.



SECURITY

Debit or credit card details will be securely handled, ensuring your financial information is protected.



COST

There will be no cost to parents who choose to pay via credit and debit cards from Aldar Education.



FLEXIBILITY

We encourage the use of credit and debit card payments, but we do understand that some parents may prefer alternative payment methods. Therefore, payment options such as online bank transfer and cheque will remain available.



REWARDS

Darna Rewards by Aldar is a first of its kind loyalty programme brought to you by Aldar Properties that gives you more rewards, more discounts, and more deals across all Aldar affiliated partners. When you pay your tuition fees you can receive Darna Rewards to spend on leisure, hospitality and retail. In addition, many banks offer rewards and payment plans to assist in the payment of tuitions fees. Please contact your bank for more details.



SECURITY MEASURES:

To ensure the safety of your financial information and avoid any potential fraud, please follow these guidelines:



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Only trust emails and messages from the official Al Ain British Academy email address (ending in @alainbritishacademy.ae).



PAYMENT LINKS

Use only the payment links provided directly by Al Ain British Academy. Do not click on links from unknown sources.



VERIFICATION

If you receive any suspicious emails or messages requesting payment, contact the school finance team immediately to verify its authenticity.



SECURE WEBSITE

Ensure that the payment page URL starts with 'https://' indicating a secure connection.



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Never share your payment details or personal information with anyone outside the official school channels.



INTRODUCING THE LIVE ALDAR MOBILE APPLICATION

Manage Everything School-Related,
Anytime, Anywhere.

DOWNLOAD
THE APP TODAY!



Dear Parent,

We are delighted to announce our *Live ALDAR* app, designed to make your experience with our school even more seamless and connected.

With *Live ALDAR*,
you'll have everything
you need at your
fingertips:



STORE ACCESS

Navigate easily to partner stores like Food Nation and Magrudy from the dashboard.



TIMETABLE VIEW

Check your child's daily and weekly schedule via the calendar section.



TERM TIME MANAGEMENT

View term reports and attendance records to keep track of your child's academic progress.



NOTIFICATIONS

Get real-time updates on activities such as announcements, pending payments, completed transactions, and new request submissions etc.



FEEDBACK SUBMISSION

Provide feedback under various categories to help improve services.



SEAMLESS PAYMENTS

Pay school fees securely and track your transaction history through the integrated wallet.



PARENT & CHILD PROFILES

Easily access your profile and view detailed information about your child.



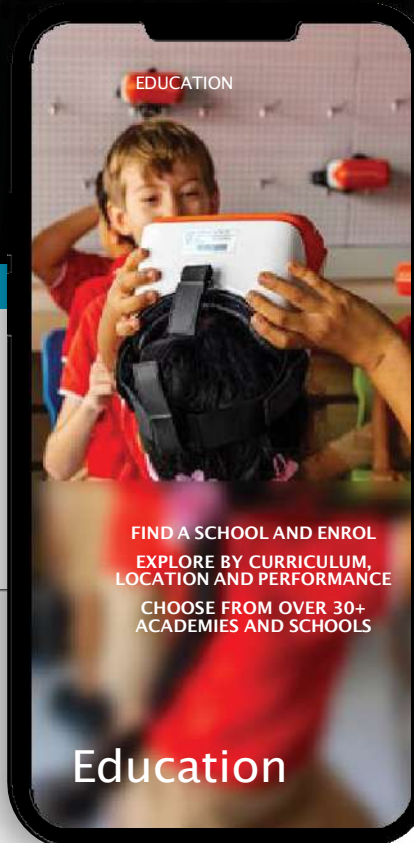
SINGLE AND MULTIPLE CHILD VIEW

Get an overview of more than one child in a single view; individual child dashboards are also available.



DASHBOARD QUICK CALENDAR

Stay updated with current week's attendance of your child.





AL AIN
BRITISH ACADEMY