



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Foundation Stage

How long has Jebel Ali School been in operation?

Jebel Ali has been an integral part of the Dubai school landscape for over 44 years and as such is one of the oldest schools in Dubai.

What curriculum does Jebel Ali School follow?

We are a British Curriculum school. See [‘Our Curriculum’](#) for further explanation.

Is Jebel Ali School a not-for-profit school and what does that mean?

Jebel Ali is a not for profit school and a Royal Decree school, one of only a handful in Dubai. This means that we have no shareholders or investors therefore Jebel Ali School is funded entirely by our parent body. For more information on what a not for profit school offers your child, please watch [this information video](#) from our Principal, Mrs Robinson.

Jebel Ali school along with the other not-for-profit schools are considered Dubai's "Ivy League" schools as stated below by the independent review team at Schools Compared.com.

“Jebel Ali School sits within an elite group of Dubai’s “Ivy League” not-for-profit schools that have, collectively historically leveraged that status to provide an overall outstanding level of education for their children, despite operating with a lower level of fees than their Tier 1 competitors”. Schools Compared Review - November 2019.

What are the annual fees for Jebel Ali School?

Current fees are AED 45,891, paid termly in 3 installments. See [‘Our Fees’](#) for further information.

Does my child need a debenture to join Jebel Ali School and what is a debenture?

As a not-for-profit school with no shareholders or investors we fund the school entirely through our parent body. To ensure that we are fully resourced and providing your child with the best teachers and facilities we ask that every child entering the school pays an AED 25,000 debenture. A debenture is like an interest free loan to the school and is returned to you when your child leaves Jebel Ali School. Further detail can be found at [‘Debentures Explained’](#).



What is the KHDA rating for the school?

Our KHDA rating is very good with outstanding in English, Maths and Science. Visit the [KHDA website](#) to see more.

What is the staff retention rate at Jebel Ali School?

We have one of the highest staff retention rates in Dubai at 94%.

What is the parental satisfaction rating?

According to WhichSchoolAdvisor.com “Jebel Ali School is one that is almost uniformly recommended by parents” and one which “records the highest satisfaction levels of its peers for academic attainment, feedback and school discipline”. View the [WhichSchoolAdvisor survey](#) for more results.

Where is Jebel Ali School located?

We are located in Damac Hills, just off Hessa Street in a state of the art building which opened in 2016 - view the [Jebel Ali School Location](#). Prior to this Jebel Ali School was located in Jebel Ali village.

How many students are in Jebel Ali School?

Jebel Ali has 1250 pupils from FS1 through to Year 11.

How many forms/classes are in each year group?

In our Foundation stage, each Year Group has 5 forms/classes.



How many students per form/class?

In our Primary school, each form/class has 25 students.

Are Jebel Ali teachers fully qualified?

Every teacher at Jebel Ali School, including the specialist teachers in departments such as Music, Computing and PE, are fully PGCE qualified and have a minimum of 6 years of teaching experience. The average number of years experience amongst our current staff is 12 years. Jebel Ali School does not hire newly qualified graduates.

What is the staff to student ratio in each form/class?

Each Foundation class and Year 1 and 2 class has a full time qualified teacher and a learning assistant. Years 3 and 4 classes each have a full time qualified teacher and share 6 learning assistants between them. Years 5 and 6 classes each have a full time qualified teacher and share 5 learning assistants between them.

All our learning assistants speak English as their first language and a number are doing their PGCE teaching qualification. Each FS1 class also has a hygiene assistant.

What are the facilities for early years education in FS1 and FS2?

Jebel Ali School has a purpose built standalone Foundation building. This building houses only FS1 and FS2 children and is fully secure.

Every FS classroom has:

- Their own outdoor learning space
- Their own bathroom facilities
- A mix of indoor and outdoor play-based equipment

In addition, FS classes have access to indoor and outdoor central learning hubs. These hubs are used to facilitate the development of each child across all areas of learning.



What does the early years FS1 and FS2 curriculum cover?

Learning fully covers the 7 areas of learning detailed in the [‘Development Matters Document’](#). This includes:

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Knowledge and Understanding
- Expressive Arts and Design

Children also have 2 hours of immersive Arabic a week, this is where the Arabic teacher comes into the classroom and replicates whatever the class teacher is doing. In addition, the children have the following activities:

- PE
- Swimming
- Music
- Library time

Technology is embedded into the learning in the FS classrooms. FS2 also have a computing lesson once a week in the Computing Suite.

How will I know how my child is progressing during FS1?

The teachers assess the FS1 children constantly throughout the year; this is then used to plan for learning opportunities to take each child to the next stage of development. Assessment is informal and often involves the teacher or learning assistant observing the child in a variety of situations. The child is usually not aware they are being assessed. During the year you will receive regular updates about your child's progress.



Does Jebel Ali School offer flexible hours FS1?

FS1 at Jebel Ali School is a full 5 day EYFS curriculum. As a not-for-profit school we are not in a position to offer flexible hours learning.

What are the school timings in early years?

FS1 - 7.50am until 12.30pm

FS2 - 7.40am until 2.05pm

**Subject to change due to covid restrictions.

We provide a (paid) wrap-around care service. This enables FS children to remain in the FS unit looked after by a specialist vetted company until 2.30pm

All our school timings can be found [here](#).

Do children get lunch breaks in FS1?

Evidence has shown that at this early age children are hungry at different times during the day. In FS1 to ensure that children are getting the right amount of nutrition there is a 2 hour window that they may eat their snacks during the school day. In FS2 children move to traditional timetabled snack breaks.

Do FS children have access to hot meals at Jebel Ali School?

No, students in FS1 do not have access to our cafeteria menu. All FS children bring their own healthy snack boxes and water bottles into school.

Do children learn another language in early years?

Our core focus in EYFS is on English and Arabic. Children start French in Year 3 and Spanish in Year 6.

Is Jebel Ali School a bring your own device school?

We have a blended learning environment where we use the latest technologies to facilitate learning and all devices used in FS are owned and stored by the school.



What is the nationality breakdown of students in Jebel Ali School?

45% of our student population is British or Irish. The other 55% is made up of 53 different nationalities.

Does Jebel Ali School have strong Creative Arts and Music provision?

Yes, we are known for our excellence in Music. From our award winning choirs to our orchestras and our musical productions, Jebel Ali School has a long established record in providing engaging and high quality Music and drama options for all of our students.

What sporting facilities are available at Jebel Ali School?

Jebel Ali has excellent sporting facilities. From our outdoor full size playing pitches to our indoor facilities, Jebel Ali children have access to some of the best facilities in Dubai. Indeed, Jebel Ali School has the largest indoor sports building in the Emirate. The building is over 3 floors and consists of 2 very large sports halls, an outdoor 25M pool along with a learning pool for FS students. The building also houses a fitness suite for our senior students.

Is Jebel Ali School known as a sporting School?

Absolutely, for over 40 years Jebel Ali School has been providing top notch sporting options for children. From Swimming to Rugby, Cricket to Athletics, from Basketball to Ultimate Frisbee we offer children in Primary and Secondary school the opportunity to join in every sport, no matter their ability. Sport at Jebel Ali is not just about winning (which we do a lot) it's about everyone being on a team. The importance of this cannot be overstated as we believe that sport teaches children how to win and more importantly how to come back if you don't win.

Does Jebel Ali have a learning support team?

We have a very experienced SEND team who offer support programs for children who may require some learning support or who present as Exceptionally More Able programme (EMA), previously Gifted and Talented.



What Extra-Curricular Activities are available for FS students?

During Covid times, we unfortunately do not have any after school activities. Our normal process would offer wraparound care provider, Galaxy kids, they offer a number of activities as part of their after school care program. In addition, students from FS2 onwards can join specialist **paid** ECAs such as Karate, Ballet and Art provided by Gulf Star, our after school club partner. Full details for both are provided to parents at the start of each term. We will update you regarding this arrangement closer to the start of the academic year.

Can we tour Jebel Ali School?

In “normal” times absolutely, we run special FS tours every Monday morning at 08:30 which are led by our Primary Headteacher Mr Lyon. Unfortunately, this is not possible at the moment. We are currently in the process of creating virtual tours to showcase everyday life for our foundation children. Once this is available you can view this for or website and all children on our waitlist will be sent the link to watch it.

Are there school buses?

As a not for profit school, we run buses when we have a minimum of 15 students per bus. Currently we run two bus routes, the first route goes to Jebel Ali Village and Discovery Gardens taking in Green Community DIP. The second route goes to the Springs Lakes and Meadows areas. The current cost of our bus service (for the 2020/21 academic year) is AED8,500. Our school buses are accessible by students from FS2 upwards.

Who do I contact if I need any further information?

Please contact our admissions team on +971 4 884 6485 or email admissions@jebelalischool.org and one of our team will get back to you.





Jebel Ali School

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Tel: 0097148846485

Fax: 0097148845373

Email: jaschool@jebelalishool.org

Website: www.jebelalishool.org