LIVE, WORK & INVEST IN DUBAI · 30 JULY 2026 · 12 MIN READ

Dubai education: build the family plan before admissions

Curriculum, inspection evidence, admissions, inclusion, commute and full annual cost matter more than a school name in isolation.

CA Kintu Gandhi

MANAGING PARTNER · CORPORATE FINANCE & ADVISORY

IRAA Global

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> Dubai’s private-education market offers multiple curricula and a wide range of fees, locations and learning models. The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) regulates private education and publishes school-directory information, inspection outcomes and fee fact sheets.

A strong school decision begins with the child: age, previous curriculum, language, learning needs, expected duration in Dubai and likely next education system. School availability and housing should be planned together.

Key facts

OFFICIAL COMPARISON	KHDA publishes a school directory, inspection information and fee fact sheets.
FULL COST	Mandatory and optional charges can sit outside tuition.
FAMILY LOGISTICS	Admissions, housing and peak-hour transport should be planned together.

Choose the education pathway, then the school

Curriculum choice affects subject sequence, examinations, year-group placement and transfer options. Families expecting another international move should consider continuity as well as present fit. Ask how the school maps prior learning and supports transitions.

Review KHDA information alongside a visit. Inspection ratings are useful evidence, but they do not describe every classroom or child experience. Ask about leadership stability, teacher retention, class size, pastoral care, language support and communication.

Read the fee fact sheet

Tuition is not the entire cost. KHDA fee fact sheets distinguish mandatory and optional charges for the relevant academic year. Budget for registration, books or devices, uniforms, transport, activities, meals, examinations and support where applicable.

Understand deposit and refund rules before paying. Confirm which payment secures a place, what conditions remain and whether the school can meet any documented learning or medical needs. Keep all admissions representations in writing.

Treat the commute as part of education

A school that appears close can create a long peak-hour trip. Test the route at drop-off and collection times, check school-bus coverage and understand supervision arrangements. For younger children, daily travel time can materially affect wellbeing.

Coordinate housing only after narrowing realistic school options, or retain flexibility while admissions are unresolved. Sibling availability, different start times and extracurricular schedules can reshape the family transport plan.

Look beyond school age

Dubai also has early-childhood centres, universities, vocational providers and professional education. Verify institutional and programme recognition through the relevant official authority, especially where a qualification is needed for professional licensing or further study.

For university choices, compare accreditation, programme outcomes, transfer arrangements, internships, total cost and the legal status of the awarding institution. Marketing claims about global recognition should be checked directly.

Practical checklist

- Define curriculum and transfer needs
- Review KHDA directory and inspection evidence
- Read the current fee fact sheet
- Disclose support needs early
- Test school commute at peak time
- Keep admissions and payment terms

Official sources

SOURCE CHECK Official UAE government references. Links verified 4 August 2026.

1. **KHDA school directory**
2. **KHDA school fees framework**
3. **KHDA parent resources**
4. **UAE Government: Education**

Online edition: **https://iraaglobal.com/insights/dubai-education/**

CONTINUE READING

More insight for the decisions ahead.

Keep exploring practical guidance from IRAA Global, or move from reading to a focused conversation with our advisory team.

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Tax-readiness quick check

1. Confirm the responsible legal entity and registration position.
2. Reconcile the accounts, tax adjustments and supporting evidence.
3. Document ownership, review and approval before filing.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR

CA Kintu Gandhi

MANAGING PARTNER · CORPORATE FINANCE & ADVISORY

Corporate finance, valuation, structuring, and strategic advisory across the UAE and India.

PHONE	+971 56 921 0222
EMAIL	info@iraaglobal.com
PROFILES	IRAA Global on LinkedIn · Contributor page and article

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IRAA Global

DUBAI OFFICE

503 Mustafawi Carpet Building
Sharaf DG Metro Exit 1
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

CONTACT

+971 56 921 0222
+971 50 677 9455
info@iraaglobal.com
www.iraaglobal.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN BY SURESH TAMANG