Inspection Reports

Questions and Answers for Parents
Why are schools inspected?

The reasons for inspecting schools are simple. Firstly, it is important for our government to know the quality of the schools in The Emirate of Abu Dhabi. It needs to know strengths and weaknesses. It can then work with schools to maintain the strengths and tackle the weaknesses. The aim is to ensure that all private schools offer students a first-class education so that they can play a full part in making education ‘a pillar that will enable Abu Dhabi to meet standards of excellence achieved in the most highly educated countries of the world.’ Individual characteristics, cultures and teaching methods in private schools will be respected, as will the different examination systems which they use, but all schools are expected to provide an education which at least meets the high standards outlined in the UAE School Inspection Framework.

Secondly, inspection is important for schools. It provides proprietors, Board members, Principals and managers with an external evaluation which they can then use to improve their school.

Thirdly, it is important for parents to have information about individual schools and the school system as a whole in order to know what the quality of education is that their child receives.

When did the inspection of private schools start?

The inspection of the private schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi started in 2008 as a pilot phase. Then between the Academic year 2009 and 2011 all private schools were inspected. That was the first full cycle of schools inspection.

During the Academic year 2011/2012 and 2012/2013, all the private schools were inspected for the second time and during 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 all private schools were inspected for the third round.

Who inspects schools and for how long?

Schools are inspected by teams of professional, qualified and experienced inspectors, who typically spend three to five days in a school. They are led by a Lead Inspector. Other inspectors are known as Team Inspectors.

All inspection teams include a Lead Inspector for Arabic, Islamic education and social studies and other Arabic speaking inspectors as necessary. Inspection teams for schools offering curricula in languages other than English and Arabic include speakers of those languages. All inspection teams include specialists with curriculum expertise in the school’s given curriculum or curricula.
The number of inspectors involved in an inspection and the duration of the inspection visit depends on the size of a school and number of students. For example, a school that has less than 250 students will be visited by 3 inspectors for 3 days while a school that has a 1000 student will be visited by 4 inspectors for 4 days.

**How schools are judged?**

Inspectors make judgments on a school’s performance in six performance standards:

- **Performance Standard 1:** Students’ achievement
- **Performance Standard 2:** Students’ personal and social development and their innovation skills
- **Performance Standard 3:** Teaching and Assessment
- **Performance Standard 4:** Curriculum
- **Performance Standard 5:** The protection, care, guidance and support of students
- **Performance Standard 6:** Leadership and Management

Inspectors use a six-point scale when judging the level of quality in each of the Performance Standards.

The following table shows what the six points mean:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Quality of performance substantially exceeds the expectation of the UAE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Quality of performance exceeds the expectation of the UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Quality of performance meets the expectation of the UAE (This is the desired level for every school in the UAE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>Quality of performance meets the minimum expectation of the UAE. (This is the minimum level for every school in the UAE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Quality of performance is below the expectation of the UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Weak</td>
<td>Quality of performance is significantly below the expectation of the UAE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the inspection Summary Report that goes to schools, the judgements are banded together in six levels of quality and defined as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band A</th>
<th>Band B</th>
<th>Band C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Performing</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>In need of significant improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Very Weak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parents Views**

Parents’ views are very important to ADEC. Therefore, ADEC’s research office conducts an annual Parent Satisfaction Survey that are analysed by the inspection team, and if there is any concern, it is then discussed with the school leadership. The inspection team will also meet some parents during the inspection visit to ask about their views of the school.

**What Happens After the Inspection?**

Following the inspection visit, the schools are provided by a written report that describes the school’s most significant strengths and areas for improvement across the standards and identifies what the school needs to do to improve further. Following this report, schools are asked to develop their School Development Plan in coordination and support from the School Development Division within ADEC’s Private Schools and Quality Assurance Sector.

We invite you to browse your child’s school inspection report in this website. For more information or inquires please contact us at: irtiqaa@adec.ac.ae.