



Al Ain American School Reopening Policies and Guidelines

Al-Ain American School's framework for the reopening of school is based ensuring the safest possible environment – but one that is also mindful of the fact that our school have a mission to educate and to support everyone involved in this mission holistically.

Considering the precautionary measures taken by the UAE government, under the ADEK policies, and social distancing guidelines, we are happy to announce that the school will reopen for all the students on **21st February 2021**. The points below are taken into consideration in preparing the resumption of operations for the Term-2 academic year 2020-2021.

AAAS has established a COVID-19 Taskforce composed of the Response Team as well as relevant departments within the school (student affairs, academic affairs, community outreach, etc.). The school's COVID-19 Taskforce will ensure the following is completed prior to reopening and the school hours (detailed requirements are available in the relevant sections below):

- Conduct a general Risk Assessments
- Cleaning and Disinfection of the premises
- Map circulation routes
- Placement of signs, demarcations, off-limit areas
- Installation of safety equipment and ensuring stockage of materials
- Preparations of all spaces according to the protocol required for the intended activity to be held
- Verify that all staff have undergone COVID-19 Testing

We understand that starting the new school year might make your children feel nervous or reluctant to return to school.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN DURING THIS PHASE:

- Speak to your children about COVID-19 and let them know that it's natural to feel anxious or nervous about returning back to school.
- Have an open conversation about their anxieties and fears about returning to school and reassure them about safety measures and precautions the schools will have in place to keep everyone healthy.
- Be honest about the changes that they will see at school, such as the need to wear masks, inability to be close to their friends and teachers.

- Explain to your children that they will play an important role in keeping themselves and their community healthy by wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, and sanitizing hands.
- Continuously check in with your children to evaluate their well-being when school begins.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Al Ain American School will resume partial school operations where students will return to school at a lower capacity using a blended learning approach (face-to-face and distance learning).

Timings:

Grades	Face to Face (FTF)	Distance Learning (DL)
KG1 and KG2	7:30 am – 11:15 am	7:50 am – 11:00 am
Grades 1 – 9	7:30 am – 12:50 pm	7:50 am – 12:45 pm

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory during all modes of learning (face to face FTF or distance learning). A student will be marked absent if they fail to attend the class for the day, for:

- For face-to-face students the access points/gates will close by 8:05 am.
- Distance learning classes students will not be allowed to attend the session after 8:10 am.

An absence is only authorized for the following reasons, confirmed by a signed letter from Parents/Guardians or by the way of official documents to attest for the full duration of the absence:

- Illness
- Death of the first- or second-degree family member
- Scheduled doctor appointments
- Official community task
- Mandatory appearance before an official body
- Essential urgent family travel or matters such as medicals treatment or the death of a family member

Tuition Fee

- Full tuition fee will apply to students, regardless of the mode of attendance and reopening model followed by the school.

Bus Fee

- On withdrawal of your child from the school transportation, the school will not guarantee the availability of transportation for the remaining period of the academic year.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE ARRANGEMENTS

- Schools will carry out a general cleaning and disinfection for three times during the school-working hours.
- School will provide hand washing or hand sanitizing stations in key locations around the school premises and on the school bus.
- All classrooms will have sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer and covered bins to maintain proper hygiene.
- High-contact surfaces such as light switches, handrails, doorknobs, toilet seats etc. will be cleaned and disinfected **every hour**.
- Toilets will be cleaned and disinfected **after every time used**.
- Registered School Nurse will be present on the school premises during the school-working hours who will record any student who experience a sudden onset of COVID-19 symptom and isolate the student in the isolation room until the Parent/Guardian arrives.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTH & SAFETY

- Your child will have to wear a mask if they are older than 6 years (**KG1 and KG2 students do not have to wear a mask. Students from Grade 1 and above must wear a mask as directed**):
- If your child is unable to wear a mask, they may be allowed to wear a face shield if supported by a medical certificate
- Gloves are not recommended as they are less effective than hand washing in controlling the spread of COVID-19. However, they may be worn.
- It is mandated to inform you in case your child may have been exposed to a patient of COVID-19 while at school.
- AAAS strongly advise the parents to check their children's temperatures and screen for symptoms before leaving the house. Children who exhibit symptoms or who are feeling generally unwell are encouraged to stay home.
- **ENTERING AND EXITING THE SCHOOL**
- **NO** students will be allowed in the school premises before 7:30 am.
- Non-contact temperature screening will take place before entering the school.

AAAS has a set of criteria for authorized entry into the school premises, with the objective of limiting entry to essential persons only. Authorized persons must meet the health requirements for entry and follow the relevant entry/exit protocol.

Access Point/Gate	Authorized Persons Entry
Gate 1 (Main Gate)	Staff only
Gate 2	KG2 A, B, C, Grades 2, 4, and Grades 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (Boys)
Gate 3	Grades 1, 3, and Grades 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (Girls)
KG Gate	KG1 A and B

Authorized persons include:

- Enrolled Students
- School staff

Unauthorized persons are prohibited from entering the school premises, they must be identified and informed by the school accordingly. Unauthorized persons include:

- Parents/guardians
- Unenrolled siblings of students

Parents will **not** be allowed on the school premises, unless they are supporting a Student of Determination with a valid result of COVID-19, following proper social distancing and escorting them to the class. Only **one** parent/guardian can accompany children outside the entrance to the school. If you accompany your child as they stand in the queue, you **must** wear a mask.

AAAS has 4 access points/gates which will be designated as either an entry or an exit point. In order to avoid large queues and crowding the school has opted for staggered entry and exit points.

Parents will be allowed to remain in the designated waiting area to pick up your child for a maximum of 10 minutes. During this period, you will be required to maintain a 1.5m distance from other people.

Entrance Policy:

- Parents/Visitors with scheduled appointments will be allowed to enter the school premises during the school-working hours with a valid COVID-19 test (96 hrs) or with AI Hosn status with the 'vaccination volunteer' or 'emergency use'.

- Appointments/Meetings will not be scheduled more than 10 minutes.
- Parents visiting the finance and registration department will be allowed with a valid COVID-19 test (96 hrs) or with Al Hosn status with the 'vaccination volunteer' or 'emergency use'.
- Children cannot accompany their parents during the visit to the finance and registration department or any scheduled appointments.
- All visitors are expected to wear a mask at all times and maintain a social distance of 2 meters while waiting.
- Non-contact temperature screening will take place before entering the school.
- Fill in the required details at the entrance.

TRANSPORT SAFETY MEASURES

We understand that the journey to and from school can be very stressful for you and your child, especially in the current situation. Our priority will be to keep our child as safe as possible by adhering strictly to the guidelines by ADEK.

- Buses will operate at 66% of their capacity, and children will be required to maintain a distance while on the bus.
- Children will be assigned seats on the bus for the entire semester.
- No food and drinks will not be allowed on the bus.
- Temperature checks will happen before boarding the bus, and children with elevated body temperature or any symptoms such as the runny nose, cough, or rash will not be allowed on the bus.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized before and after picking up and dropping off of the student.

We encourage you to transport your children to and from school in order to ease the pressure on the school transport system.

IF YOUR CHILD BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL

- They will immediately be moved to the Isolation Room, where they will be monitored by a School Nurse.
- Parent/Guardian will be contacted immediately to retrieve your child from the school.
- The school shall not administer any medicines to your child.
- The school will inform you about the nearest hospital and COVID-19 testing center.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, you are mandated to inform the school so that they can take measures to secure the health of other students and staff who may have been exposed to the virus.

- Information about your child will **not be shared** with anyone other than the relevant government authorities.

School Uniform and Bags

- To purchase the school uniforms and school bags kindly visit the website <https://zaksstore.com/shop/aaas/en/>
- Regarding the school bag, make sure that your child's bag will meet the criteria mentioned by the ADEK and the school policy for bags. (*Refer to the bag policy attached*)

Recreation, Lunch and Break Times

- Students will receive regular breaks during the day. However, these breaks will likely be very different from what they experienced in the pre-COVID times: students will have to maintain a 1.5m distance between themselves and their friends.
- For the initial period after reopening, playground equipment like swings and slides will be off-limits to reduce chances of cross-contamination.
- No Canteens will be operating, so we strongly encourage you to provide your child with enough healthy packed lunch.
- Please send enough drinking water as no water cooler will be available at school
- Children will be allowed to take off their masks to have lunch under supervision.

Sports and Cultural Activities

- Physical education at school is suspended until further notice. Virtual activities may be provided.
- AAAS has reduced the number of cultural activities that they offer, such as music, art and performing arts classes.

ONGOING COMMUNICATION

- Channels of communication will be through the class dojo, emails, SMS and WhatsApp broadcast.
- Kindly refer to the school website for the policies, Zoom IDs, weekly windows, and updated timetables/schedules.

We trust that the information we have provided you in this document supports your understanding on how we collectively planned to prepare for the school's reopening for Term-2. We request you to support and follow the above mentioned for the safety of your child and our staff.