

SECTION 1

**GUIDING STATEMENTS &  
INTRODUCTION**

# GUIDING STATEMENTS & INTRODUCTION

## Welcome

Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our updated parent handbook. The aim of this handbook is to give a clear guide about our school, our processes and procedures as well as to provide clear information.

As a fully authorized IB School, we nurture the attitudes and attributes of the ISL four pillars of **Belonging, Integrity, Grit** and **Kindness** and of the IB learner profile. We have a diverse and unique community with students from over 80 countries attending our school. This provides a wealth of opportunity for global learning, international understanding community action and which are key components of our school.

Please look out for regular communications that are sent by email, including a monthly school bulletin, and a monthly newsletter, providing information regarding forthcoming events and celebrating recent successes.

If you are not receiving emails from the school, please contact our Front Office:

**Rowena Geraldizo:** [RGeraldizo@islqatar.org](mailto:RGeraldizo@islqatar.org) Administrative Liaison  
**Aylin Alsayedali:** [AAlsayedali@islqatar.org](mailto:AAlsayedali@islqatar.org) Administrative Coordinator

Please also feel free to contact either Rowena or Aylin if you have any general enquiries.

As an international school, we strive to create an atmosphere of warmth and caring which is also challenging at individual levels. In the following pages, we have summarized how we work across the entire school, with some specific information for Primary School and Middle and High School. Please note that this document is a 'work in progress'; if there is additional information that you would like us to include, please let us know.

As always, we welcome feedback, suggestions and ideas. Feel free to contact us as shown below:

Dr Sean Areias  
Head of School  
[Sareias@islqatar.org](mailto:Sareias@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Salma Waly  
Head of Multilingualism  
[SWaly@islqatar.org](mailto:SWaly@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Joanne Gollan  
Director of Learning, Analytics  
and Innovations  
[JGillan@islqatar.org](mailto:JGillan@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Leigh Anne Toler  
Head of Middle School  
[LToler@islqatar.org](mailto:LToler@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Roula Ismail  
Head of Primary  
[RIsmail@islqatar.org](mailto:RIsmail@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Joseph Toler  
Director of Athletics  
& Activities  
[JToler@islqatar.org](mailto:JToler@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Reinette Evert  
Head of Inclusion  
& Wellbeing  
[REvert@islqatar.org](mailto:REvert@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Dounia Slaoui  
Head of Operations  
[DSlaoui@islqatar.org](mailto:DSlaoui@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Joris Decker  
Leader of Tech Hub  
[JDecker@islqatar.org](mailto:JDecker@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

Jim Heister  
Head of High School  
[JHeister@islqatar.org](mailto:JHeister@islqatar.org)  
Tel: 4433 8600

## Section 1: Guiding Statements & Introduction

### 1.1 ISL Qatar Mission Statement, Vision and Values:

**Mission:** Empowering learners to lead through Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking.

**Vision:** Imagining and designing a better world together.

**ISL Qatar Core Values** - The ISL educational philosophy is based on the following core values and applies to our students, teaching and administrative staff:

- Belonging
- Integrity
- Grit
- Kindness

### 1.2 IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate (IB) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students from across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

### 1.3 Definition of Learning:

Learning at ISL Qatar is a joyful, dynamic process of discovery, inspiring innovation, and transformation, whereby learners connect and engage purposefully with the world.

### 1.4 ISL Qatar Profile

We have further elaborated our mission statement and values into the ISL Qatar Profile that indicates the attitudes and attributes we aim to encourage and develop in all members of the school community.

<b>ISL Qatar Profile</b> <i>Developing Global Citizens, Striving for Excellence</i>	
<b>Balanced</b> <b>Caring</b> <b>Committed</b> <b>Communicator</b> <b>Courageous</b>	<b>Inquirer</b> <b>Knowledgeable</b> <b>Open-minded</b> <b>Principled Reflective</b> <b>Thinker</b>

The ISL Qatar Profile:

- Makes an explicit link between the mission statement and what we do in practice
- Identifies the expectations we have of all members of the community
- Demonstrates the attitudes and attributes we are aiming to develop in students
- Indicates that we are aiming for excellence in all areas
- Links the teaching programs to the mission statement, and becomes an explicit part of those programs
- Drives our assessment policy

There are eleven sections in the ISL Qatar Profile reflecting the different attitudes and attributes that we regard as important in developing our students (and other members of our community) as global citizens.

- **Communicator:** We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups
- **Inquirer:** We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life
- **Thinker:** We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions
- **Balanced:** We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives - intellectual, physical, spiritual and emotional - to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live
- **Caring:** We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us
- **Courageous:** We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are

resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change. We are brave and articulate in defending our beliefs

- **Committed:** We demonstrate a strong sense of perseverance and determination in completing tasks to the best of our ability. We work on tasks with purpose and engagement, always striving for excellence
- **Knowledgeable:** We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance
- **Open-minded:** We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience
- **Principled:** We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences
- **Reflective:** We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses to support our learning and personal development.

The ISL Qatar Profile is based on the IB learner profile, which is a requirement for all IB world schools.

### 1.5 A School for the 21st Century

The International School of London Qatar:

- Cares for its students and puts them first
- Uses the most effective teaching methods to cater for students' different learning styles
- Believes that each child has a unique way of learning and has the potential to succeed
- Acknowledges that how children learn is as important as what they learn
- Bases future success on creativity, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, intercultural understanding and self-reliance, as well as on academic skills
- Prepares children for the information age that is revolutionising the world they will inherit
- Provides an environment that is safe, friendly, caring, challenging and innovative
- Is passionate about helping children to grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and morally
- Sets the highest standards of academic achievement and enables students to gain the highest examination grades of which they are capable
- Gives students a lifelong love of learning
- Aims to be a learning centre for the whole community
- Takes learning so seriously that it makes it fun!

### 1.6 Background

The ISL Schools Group began in 1972 when the International School of London was founded as a private co-educational school. It was one of the first schools in the world to offer the IB Diploma, graduating its first Diploma students in 1978. It now offers the IB Primary and Middle Years programs in addition to the IB Diploma and is especially well known for its world languages programs. As part of the core curriculum, students receive mother tongue or foreign language literacy lessons from early childhood. Because of the strength of its languages program, ISL was selected by Qatar's Supreme Education Council to open a school in Doha as part of the Outstanding Schools initiative. Continuing its expansion, ISL was chosen by Shell to acquire the Surrey-based Prins Willem Alexander School which was the highest performing Dutch school in the world. The ISL Schools now enrolls 1174 students in Doha, Qatar.

## **1.7 International Accreditation, Inspection and Authorization**

Our authorization as an IB World School (see details below); our accreditation through the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC); and our membership of the Outstanding Schools Program through the Supreme Education Council in Qatar; all provide independent, external validation of the quality of education at ISL Qatar. This also allows us to offer a wide range of accredited International and Qatari programs to our increasingly diverse student population of nearly 70 nationalities.

- Qatar Supreme Education Council - Outstanding School Status: July 2008
- IB PYP Authorization: January 2012
- IB MYP Authorization: June 2013
- IB Diploma Authorization: June 2011
- NEASC/CIS School: November 2014
- IB DP Evaluation: February 2016
- IB PYP Evaluation: November 2016
- IB MYP Evaluation: April 2018
- Collaborative Learning Protocol<sup>1</sup> Evaluation: March 2023

---

<sup>1</sup> This protocol was established in approximately 2020 as a joint evaluation process for IB and NEASC schools. Both evaluations are made simultaneously.