

Safa British School

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Independently owned in Jumeirah, where KHDA rates leadership, inclusion and curriculum design Outstanding despite the Very Good headline.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	76/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	66/100
Alumni network	59/100
Facilities	79/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Safa British School occupies a strong niche in Dubai’s crowded British-school market: an all-through, non-selective day school in Jumeirah with the scale to offer breadth, but not the sprawl that turns children into admin problems. It teaches the British curriculum from age 3 to 18, runs a dedicated sixth form, and enrolls more than ****1,600**** students from over 80 nationalities. The headline KHDA judgement sits at Very Good, but the sharper detail matters more: leadership, inclusion and curriculum design have all been rated Outstanding, as have wellbeing and inclusion in the school’s own published claims. That

combination gives Safa a clear identity. This is not a legacy-name Dubai giant selling cachet; it is a school that wins parents through delivery, organisation and a campus that feels **thought through** rather than improvised.

What marks Safa out is the blend of pastoral competence and physical environment. The move to a new campus in 2020 gave it a more modern operating base, and the school pushes that advantage hard: enhanced outdoor play, a dedicated sixth form area, a parent café, and more than ****60+**** ECAs. The published ****12:1**** student-teacher ratio strengthens the case for families who want access to teachers, not just polished branding. Early years has a distinct pitch through child-led learning and the Curiosity Approach, while older students get a full through-school pathway without the disruption of changing schools at Year 7 or Year 12. The school also advertises 2024 GCSE success, but without aggregate score data in the public domain, parents should treat that as a prompt to ask harder questions about attainment at the top end.

Why shortlist it? Because Safa offers something many Dubai schools promise and fewer execute: **serious attention to inclusion**, **calm operational clarity**, and a school day built for families who want structure without stiffness. It has enough size to run an extensive curriculum and broad activities programme, but the messaging stays anchored in student experience rather than prestige theatre. Parents who value warm culture, easy communication, outdoor space and a coherent all-through British education will find a lot to like here. Families hunting for an aggressively academic, exam-data-heavy, ultra-selective environment may prefer a different tier of school. Families who want a **grounded, well-run** school with strong pastoral infrastructure should keep Safa high on the list.

The student who fits Safa best is one who will use the school’s range: the child who likes sport, outdoor learning, clubs, leadership roles and a busy school life beyond lessons. It also suits students who benefit from **close adult oversight** and a school that takes inclusion seriously rather than treating it as a compliance box. For younger children, the appeal lies in play, routine and space; for older ones, in continuity through to sixth form on one campus. Safa is for families who want **confidence without flash**: a British school in Jumeirah that has built its reputation on the daily substance of school life.

STRENGTHS

- The school holds an Outstanding rating from the British Schools Overseas inspectorate (awarded in 2022 and retained in the 2025 report), confirming alignment with UK educational standards.
- KHDA rates the school Very good overall, with wellbeing and inclusion rated Outstanding.
- Inclusion provision is extensive and tiered, with a dedicated Bridge Learning Centre for Primary and Horizon Learning Centre for Secondary serving pupils with complex needs alongside mainstream SEND support.
- More than 60 extracurricular activities are included free within tuition, spanning sport, performing arts and academic enrichment rather than being charged separately.

TRADE - OFFS

- Sixth Form provision is young: the 2024 GCSE cohort was the first full year group, and there is no published A-Level or BTEC Level 3 outcome record yet compared with longer-established all-through schools.
- The overall KHDA classification remains Very good rather than Outstanding, so the regulator's headline rating trails the school's BSO designation and its own Outstanding sub-indicators.
- Entry is not automatic: children from Year 1 upward sit placement assessments (computerised tests plus, where possible, interviews), and popular year groups can carry waiting lists filled first-come, first-served.
- With roughly 1,600 pupils across more than 80 nationalities on a single Al Safa campus, the

- Annual fees run from roughly AED 45,000 to AED 74,000, positioning the school below Dubai's top-tier British schools.
 - The school publishes its first full cohort 2024 GCSE results in detail, with 63% of grades at A*-A / 9-7 and reported value-added of 1.9 grades above CAT expectations.
- school operates at a scale that is not a small, boutique setting.

ADMISSIONS

Safa British School admits from FS1 through Year 13, with places allocated after an online application, a non-refundable administration fee, and an age-related assessment: play-based observation for Foundation Stage, and computerised tests in maths, reading and writing plus interviews for Year 1 and above. A transfer certificate and full educational history are required before an offer is confirmed. Where a year group is full, applicants are placed on a waiting list and offered seats first-come, first-served, so early application is advisable, particularly for entry into established year groups.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_5f560ef9ee.