



# **The Policy of Academic Monitoring of Private Schools**

## **September 2016**



## **Introduction**

According to the Ministerial decision no. (8) for the year 2009, which stipulates that All private schools must commit to teaching Arabic, Islamic studies for Qatari students and Qatari history for all students in private schools, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education is keen to provide private schools students with knowledge and information required for guiding their behavior, developing their personality as good Qatari citizens and promote Islamic and Arab values and culture.

The State of Qatar in its National Vision 2030 aims at building a world-class education system aligned with best international standards in which it allows citizens to develop their skills and potentials through providing professional development opportunities that prepares them for success. The system will also encourage analytical and critical thinking, as well as creativity and innovation. It will promote social cohesion and respect for Qatari society's values and heritage, and will advocate for constructive interaction with other nations. For this purpose, the curriculum standards have been designed to include those three subjects , which constitute an important element of the education reform of the state of Qatar which identifies learning objectives , knowledge that need to be acquired by students at each grade level. In addition, these standards ensure that students are provided with a first-rate education comparable to that offered in the world to prepare learners to complete their higher education in leading institutions and compete in local and global labor market.



## **The Policy of Academic Monitoring of Private Schools**

### **First: Main Principles of the Academic Policy:**

Within the context of the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to ensure high quality teaching and learning within private schools and upon the agreements and licensing procedures of educational establishments, all private schools shall be committed to the following:

- Implement accredited international or national standard in the school's educational plan with the commitment to submit an official letter from the school in this regard.
- Appropriate selection of primary learning resources issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education as well as the secondary resources to ensure the effective delivery of the approved (national / international) standards.
- Commitment to the principles of the religion and the basics of the Qatari social and cultural heritage in the learning resources. No contradictory with the Islamic teachings and community values shall be allowed in the selected or school developed resources. In addition, content, drawings and figures shall be appropriate to the Islamic values and Qatari culture and traditions.
- Carry out revisions to ensure no violations – implicit or explicit - are in the content of the learning resources. In case violations are discovered, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education shall take legal actions against the violating school(s), in accordance with the Ministerial Decision number 8 for the year 2009 regarding the criteria and conditions for private schools.
- Private schools shall inform the Private Schools Affaires Department officially in writing about any changes to the approved standards to another education system in order to obtain the official approval.



- Integrate the education stages clearly within the school annual education plan.
- Commitment to teach and deliver the three subjects (namely Islamic Education, Arabic and Qatari history) and provide each student with the basic resources in all subjects as provided by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in original copy (not xeroxed).
- To adopt the annual educational plan for the three subjects in the school by the Educational Supervision Department of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- Introducing non-Muslim students to Islam through the provision of other sources of the subject areas such as Qatari history and the Arabic language.
- Private schools should provide qualified personnel and expertise in the field of teaching the three subjects.

### **Second: Monitoring the implementation of delivering the three subjects in private schools.**

#### **(Islamic Education, Arabic language and Qatari History)**

The ministerial decision no. (8) for the year 2009 included that studying of Islamic education, Arabic language and Qatari History is compulsory for all students in private schools in accordance with item (forth) below. This aims at enhancing national identity and values for students in private schools according to the aspirations of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to instill citizenship values and principles.



Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education shall provide the needed support to private schools that teach these three subjects to assist them to improve school environment that would enhance their capacity for the optimal implementation for these subjects.

This policy explains the mechanism of supporting private schools by the Educational Supervision Department and the Private Schools Affairs Department, in terms of the provision of available resources and addresses all challenges that schools might face when implementing these subjects.

It is worth mentioning that support will be direct and specific i.e. targeting these three subject (Arabic language- Islamic Education – Qatari history). The design and implementation of support process aim at improving school's performance in teaching these three subjects based on the students' grade level.

**Third: Private schools that implement the National Curriculum Standards:**

The private school	The implementation mechanism
Private schools that implement Qatar National Curriculum Standards in all subject areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment to teach the Qatari Curriculum Standards by 100% in all subject areas.</li><li>• Commitment to teach key learning sources issued by the Ministry of Higher Education in their original copies (not illustrated) for all subjects.</li><li>• Commitment to the number of teaching hours approved by the MOEHE for each subject area.</li><li>• Selection of supportive learning resources</li></ul>



	<p>according to the conditions mentioned in this policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to apply all the policies used in the Independent schools related to Qatar curriculum standards for all subject areas.</li> </ul>
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**Fourth: Teaching the three subject areas (Arabic language, Islamic Education, Qatari History) in the private schools:**

The implementation mechanism	The private school
<p><b><u>Islamic Education:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools affiliated to the embassies are allowed to teach Islamic education according to their respective national curriculum, provided that the curriculum fits with the general principles of the subject standards issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and according to the criteria that will be subsequently detailed.</li> <li>• Islamic Education-related learning resources for non-Arabic speaking Muslim students shall be approved by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The resources should be compatible with the subject standards, otherwise the school shall be held responsible for any violation contained in the resource. The MOEHE may in this case request a copy of the curriculum and the quarterly plans for review and instruction.</li> <li>• Teaching of Islamic Education is compulsory for Qatari and Muslim Arabic-speaking students. The study must be based on learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and</li> </ul>	<p>Community Schools affiliated to the embassies</p>



Higher Education.

- It is prohibited to integrate Islamic Education with any other subject.

**Arabic Language:**

- Schools affiliated to the embassies are allowed to teach according to their respective national curricula.
- The teaching of Arabic language subject is mandatory for Qatari and Arab students based on the learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and shall NOT be taught as an elective subject. Any special case shall be individually brought to the attention of the Educational Supervision Department with the related evidence for consideration.
- Schools shall be committed to the schooling hours approved by the MOEHE (four hours per week for Grades 1 to 10) (as for the secondary stage, schools implement their international standards as they are aligned with the national standards).
- Schools shall be committed to review the selected supporting resources in terms of content, language and style prior to delivery, and ensure the resource is free of any material breach or violation to religion, customs and traditions.

**Qatari History:**

- The Schools shall teach the full standards of the Qatari History for all students in the school. It shall be taught in Arabic for students whose Arabic is their native language or in English for non-Arabic speaking students whose first language is not Arabic.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The teaching of Qatari History in another language (other than English and Arabic) is allowed as exceptional case and subject to the approval of the MOEHE.</li> <li>• The teaching of Qatari History for all Qatari and non-Qatari students from Grade 1 to 9 is compulsory in one of the two languages: Arabic or English as per the choice of the parent and the school.</li> <li>• Schools shall be committed to the teaching of Qatari History related standards as a subject within Social Sciences during the schooling hours set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which is <b>one hour per week</b> for Grades 1 to 9. The subject shall be included in the school calendar and shall NOT be taught together with any other subject.</li> <li>• Schools shall be committed to adopting the learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.</li> </ul> <p>⇒ <b><u>Regarding the teaching of Science, English and Math: The schools shall adopt their respective national curriculum.</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>First: Islamic Education</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools shall be committed teaching according to the learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for Qatari and non-Qatari Muslim students.</li> <li>• Schools shall be committed to the schooling hours set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which is <b>two hours per week</b> for Grades 1 to 12.</li> <li>• It is mandatory that the teaching staff in private schools are</li> </ul>	<p>International Schools that have International Accreditation.</p> <p>(International Baccalaureate – IGCSE – US Secondary</p>





Certificate...)

specialists of the subject and enjoy expertise in the teaching of Islamic education for all stages and levels from Grades 1 to 12.

- It is prohibited to integrate Islamic Education with any other subject.

### **Second: Arabic Language**

1- Schools, whose subjects of accreditation include Arabic language as one of its taught subjects, shall observe the following:

- Commitment to teach Arabic language-related learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for Grades 1 to 10 for both Qatari and Arab students, as per the teaching hours approved by the MOEHE (4 hours per week), with the exception of schools teaching Arabic language as a core subject in the secondary program. The number of hours will therefore be allocated similarly to that of other subjects.
- The standards of the Arabic language will be applied for accreditation (Grades 11 and 12) and to document the proportion of the Qatar curriculum standards for the Arabic language, which were covered through the international curriculum according to the comparisons of the Educational Supervision Department regarding the two syllabus.
- Schools are required to provide what is necessary to complete the rest of the national standards for Grades 11 and 12 that are not covered by the international curriculum beyond the official working hours. It should be optional for students.
- Schools shall use the appropriate learning resources for the international accreditation and shall select the supportive learning resources in accordance to the requirements



referred to in this policy. The appropriate schooling hours will be implemented according to the international accreditation.

2- Schools, whose subjects of accreditation DO NOT include Arabic language as one of its taught subjects, shall observe the following:

- Commitment to teach Arabic language-related learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for both Qatari and Arab students.
- Commitment to the teaching hours set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (**4 hours per week**) for Grades 1 to 12.
- Commitment to bridge the gap for Qatari or Arabs students who do not master the Arabic language, provided that they remain studying with their peers in the same academic level.
- It is NOT permissible to integrate Arabic-speaking students with non-Arabic speaking students in the Arabic language class. The subject must be taught separately than the other subjects.
- Commitment to the instructions issued by the Educational Supervision Department on the strengthening of writing skills for students (copying, spelling and writing) in addition to the memorization of the texts.

### **Third: Qatari History:**

- Schools shall be committed to implement the complete standards of Qatari History curriculum for all students, where it will be taught in Arabic for Arab and Arabic speaking students according to the parents and schools choice, while



it can be offered in English for non-Arabic speaking students.

- Schools shall be committed to the schooling hours as set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which is one hour per week for Grades 1 to 9.

**⇒ Other Subjects:**

Schools shall comply with the terms, conditions and circulations issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in relation to the approved teaching resources. Schools shall sign a commitment to guarantee that all resources shall not include any of the above mentioned violations and send it to the Private Schools Affairs Department of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

**Fifth: Private Schools Monitoring Aspects**

Aspect	Mechanism
<b>1- Use of Primary Teaching Resources.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct schools to choose a primary learning resource approved by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for the three subjects (Arabic, Islamic Education, and Qatari History).</li> </ul>
<b>2- Applying Conditions for Schools to Select Supportive Learning Resources</b>	<p>Supportive resources are resources developed or selected by the school to enrich the primary learning resource without conflicting it. The school shall be committed to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the resource does not run counter to the Islamic principles and Qatari national identity.</li> <li>• Alignment with curriculum standards philosophy and objectives, and that it is supporting the achievement of the curriculum standards at the appropriate grade level.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accuracy of the resource.</li> <li>• Resource is up to date, clear and of a high quality.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3- Teachers Accreditation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools shall be committed to provide the HR with all evidences that proves the accreditation of qualified experienced teachers specialized in (Arabic – Islamic Education – Qatari History) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Bachelor Degree Certificate in the area of speciality.</li> <li>⇒ Previous experience certificates.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is mandatory that the teaching staff of the three subjects in private schools are specialists and enjoy expertise for all stages and levels from Grades 1 to 12 for both Arabic Language and Islamic Education. Qatari History shall be for Grades 1 to 9 only.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4- Monitoring Planning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools shall submit an annual plan of the three subject areas to the Private Schools Affairs Department according to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Approved curriculum standards (international programs).</li> <li>⇒ Approved schooling days.</li> <li>⇒ Revision and examination days.</li> <li>⇒ Official and approved holidays.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Schools shall provide semester plans for each semester for the three subjects and according to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide The Private Schools Affairs Department with semester plans approved by the Educational Supervision Department.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily plans of the three subject areas.</li> </ul> <p>Schools are committed to using the model approved by the Educational Supervision Department for daily plans. Schools shall be subject to follow-up to check daily lesson planning mechanism complies to the requirements.</p>
<p><b>5- Performance Monitoring by Specialists from the Education Institute</b></p>	<p>The Educational Supervision Department shall carry out field visits to the private schools for the three subjects. Schools must provide the educational supervisors with all required documents. The visits shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Periodical monitoring visits:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Several visits will be conducted during the academic year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Targeted visits:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be carried out in case of a complaint related to the implementation procedures of one of the three subjects, or when observing academic concerns inside the school.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Distant monitoring:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply the mechanism of reviewing evidence on implementing the standards and boosting school performance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>6- Academic Support</b></p>	<p><u>Curriculum Standards training courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure private school teachers join core training program on the subjects' standards in cooperation with the Training and Educational Development Centre (TEDC) to achieve continuous training and development of teachers according to the standards of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.</li> </ul> <p><u>Regular meetings:</u></p>



	<p>Meetings shall be held regularly to monitor the implementation of the curriculum standards by school as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inform and allow private school principals to have access to support mechanism strategies.</li><li>• Provide schools with the latest information and publications on the three subjects.</li><li>• Involve teachers and coordinators in forums, meetings and contests organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and interaction on social platforms.</li><li>• Provide advice and information on any inquiry through the available channels of communication for Independent Schools.</li></ul>
<p><b>7- Provision of the Learning Resources Issued by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Private Schools Affairs Department shall oversee the provision of the learning resources in accordance with the set procedures.</li><li>• Private schools shall be committed to providing the learning resources set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education on the three subjects for all students. No xeroxed copies shall be handed to the students.</li><li>• School shall receive the learning resources before classes start (as in independent schools) at the beginning of semesters 1 and 2, even if the school's calendar is based on three or four semesters. The objective is to ensure the learning resources are provided for students in no delays.</li><li>• The teaching of the learning resources issued by the MOEHE for Arabic language shall be compulsory from Grades 1 to 10. It is preferable that students in Grades 11 and 12 receive learning resources, while core parts of the resources be taught under the International Programs</li></ul>



according to the standards statistics table in these programs

- The provision of the learning resources is mandatory for all students. The teaching of Qatari History is allowed in Arabic or English for Qatari and Arab students, according to the school policy.