





**BLOOM WORLD
ACADEMY**

Reference Number

BWA-19

Inclusion Policy	
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Reviewer	John Bell – Principal 
	Nilay Ozral – Bloom Education CEO 



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1. Aim

Bloom World Academy (BWA) considers this policy to be:

- An essential part of the school;
- Supportive to staff and students in managing certain situations;
- An important framework that will ensure consistency in applying values and principles throughout the establishment;
- A roadmap for day-to-day operations;
- Compliant with laws and regulations, gives guidance for decision-making, and streamlining internal processes;
- Designed to influence and determine all major decisions, actions and all activities taking place within the boundaries set by them;
- Aligned to the school's guiding statements and identified goals which are formed in strategic leadership meetings.

2. Statement of intent

BWA believes this policy to be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, mission and vision, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the relevant UAE legislation.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all stakeholders.

4. Unique definitions

A shared understanding of the following definitions is integral to the implementation of this policy, and as such staff should endeavour to use the correct terminology at all times.

SoD will be used as an abbreviation for Students of Determination throughout this policy.

5. Processing and practice

The follow narrative is explicit in its guidance, consistency, accountability, efficiency, and clarity on how the school operates with regards to the Inclusion policy,

Bloom World Academy is committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of their educational needs can realise their learning potential. We recognise that some students face



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barriers to their learning, and we aim to identify and remove these barriers through a variety of means. In addition, we recognise that some students will require additional challenge and extension in areas where their ability is particularly advanced.

We aim to raise the aspirations of and the expectations of all students of determination by: providing a broad and balanced curriculum; responding to the diverse learning needs of our students; setting suitable learning challenges and ensuring that our students are equipped with the skills that enable them to overcome barriers to learning.

Meeting the needs of SoD is a whole academy responsibility. The view that all teachers are teachers of students with special educational needs is embedded into our everyday practice. The Inclusion Team (Integra) offer a range of support and advice including staff training that enables our teachers to plan for and adjust their teaching to meet the needs of our students. Early identification and regular monitoring ensure that students with SEND are identified quickly and offered the appropriate support. All students identified as SoD, will be provided with equal access to the curriculum through support that will be given in a variety of ways to suit individual needs and requirements.

BWA defines the term special educational needs as follows:

Students have a special educational need if they experience a particular difficulty or challenge when learning, which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. This includes:

- If a child experiences a significantly greater difficulty or challenge in learning than the majority of their peers, or
- If they have a medical issue that prevents or hinders them from making full use of educational provision provided by the School for students of the same age.

BWA uses the following 12 categories of special educational needs, in line with KHDA guidelines in the document 'Revised Categorisation for Students of Determination 2019-2020'

Cognition and Learning:

1. Intellectual disability (including intellectual disability unspecified)
2. Specific learning disorders
3. Multiple disabilities
4. Developmental delay (younger than five years of age)



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Communication and Interaction:

5. Communication disorders
6. Autism Spectrum Disorders

Social, Emotional and Mental Health:

7. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
8. Psycho emotional disorders

Physical, Sensory and Medical:

9. Sensory Impairment
10. Deaf/blind disability
11. Physical disability
12. Chronic or acute medical conditions

The Graduated Approach

BWA uses a customised personalized approach for all our students to ensure they are supported and challenged. Additional support such as IEP's run alongside the LAP (Learning Achievement Passports)

Wave 1 – Low-level of need/provision

The student is showing improvement in class, but further accommodations and personalised instruction are needed to fully support their learning and allow them to demonstrate their true potential. For students in Wave 1, it may be beneficial to monitor their progress, even if they do not have a diagnosis or specialist report, as they may have previously required more intensive support but are now making progress and may need to be prevented from regressing.

Wave 2 – Mid-level of need/provision

The student is falling behind in their progress through Wave 1 and requires additional assistance, both inside and outside of the classroom, provided by a teacher or member of the inclusion department through individual or small group interventions. For Wave 2 students, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or an Emotional and Behavioral Support Plan (EBSP) may be necessary, regardless of whether or not they have a diagnosis or specialist report.



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Wave 3 – Highest level of need/provision

The student has complex and significant needs that exceed the capabilities and resources of the school and necessitate external professional assistance. This support may be provided on-site or at a specialised center. Wave 3 students typically have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a diagnosis and associated specialist reports, or are in the process of being evaluated.

At BWA, we take the graduated approach of '**Assess, Plan, Do, Review.**'

Assess: the need is assessed, understood, and communicated as appropriate.

Plan: an evidence-based intervention plan is agreed, including timeframes, expected outcomes, stretching and relevant academic and developmental targets.

Do: the plan is implemented.

Review: the impact of the plan is monitored and evaluated in line with the agreed timeframe. Reviews may include meeting with parents and relevant professionals. It is at this point that the student will be placed on the Integra (SoD) register. The intervention agreed upon will be closely monitored by the Integra team and will be reviewed at the end of the time frame alongside the LAP meetings.

More Able/Gifted and Talented

At BWA, our goal is to foster the individual strengths and abilities of all our students, creating a learning environment where each student can thrive. When a student at BWA is recognised as gifted or talented, according to UAE national standards, the Academy provides the necessary support and opportunities to challenge them so that they can fully realise their potential, including our customised pathways that provide stretch opportunities.

Teachers stretch more able learners to reach and extend their potential through differentiated activities within their lessons. Upon entry, the CATS scores are analysed and students who have a CATS mean score above 124 are placed on the register.

Gifted and talented students are defined as follows by the KHDA:

Gifted: 'A student who is in possession of untrained and spontaneously expressed exceptional natural ability in one or more domain of human ability'.

Talented: 'A student who has been able to transform their giftedness into exceptional performance'.



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EAL

Students must not be regarded as having a barrier to learning solely because their language or the form of language used in their home is different from the language in which they are taught.

EAL students, from complete beginners to those with considerable fluency, will have varying degrees of difficulty in accessing the full curriculum and in achieving their full potential. Research has shown that those new to English or non native speakers, will acquire conversational fluency in two years but will need a minimum of five years to achieve competence in academic English. Such students will need language support and be immersed in an engaging learning environment, to support their development of new vocabulary and exceed their potential.

Our main aim is for all EAL students to become confident in speaking, listening, reading and writing to enable them to access the curriculum and communicate effectively with their peers and other adults

Provision for these students can be found in the Academy's EAL policy.

Our Principles

At BWA, we believe that providing high-quality, personalised instruction is the foundation for effectively addressing the needs of students with or at risk of having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This is referred to as Quality First Teaching (QFT). By implementing QFT, we aim to meet the needs of the majority of our students. All of our teachers are responsible for closely monitoring the progress of all students, identifying any additional support required, and delivering and reviewing appropriate interventions for students with special needs.

Teachers at BWA will have a thorough understanding of the needs of their students and will collaborate with and seek guidance from the Integra Team to provide effective support. Additionally, we avoid the practice of streaming or grouping students by ability and instead utilise mixed-ability settings whenever possible, as research suggests that students with special needs (SoD) and G&T students benefit from this approach.

The International Baccalaureate

All students at BWA are equally regarded in terms of the IB Learner Profile, and the aim to develop the attributes of the whole person applies to every student. The Inclusion Policy promotes the principle of inclusiveness across the Academy and amongst all members of the community.

The IB supports the following principles of an inclusive education: "Inclusion is a process by which schools and others develop their cultures, policies and practices to include all students".



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UNESCO Guidelines for Inclusion.

- IB Standard A9: The School supports access for students to the IB programmes and philosophy
- IB Standard A9a: The School strongly encourages participation for all students
- IB Standard B1.5b: The School has developed and implements an Inclusion policy that is consistent with IB expectations and with the School's Admissions Policy:
- An inclusive education service offers excellence and choice, incorporating the views of all stakeholders.
- The interests of all students must be safeguarded.
- The school community and other authorising bodies should actively seek to remove barriers to learning and participation.
- All students should have access to an appropriate education that affords them the opportunity to achieve their personal potential. With the right skills training, strategies and support, the majority of students with special educational needs can be successfully included in mainstream education.
- Mainstream education will not always be appropriate for every student all of the time. Equally, just because mainstream education may not be appropriate at a particular stage, it does not prevent the student from being included successfully at any other stage." (3) Special education needs within the International Baccalaureate programmes (2010)

Access Arrangements

Definition – IB Access and Inclusion Policy

'Access arrangements are changes introduced to teaching, learning and assessment to remove or reduce barriers. They do not change what the student is expected to learn and do not lower expectations, but instead provide the optimal support to address challenges and to enable the student to work around them. At a fundamental level, they address equal access and fairness to learning and teaching and in addition, validity and meaningfulness to assessment.'

The IB believes that all candidates should be allowed to demonstrate their ability under assessment conditions that are as fair as possible. Standard assessment conditions may put some candidates at a disadvantage by preventing them from demonstrating their level of attainment. Inclusive access arrangements may be applied in these circumstances if it is observed that they could reduce or minimise barriers for the candidate.

Inclusive access arrangements may be necessary due to:



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- long-term learning support requirements
- temporary medical conditions
- additional language learning.

The purpose of access arrangements is to remove or reduce barriers that students may face in teaching, learning and assessment. When the Academy recognises that a student has access requirements, the 'IB-Access and inclusion' policy is applied in conjunction with teacher observations to plan the necessary access arrangements for the student.

Based on the principle of optimal support, arrangements must be accurately planned to remove or reduce barriers; they must neither be more nor less than what the student requires.

The access arrangements for a student must be used for learning and teaching; this means that they must be used during classroom instruction, classwork and related activities and tests so that it is their normal way of working.

Access arrangements will be continuously monitored to ensure that they remain the optimal support for that student.

Training for staff

At BWA, staff will undergo ongoing training throughout the year to effectively support students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The training will be tailored to the specific needs of both staff and students, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that accommodations and modifications are consistently applied not only during standardised assessments, but also throughout the course of study, including all classroom work and formative evaluations.

- Advice and support from the Integra team regarding individual students
- Access to SoD Strategy booklet
- SoD One Drive which includes student profiles for all student
- Collaboration in designing personalised intervention plans which detail the student's needs, recommend strategies, and identify targets.
- CPD for all staff regarding students with IEP targets
- CPD for all staff on skilled differentiation, run by Integra and Teaching & Learning teams

Monitoring

Students' progress is continually monitored by subject teachers. SoD pupils are also tracked and monitored closely by the Integra team every term and within the half termly LAP meetings. If any of



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the students are highlighted as a concern the Integra team will communicate this with the PYP/MYP coordinators. Recommendations may be made for further intervention.

At BWA, students with special needs (SoD) have a Student Profile that is reviewed annually. This review can be conducted by the Integra team or the student's key tutor, depending on the student's needs and level of support. Additionally, students who have IEPs will also have an annual review of their needs. This review process may involve participation from external agencies, appropriate therapists, and career guidance professionals.

Storing and managing information

All files containing information about SoD are confidential and kept in a secure location. We will ask for parental consent before sharing any personal information about a child with other external professional agencies.

Admissions

BWA embraces applications from individuals with special needs and disabilities and values the diversity and positive impact they have on the academy community. We acknowledge the well-documented benefits of inclusive education for all students, including the enhancement of social skills, personal responsibility, self-esteem, increased tolerance, and a more inclusive attitude towards diversity- all of which are crucial for fostering a cohesive community.

In order to develop provision plans that will enable a student of determination to be enrolled at BWA:

- Applicants should declare identified needs or disabilities at the time of application. Failure to do so is in breach of the KHDA parent contract, and is likely to affect the student's ability to make expected progress;
- Existing students should declare identified needs or disabilities that subsequently come to light at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

If a prospective student at BWA is identified as having confirmed or suspected special educational needs or disabilities, the academy will conduct an internal 'assessment of need', which may include an introduction to the Integra department and as required, collaboration/partnership with external specialised services such as educational psychology and speech and language therapy. It is important to note that any recommendations for external assessments are made with the intention of identifying



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strengths and challenges and providing evidence-based strategies to support successful integration into BWA. A formal diagnosis is not a requirement for enrollment.

The assessment of need will be used to determine the level and type of support each student would benefit from.

The Academy will facilitate this level of support via interventions, accommodations, curricular and examination modifications required to enable equitable access to educational opportunities across all phases of schooling. We acknowledge the dynamic nature of each individual learner and as such, the level of support may be subject to change over time. Parents will be informed of the level of support which has been recommended upon entry and will continue to be part of the ongoing discussions to review and revise this over time.

On the rare occasion when student of determination is denied enrolment or re- enrolment, the KHDA's non-admission notification procedure is followed. This must take place whether the student is identified as a student of determination prior to the application or is identified as a result of the entry assessment procedure. The school must declare and justify the reason(s) for non-admission, which may include (but are not limited to) inadequate infrastructure; limited curriculum modification options and alternative pathways; learning support staff are fully utilised within that year group/phase; insufficient specialist knowledge/staffing in the student's particular area of need. This must be completed and uploaded to the KHDA online portal within 2 working days of declining the admission (Updated Guidelines for Transfers and Admissions, 2021).

Admissions processes and procedures for Students of Determination are detailed in the **School's Admission Policy**.

7. Roles and responsibilities

With regard to implementation of this policy roles and responsibilities are clearly stated below:

Role of the Board

It is the responsibility of the board to:

- Support the school to evaluate and develop quality and impact of provision for students with SoD across the Academy.



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Role of the Principal

It is the responsibility of the principal to:

- Retain overall responsibility for ensuring that the day-to-day management of SoD provision happens in line with this policy, and that systems are kept confidential.
- Keep the board fully informed on any SoD concerns and issues.

Role of Inclusion Team (Integra)

It is the responsibility of Integra to:

- Co-ordinate the provision for students to make sure all students receive a consistent, high quality response to their needs.
- Ensure parents and carers are involved in supporting their child's learning, are kept informed and are involved in reviewing their child's progress.
- Liaise with all the other people who may be involved with the student's learning, e.g. Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists and other specialists.
- Update the Integra register, which records the needs, progress and important details about SoD.
- Provide specialist support for other teachers and support staff in the school so they can help SoD achieve the best possible progress
- Ensure teachers and pastoral staff are aware of the needs of individual students and know how to meet these needs
- Advise teachers and pastoral staff on intervention strategies to support SoD.

Role of the Teachers

It is the responsibility of teachers to:

- Manage and create an inclusive classroom environment.
- Ensure students receive differentiated instruction according to ability.
- Have overall responsibility for the planning and delivery of lessons to their class. Teachers seek to provide students with learning opportunities that allow all students to access the subject taught, encounter appropriate challenge and promote progress.
- Take the lead role in monitoring the attainment, learning, behaviour and well-being of students in their class.
- Create positive and supportive relationships with and between students. These are central to successful liaison with parents/carers and colleagues.



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Role of the School counsellor

It is the responsibility of the counsellor to:

- Observe and engage with any students who may be vulnerable, liaising with teachers or senior staff regarding any concerns.
- Be the point of contact and support all students including new students as required.
- Help to devise ways of best supporting the students they work with
- Observe the well-being of students within social settings and spend time within classes or in circle time working with individual students.
- Work alongside staff and students to promote positive relationships for all students throughout the school day; including break and lunchtimes.
- Undertake individual or group work with students whose behaviour gives us cause for concern.
- Take a supporting role in working alongside external family support agencies.

This Policy is written with reference to the following documents pertaining to the education of people of determination in Dubai:

1.1.1 the UAE Federal Law 29 (2006) concerning the Rights of People with Special Needs;

1.1.2 UAE Federal Law 2 (2015) against Discrimination and Hatred;

The School's admissions policy adheres to the stipulations of the;

1.2 Directives and Guidelines for Inclusive Education (DGIE) (Published January 2020).

1.3 Dubai Inclusive Education Policy Framework (DIEPF) (Published November 2017).

1.4 Implementing Inclusive Education: A Guide for Schools (IIE) (Published 2019)

1.5 Revised Categorisation Framework for Students of Determination (Published 2019).

1.6 Advocating for Inclusive Education: A Guide for Parents (Published 2021)

1.7 Updated Guidelines for Admissions and Transfers (Published 2021)

1.8 Federal Law No 29 of 2006 concerning the Rights of People of Determination.

1.9 Dubai Law No 2 of 2014 concerning the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Emirate of Dubai.



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1.10 UAE Executive Council Resolution No. (2) of 2017 Regulating Private Schools in the Emirate of Dubai including;

UAE Executive Council Resolution No. (2) of 2017 Regulating Private Schools in the Emirate of Dubai including;

Article 4 Clause 14: To establish the conditions, rules, and standards that are required to facilitate the enrolment and integration of Students with disabilities in Private Schools;

Article 13 Clause 16: To treat its Students equitably and not discriminate against them on grounds of nationality, race, gender, religion, social class, or special educational needs of Students with disabilities;

Article 13 Clause 17: To admit Students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of its Educational Permit, the rules adopted by the KHDA, and the relevant legislation in force;

Article 13 Clause 19: To provide all supplies required for conducting the Educational activity, including devices, equipment, furniture, and other supplies which the KHDA deems necessary, such as the supplies required by Students with disabilities;

8. Associated documentation

When implementing a policy consideration must be given to how it aligns and supports other policies. To ensure consistency this policy is fully aligned with the following key policies:

Admissions

EAL Policy

9. Training implications

This policy will be shared with all BWA staff in the staff handbook and will be circulated to parents through the parent handbook.

Staff will be trained and /or refreshed at the start of each academic year – during the annual BWA induction week. For new joiners they will be walked through the policy by the Vice Principal during their induction period.



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10. Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children as the safety and protection of children is of paramount importance to everyone in this school. We work hard to create a culture of vigilance and at all times we will ensure what is best in the interests of all children.

We believe that all children have the right to be safe in our society. We recognise that we have a duty to ensure arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by creating a positive school atmosphere through our teaching and learning, pastoral support and care for both pupils and school personnel, training for school personnel and with working with parents. We teach all our children about safeguarding.

We work hard to ensure that everyone keeps careful watch throughout the school and in everything we do for possible dangers or difficulties. We want all children to feel safe at all times. We want to hear their views of how we can improve all aspects of safeguarding and from the evidence gained we put into place all necessary improvements.

11. Equity Impact Assessment

We have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any member of staff or student and it helps to promote equality at this school.