



# International Academy of Kuwait

## مدرسة الأكاديمية الدولية بالكويت

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### The Revised Primary Curriculum 2016 – a guide for parents

#### The Curriculum at IAK

The National Curriculum in England has now changed. The programmes of study from the old national curriculum are now obsolete. Text Books now reflect these changes and buying 'top ups' and resources for the old text books is impossible as they are now going out of print. In addition, students using old curriculum resources and standards will not be ready to cope with the challenges ahead, especially in secondary school and when they sit their IGCSE's. The revised programmes of study and attainment targets have now completely replaced the old national curriculum.

Why the big curriculum change?

The main aim is to raise standards. Although the revised curriculum is intended to be more challenging, the content is actually slimmer than the current curriculum, focusing on essential core subject knowledge and skills such as essay writing and computer programming. This means there is less volume to learn for students but expectations are higher.

#### The main changes.

The table below summarises the main changes in the core subjects.

#### Subject

#### What's new?

##### English

Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1 Years 1 & 2)

Handwriting( not currently assessed under the national curriculum) is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy

Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills.

##### Maths

Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 (compared to 20 under the current curriculum) and learn number bonds to 20 (currently up to 10)

Simple fractions ( $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) will be taught from KS1 (Years 1 & 2), and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g.  $0.375 = \frac{3}{8}$ )

By the end of Year 5, children will be expected to know times tables up to  $12 \times 12$  (currently  $10 \times 10$  by the end of Year 6)

Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2 (Year 6), to encourage mental arithmetic.

##### Science

Strong focus on scientific knowledge and language, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms

Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system

### *ICT*

Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs

From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet

Internet safety – currently only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools

### *Languages*

Currently not statutory, a modern foreign language (French) will be mandatory in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5, & 6). Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in French by the end of Year 6.

In order to prepare pupils for the more ambitious end of year expectations in English, Mathematics and Science, as set out in the new curriculum, teachers at IAK will amend their delivery of the programmes of study detailed above as is appropriate. Revised programmes of study for English, Mathematics and Science have been adopted and all other revisions will be completed by September 2016.

Please note that due to timetable constraints (extra lessons which the UK does not offer) and a shorter school year the National curriculum is ADAPTED to suit our needs.

Andy Hill  
Principal