

Deira International School

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

From Festival City, a not-for-profit campus threads the English curriculum into twin IB pathways -- Diploma and BTEC-linked Career routes.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	59/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	67/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Deira International School sits in Dubai Festival City with a proposition that is sharper than the usual “British school in Dubai” label. KHDA attests it as British, but the sixth form runs in two directions: the IB Diploma on one side, and an IB Career-related route linked to BTEC on the other. That matters. It gives the school a broader academic shape than the standard GCSE-to-A-level track and makes it a serious option for families who want British structure in the early years without forcing a single definition of sixth-form success at 16. The school covers ages 3 to 18, holds an **Outstanding** KHDA rating for 2023/24, and carries both BSO and IB World accreditation. In a market full of polished branding and thin substance, that combination is *hard to dismiss*.

The other point in its favour is governance and value. Deira International School is not-for-profit, which still distinguishes it in Dubai, where many strong schools sit inside aggressively commercial groups. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **AED 71,453**, which places it in the upper-middle to premium bracket, but not at the most expensive end of the city’s market. Parents paying that level will expect disciplined teaching, coherent pastoral systems and credible post-16 options, not lifestyle fluff. The published recent destinations — London School of Economics, Imperial College London and University College London, with **1** student to each — are selective and *academically serious*, even if the school does not publish a broader destinations breakdown here. That leaves some opacity around scale and consistency at the very top end, but the names themselves carry weight.

What is special here is not glamour. It is *structural intelligence*. The school gives able, organised students a clean route through a British curriculum into either the full IB Diploma or a career-related pathway with more applied texture. That suits families who want academic stretch without the narrowness of a single post-16 model. It also suits students who are motivated, internationally minded and clear that university is the destination, but who differ in how they learn best: some will want the full

academic intensity of the Diploma; others will do better with a course that mixes academic study and vocational application. Children who need a very loose, progressive environment, or families who want old-fashioned British traditionalism for its own sake, will find stronger fits elsewhere. Deira belongs on a shortlist because it is **well-constructed**, regulator-validated and more flexible than many direct competitors, without sliding into incoherence.

STRENGTHS

- Outstanding KHDA rating for 2023/24
- British curriculum attested by KHDA
- Offers IB Diploma alongside British pathway
- BSO and IB World accredited

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding option
- School-declared curriculum exceeds KHDA attestation
- No regulator-attested IB or A-Level listing

ADMISSIONS

Deira International School is a day school in Dubai for ages 3-18, so the main entry points are inferably Nursery/Foundation Stage through to Sixth Form. The school declares a British, GCSE, A-Level and IB pathway; KHDA attests it as British, and it is also an IB World School. For admissions, families should expect age-appropriate assessment rather than a single one-size-fits-all process, with requirements likely to vary between early years, primary, secondary and post-16 entry. The school's published context here does not specify the precise format of testing, whether interviews are used, or whether there are unusual selection hurdles.

Nor does the available information give fixed application deadlines. In practice, that usually means rolling admissions where places exist, but parents should confirm directly rather than assume. No bursary or financial-aid provision is stated in the material provided, so it should not be presumed. The clearest distinctive feature is the school's range of routes in the senior years: families need to apply with a clear view of whether they want the British examination track or the IB Diploma pathway later on.

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_80635681d3.