

## **Covid 19 and School Reopening 2020-2021**

### **Guiding Principles for reopening the campus**

The BIS Leadership Team, together with other key members of our team as a Task Force, have spent many hours considering the development of a Return to Face-to-Face Learning Plan. This plan allows for flexibility and prioritizes the health and safety of our community.

We are very confident that here at Belvedere, we have prepared excellent facilities to ensure that your child, and indeed all the members of our school community, can remain safe and supported in these uncertain times. Thanks to ADEK and our staff, careful and detailed planning has gone into making us ready and confident to face all of the challenges ahead. Together we will continue to give our children the very best opportunities to succeed.

Distance Learning will be maintained for those families who will remain at home. Senior Students will not attend school for the first four weeks of term as a phased approach to opening. However, it is our aim to have as many pupils as possible on site and being taught face to face as soon as it is practical and safe to do so. This remains our priority.

We will prioritise student, faculty, and staff health, safety, and well-being over all other objectives:

- By following ADEK's Private School Reopening Policies and Guidelines.
- By establishing and promoting practices and procedures that reduce the risk of viral transmission.
- By ensuring hygiene and health-related practices that are clearly communicated and diligently enforced.

### **BIS will reopen its campus only when:**

- Government officials have granted us permission to do so by completing the NOC checklist;
- We have established health and safety practices and procedures in accordance with guidelines set by Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Ministry of Health and Preventions (MoHAP).
- We have developed an ongoing health monitoring system.

### **BIS Reopening Model**

With all this in mind, BIS leadership team have decided to start the 2020-21 academic year with ADEK's suggested model no.4: Alternating Weeks (Hybrid Learning Model)

## **What is a Hybrid Learning Model?**

This model combines face-to-face learning with coordinated online experiences. This model recognises that Distance Learning does not provide the social interaction most students desire; therefore, a hybrid model provides face-to-face learning 50% of the time while leveraging digital experiences the remaining 50%. This model introduces physical distancing and density reduction as key strategies to further reduce exposure within our community, while at the same time providing face-to-face interaction between students and teachers about half of the time.

## **What does the BIS Reopening program look like?**

Each class is divided into two; an A and a B group. These halves attend school on alternate weeks. The teaching timetable is repeated on successive weeks, with each student attending the first week in a Face-to-Face mode and the second week following the lessons from home. All planned learning will be shared via Google Classroom, allowing at-home students to follow the learning done at school. (All classes will be recorded)

## **Daily Schedule for face-to-face teaching in school**

The daily schedule designed for the start of the academic year 2020-21 will remain almost the same with the exemption of lunch (packed lunches only in class), no assemblies, no after school activities or PE/Swimming. Students will have a staggered start and end to the school day in order to keep the number of students low at key entrance and exit points.

## **Other safety measures in school:**

These are some of the safety measures that we are putting in place for the new school term:

- Hybrid model of learning with only half of our students in school at any one time.
- Social distancing of 1.5m between students in classrooms. 2m between adults.
- Students above the age of 6 to wear masks.
- All staff and parents are to wear masks.
- Hand sanitiser in every classroom, on corridors and in common areas. Ensuring the monitoring of hand-washing for students through awareness-raising and monitoring.
- Heat sensor at the school entrance.
- One-way systems around the school.
- Maximum class sizes of 10 for Pre-Prep (FS2) and 15 for other year groups.
- Teachers will move between rooms for different classes rather than students moving. Students will have breaks but these will be staggered during the day to avoid contact with other classes, 'macro-bubbles' or year groups.

- Students are encouraged to 'Bring Your Own Device' and most work will be completed electronically both in school and through distance learning.
- There will be no PE or Swimming lessons for the time being, nor co-curricular activities. We will be offering online activities – as with last term.
- Students will need to bring their own snacks and lunches. Students will eat in their classrooms.
- The school will be divided into “macro-bubbles” (i.e. all staff and students across year groups). There will be absolutely no mixing of spaces outside of these “macro-bubbles”.
- Arrival at and departure from school will be staggered, including the school buses which will operate at 50% capacity.
- If parents collect children from school, they must wait outside or in your car and maintain a 2 metre distance from all other parents. Only one person from each household may collect a child or children from that household. A student may not be dropped off or collected by someone from another household.
- Parents and other visitors will not be allowed on school premises without an appointment.
- Regular and thorough cleaning and sterilisation of classrooms and public areas.
- All travelling students and staff will have complied with requirements for quarantine.

### **Classroom Arrangements**

All classrooms in the school will be set up as per ADEK guidance to accommodate the social distancing arrangements for the relevant year groups. There will be social distancing markings in classrooms, as well as corridors. There will be effective ventilation of classrooms and offices-opening doors and windows.

### **Masks**

Masks are not necessary for Nursery, FS2 and Year 1, however they are compulsory for all other Year Groups. We request that parents provide masks for their children, at least two per day so the child can change their masks during the day. The school will keep a stock of replacement masks in case any masks are broken.

## **Temperature Checks**

Although we will check temperatures at school, all parents should check their child's temperature in the morning before setting off. If a child has a temperature of 37.5C or higher they must be kept off school. Temperature checks will also be taken as students enter the buses in the morning. If a child's temperature is discovered to be high at school then they will need to be collected by parents and taken home.

## **School Clinic**

The normal clinic facilities which students use every day do of course continue. In addition to this we have an isolation areas set up should students exhibit a high temperature or feel ill for any reason. Should this happen we know students will be safe and socially distanced until they can be collected by a parent.

## **Distance Learning**

As a reminder, parents have the option of choosing Distance Learning if they wish instead of their children attending school in person.

## **Buses**

Please note that there is a much lower limit now for the number of children on each bus. Parents are encouraged to please take their children to school if they are able to.

## **Quarantine**

The UAE government's advice on quarantine is very clear: "Anyone travelling to the UAE from abroad should commit to a home quarantine of 14 days. Violating home quarantine procedures is an act punishable by law." Children and staff should only return to school once their quarantine period is completed.

## **'Macro Bubbles'**

The school will be divided into 'Macro Bubbles' in order to be able to isolate any part of the school if needed.

Bubble 1: FS2 and Year 1

FS2 remain in the current FS2 corridor and Year 1 remain in the current Year 1 corridor.

Bubble 2: Year 2 and Year 3

Year 2 will move into the Year 4 classrooms and Year 3 will remain in their classes.

Bubble 3: Year 4 and Year 5

Year 4 will move into the 2 Arabic classrooms next to the Year 5's. Year 5 will remain in their current classrooms.

Bubble 4: Year 6 and Senior

Year 6 and Senior girls and boys will remain in their respective classrooms on the first floor.

## **Evolving Situation**

Please do note that the coronavirus situation is changing. We believe that we are best prepared for the new challenges if we remain flexible and adaptable, able to move between one model and another as the situation dictates. This approach also allows us to cope with any unexpected infections within our own school community.

Most importantly we will continue to offer students a high quality, child-centred learning experience, but in modified ways. BIS will continue to review and evolve our plans as we learn more and the global situation changes.