

# **AIS Communications Policy**

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## **Distribution List**

Department
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Academic Department
Administration Department

# **Revision History**

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02/10/2022	1	Additional Points	QA

# **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

Abbreviations / Acronyms	Expansion		
AIS	Arab International Schools		
HOD	Head of Department		
DM	Departmental Meeting		







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#### **Rationale**

We aim to ensure excellent 'surround sound' communication by using an optimal balance of fit-for-purpose, face-toface, written and electronic communication methods. Our aim is to ensure staff, students and parents are kept well informed of key developments, events and issues.

#### 3-2-1 Expectation

Our aim is to ensure all parental communication is consistent with our "3-2-1" expectation for all events i.e. parents receive a detailed letter 3 weeks in advance of events; parents receive a reminder of key events in the school agenda 2 weeks in advance of events; parents receive a final reminder via the e-school platform or SMS reminder message 1 day in advance of events.

The school's official communication methods are as follows:

Email: Email is the school's main internal communication method. Email is carefully used in conjunction with the school's 'Email Policy'. Key highlights from the policy include the importance of keeping emails short and concise, to include more detailed information by way of an attachment, to only "cc" staff for information and to always discuss more delicate or personalised matters face-to-face wherever possible. Emails should be kept strictly business formal. Emails should be kept strictly within school working hours. You may also schedule emails.

Microsoft Teams: Important notices & reminders are posted on Microsoft Teams channels. Please ensure that you check this platform regularly (morning & afternoon). The chat & meeting function may be used to communicate with colleagues and line managers. Messages should be confined to school working hours.

Important documents are hosted on the relevant channels.







Teacher Tutorials: Teacher tutorials will be scheduled as and when needed at the discretion of your superiors. This may be in various forms.

Meetings: We aim to ensure all meetings are well organized, support the school's strategic and operational objectives and are conducted in a timely manner. Agendas and Minutes of meetings are shared in advance and immediately following meetings respectively as an accurate record of key discussions and action points. This ensures clear communication and accountability. Attendees should send applopies in advance with the reason why.

There are several key meeting forums including:

- Senior Management Meeting (SMM): A weekly meeting takes place in the Head's office and on Microsoft Teams simultaneously. The primary purpose is to discuss key strategic and Academic issues & upcoming Events. The meeting usually takes place on Sunday 9AM and often therefore inform and shape the departmental meetings held by HOD's. Academic and select administrative staff are expected to attend unless informed otherwise.
- Departmental Meeting (DM): This takes place once per week as per the teachers & HOD's schedule. DM usually focuses on developing aspects of teaching & learning, CPD's and upcoming Academic Events.
- Coffee Mornings: These are offered to parents throughout the year, usually monthly. There may be an 'open' coffee morning intended to offer opportunities for staff and / or parents to engage in informal school-based discussions. More formal presentations on key topics / issues may sometimes be offered.

Home-School Communications: We aim to "live and breathe" a highly effective open-door policy for all. This begins every day with the Principal and/or the Academic Head/Supervisor welcoming students and parents outside school every morning.

Parents are encouraged to first discuss any matters or issues arising with the Homeroom Teacher (Primary School) and/or Subject Teacher (Secondary School). Heads of Departments, Principals and the Academic Head/Supervisor is always available for issues that may remain unresolved by the teacher. It is recognised that sometimes it is pertinent to include your HOD at an earlier stage of discussions.

We aim to ensure that all home-school communications are timely, clear and positive. The school uses the e-School as its management information system to manage and coordinate most home-school communications.

Teachers are required to respond within 24-48 hours. Overly long non-productive calls are discouraged.

A number of communication channels exist as follows:

- SMS: Staff wishing to send an SMS message may do so by emailing a copy of the intended text (maximum 160 characters including spaces) to the Quality Assurance Department. Letters to parents have to be approved by the QA department.
- Social Media: The school's main social media channels include Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook & YouTube. Staff are highly encouraged to promote student achievements or school-based events using appropriate captions, hashtags and photos. Photos of students must carefully consider whether the parents have given permission for the child's photo to appear on social media. Photos should be high quality, clear and show happy and/or students engaged in the purposeful activity relating to the caption.
- Staff wishing to submit posts for social media should send their captions, hashtags and photos via email to the Social Media department first. The Social Media department may be contacted to take photos.







"In-the-Loop" Circular: A reminder of upcoming Academic Events & Extracurricular Activities, upcoming CPD's, and Assessment Cycles, that Staff need to keep in mind. This is basically a reminder of events that will take place in the near future.

## Teacher- Parent - Student Communication: (e-School)

- School Messages: All messages sent to parents should carefully consider the school's values and expectations at all times. Class based emails should be sent via the e-School Platform. Staff should seek advice from the Head of Department, Quality Assurance or the Academic Head/Supervisor if there is any doubt that the content may be considered "bad" or "sensitive" news, especially when it may be considered a "surprise" to the parent.
- Teachers are to ensure that messages are spell checked. A template of stock messages will be attached to this document to ensure standardization amongst teachers for common communications.
- Double check the recipient is correct.
- Teachers may not share any marks, assessment results under any circumstances.
- Please note that HOD's will review messages periodically to ensure that communication is in line with our schools' standards.
- Homework should be assigned as per the Weekly Agenda via the e-School platform or the Homework Diary (Elementary)
- HOD's should be consulted prior to sending any messages of a sensitive nature.
- E-School Message Time Restrictions: Please do not message parents after 8pm due to notifications received on the mobile application.

## **Procedures:**

Teaching & Learning Escalation Procedure: (Homework/Classwork not done, textbooks not brought, etc.)

- Teachers are to notify parents via the e-School platform after making your HOD aware of the issue.
- Send a reminder the following day (if the situation is not rectified)
- Inform your HOD and request the Social Worker to make contact with the parent to resolve the issue and also request that the parent check their e-school account daily.
- If the situation persists, the Social Worker will arrange for a meeting between parents, HOD and the social worker.
- Social Worker, Principal and the Academic Head/Supervisor to follow-up.
- Scale Deductions for incidents:
  - T1: ½ point per incident. Maximum of 1 points deduction per category (Classwork, Homework)
  - o T2: ½ point per incident. Maximum of 1.5 points deduction per category (Classwork, Homework)
  - o T3: ½ point per incident. Maximum of 2 points deduction per category (Classwork, Homework)
  - Points can be earned back due to good work/improvement after response to notification

#### **Behavioural Escalation Procedure:**

- Try to rectify the issue yourself without disrupting teaching and learning
- Persistent issues in class should be referred to the Student Supervisor and an Incident Report completed by the Teacher & Student Supervisor should be filed with the Social Worker for reference.
- Do not exclude students from learning in any manner.







- Student Supervisors in consultation with Teachers may refer students to the Social Worker at their discretion based on the severity of the incident or reoccurring issues.
- Please refer to the Disciplinary policy for further information.
- Social Worker to follow up on students' behaviour daily and contact parents where necessary.

### **Messaging Etiquette & Restrictions:**

- Staff are to email their Direct Line Managers, QA, HR and colleagues only as required.
  - Teachers are to inform their HOD/Line Managers first, before escalating to the Academic Head/Supervisor & the Principal.
- Reply only to the sender and not everyone in the email
- Communication should be business formal
- Staff are to be available at all times if not in a meeting or teaching.
- Official communications lines are:
  - School Email
  - Microsoft Teams
  - e-School Platform
  - **Phone Calls**
  - Circulars
  - Announcement Boards (Teachers Room)
- Staff are prohibited from sending messages to AllStaff, BoysSection, GirlsSection.
- Ensure that emails are sent to the correct recipient as they may contain confidential or sensitive information.
- External communication should be carefully vetted to ensure that no confidential or sensitive information is shared. If in doubt, please contact your line manager for clarification.
- Meetings should be confined strictly to the Agenda previously sent out. Emergency issues should be confined to a duration of 5-10 minutes, thereafter an additional meeting should be scheduled at a later date.

## **Group Emails:**

- Group emails are set up by the QA department only
- Ensure that group emails are read timeously.
- Do not reply to all in group emails

#### **Absenteeism Procedure:**

- Please email and CC the following personnel:
  - o Human Resources Department
  - Head of Department
  - Quality Assurance Department
  - Vice Principal
  - School Principal
  - Academic Head/Supervisor

#### **Students Supervisors Communication:**

- Student Supervisors are to send the Absence & Late SMS as per the Attendance & Student Supervisors policy.
- Communication is to be kept strictly formal.







- Ensure the correct recipient is selected.
- Communication with Teachers should be polite and focused on assisting the Teachers where possible with minimal disruption to learning.
- Ensure the Vice Principal, Social Worker and QA are cc'd in all communications

#### **HOD Communication:**

- Please ensure the QA department is CC'd in all communication
- Emails & Team Messages should ideally be confined to school working hours, but, in exceptional cases, may be sent no later than 6pm on weekdays. You may schedule emails to assist your planning.

## Boys Section Staff List: (last updated on October 24th, 2022)

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D 41 1	Homeroom KG		
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