



دائرة التعليم والمعرفة  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND KNOWLEDGE

# Inspection Report of Al Muna Primary School

**Overall Effectiveness: Outstanding**

Academic Year 2017 – 2018

lqraa



دائرة التعليم والمعرفة  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND KNOWLEDGE

## Contents

School Information .....	3
The Performance of the School .....	4
Evaluation of the school's overall performance .....	5
Progress made since last inspection and capacity to improve.....	6
Key areas of strength and area for improvement.....	7
Provision for Reading .....	8
Performance Standard 1: Students' Achievement.....	9
Performance Standard 2: Students' personal and social development, and their innovation skills .....	13
Performance Standard 3: Teaching and Assessment.....	15
Performance Standard 4: Curriculum.....	16
Performance Standard 5: The protection, care, guidance and support of students .....	18
Performance Standard 6: Leadership and management.....	20



## School Information

General Information	Inspection date:	from	26 Muharram 1439	to	29-Muharram 1439
		from	16-Oct-17	to	19-Oct-17
	School name	Al Muna Primary School			
	School ID	191			
	School address	Al Muna School , Between 5th and 7th Street, Abu Dhabi, UAE			
	School telephone	+971 (0)2 501 4777			
	School official email	almuna.pvt@adec.ac.ae			
	School website	www.almunaacademy.sch.ae			
	School curriculum	English National Curriculum			
	School phases	Foundation - Primary			
	Fee range and category	AED 41,580 (FS1- Year 6) (High)			
	Number of lessons observed	104			
	Number of joint lessons observed	13			
	Staff Information	Total number of teachers	43		
Turnover rate		18%			
Number of teaching assistants		35			
Teacher- student ratio		FS 1-13 Primary 1-14			
Student Information	Total number of students	591			
	% of Emirati Students	21%			
	% of Largest nationality groups	1. Indian 12%			
		2. Egyptian 9%			
		3. UK 9%			
	% of SEN students	10%			
	% of students per phase	KG: 26%	Middle: n/a		
Primary: 74%		High: n/a			
Gender	Boys and girls				



## The Performance of the School

<p><b>Performance Standard 1</b></p> <p>Students' Achievement</p> <p>Outstanding</p>	<p><b>Performance Standard 2</b></p> <p>Students' personal and social development, and their innovation skills</p> <p>Outstanding</p>
<p><b>Performance Standard 3</b></p> <p>Teaching and Assessment</p> <p>Outstanding</p>	<p><b>Performance Standard 4</b></p> <p>Curriculum</p> <p>Outstanding</p>
<p><b>Performance Standard 5</b></p> <p>The protection, care, guidance and support of students</p> <p>Outstanding</p>	<p><b>Performance Standard 6</b></p> <p>Leadership and management</p> <p>Outstanding</p>



## Evaluation of the school's overall performance

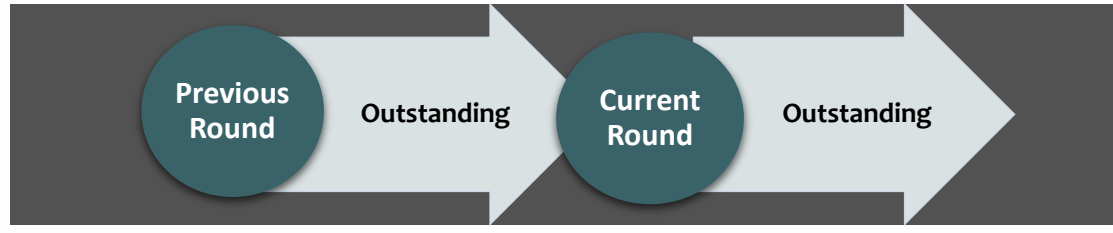
---

- The overall performance of the school is outstanding. One third of students have attended the school for only two years. The school has successfully integrated these incoming students through a quality induction programme, and maintains very good standards of achievement. Teacher turn-over is low.
- Students' overall achievement is outstanding. Attainment is outstanding in English, maths and science at primary level, and in English at KG. Students' progress is very good overall with progress in English, maths and science being outstanding. Trends over time show the school is maintaining high standards across all English-medium subjects and an improvement trend across all Arabic-medium subjects, particularly Islamic education. Overall, students' learning skills are outstanding.
- Students' personal development is outstanding. Their behaviour throughout the school is exemplary. They display highly positive attitudes in lessons and around the school. Students demonstrate an excellent understanding of Emirati culture and continue to live up to the school values, including kindness to others. Attendance and punctuality are very good.
- The quality of teaching and assessment is outstanding. Across the school, teachers apply their knowledge of their subjects expertly, and plan imaginative lessons that meet the needs of all students. The school analyses internal assessment data rigorously to track the progress of different groups of students, and responds with appropriate teaching strategies.
- Curriculum design, and its implementation and adaption are outstanding. The school has established a highly innovative and imaginative curriculum that meets the needs of all students, and motivates them exceptionally well to learn. The curriculum provides excellent cross-curriculum opportunities for students to transfer knowledge effectively between subjects.
- The overall quality of protection, care, guidance and support is outstanding. The school informs staff, students and parents of the procedures for safeguarding students. Rigorous risk assessments are conducted by teachers prior to all trips. The school provides highly effective support for students with special learning needs (SEN) and for those who are gifted and talented.
- Leadership and management overall is outstanding. The inspirational principal and leadership team have established a dynamic vision that is understood and shared by all stakeholders. Systematic self-evaluation approaches contribute to the identification and development of best practice in teaching and assessment within the school. The Governing Board is both supportive and



appropriately challenging to ensure the continued very high performance of the school.

### Progress made since last inspection and capacity to improve



- The school has made very good progress in all areas recommended in the previous report.
- Attainment and progress in Islamic education have improved as a result of better teaching. Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and now plan effective lessons to meet the needs of different groups of students. Opportunities for students to be more active in their learning are now in place, which is helping students understand their learning better. As a result, attainment and progress are now very good.
- Improved teaching and more active learning for students in Arabic and social studies are now in place. These are not yet sufficiently embedded to raise attainment and progress within these subjects.
- With stability in the leadership team, the school's continued capacity to improve is very good.



## Key areas of strength and area for improvement

---

### Key areas of strength

1. Inspirational leadership that motivates staff and ensures an inclusive school, a shared vision that is understood by staff, students and parents, and highly effective self-evaluation which all lead to very high student achievement.
2. Students' active engagement in imaginative and engaging lessons that promote their critical thinking and innovation skills.
3. High quality teaching and assessment which enables students to make very good progress in their learning.

### Key areas for improvement

1. Further improve students' achievement in Arabic and social studies by:
  - i. ensuring that teachers of these subjects further develop their teaching approaches by adopting best practice evident elsewhere in the school
  - ii. providing more opportunities for students to work collaboratively
  - iii. assessing students' attainment and progress rigorously, and using the results to match teaching to students' needs.



## Provision for Reading

---

- The school provides a wide range of opportunities for students to read.
- School leaders have highlighted the promotion of reading in the school development plan. Staff have developed specific English and Arabic guided reading programmes to improve students' reading. Students are encouraged to read every day for pleasure and for information. The school's promotion of reading plan is reviewed regularly by senior and subject leaders.
- The school libraries are well stocked with both Arabic and English books. Students attend weekly lessons in the library and they visit at other times to choose books for recreational reading. On occasion, parents join reading lessons to support their children. Younger students are encouraged to take books home for adults to read with them.
- Children's authors visit the school to promote a love of reading. Teachers regularly encourage students to read in different subjects.





## Performance Standard 1: Students' Achievement

Students' achievement Indicators		KG	Primary		
Islamic Education	Attainment	N/A	Very Good		
	Progress	N/A	Very Good		
Arabic (as a First Language)	Attainment	Good	Good		
	Progress	Good	Good		
Arabic (as an additional Language)	Attainment	Good	Good		
	Progress	Good	Good		
Social Studies	Attainment	N/A	Good		
	Progress	N/A	Good		
English	Attainment	Outstanding	Outstanding		
	Progress	Outstanding	Outstanding		
Mathematics	Attainment	Very Good	Outstanding		
	Progress	Outstanding	Outstanding		
Science	Attainment	Very Good	Outstanding		
	Progress	Outstanding	Outstanding		
Other subjects (Art, Music, PE)	Attainment	Very Good	Very Good		
	Progress	Very Good	Very Good		
Learning Skills		Outstanding	Outstanding		



### Overall achievement

- The overall quality of students' achievement is outstanding. The school has maintained very high standards, with overall attainment being very good in both the foundation and primary stages. The school's attainment data indicates that attainment in English, mathematics, and science is outstanding, and very good in Islamic education, Arabic and social studies. In lessons, attainment is outstanding in English and good in Arabic first and second language and social studies. In Islamic education, mathematics and science, attainment is very good.
- Progress is very good overall. Student progress over time indicates that the school is maintaining consistently high standards. Most students are making better than expected progress against curriculum standards. School benchmarking data indicates that students arrive at school with a low starting point in their development. By the end of FS2 most make very good progress and exceed curriculum expectations. This continues in the primary phase where most students make better than expected progress over time.

### Subjects

- Students' achievement in **Islamic education** is very good. The large majority of students attain levels of knowledge and understanding that are above curriculum standards. They demonstrate very good knowledge and understanding of the basic Islamic concepts, can recite the Quran clearly and apply the prophet's sayings in their daily life.
- Students' achievement in **Arabic as a first language** is good across the school. Listening, speaking and reading skills are better than writing skills but all are above the MOE curriculum standards. Most students can read age-appropriate materials with good accuracy and understanding. There are few opportunities for students in lessons to develop their extended writing. Students' overall achievement in **Arabic as a second language** is good. Listening and reading skills are better than speaking and writing skills but all are above the MOE curriculum standards. Most students have a good range of Arabic vocabulary and can read short sentences with understanding.
- Students' achievement in **UAE Social studies** is good. The majority of students attain levels of knowledge and understanding that are above curriculum standards. Most students have a good knowledge of the UAE and appreciate their ruler and the services that are offered to his people.
- Students' achievement in **English** is outstanding. Most students, including those



with special educational needs, attain levels above curriculum expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening. In the foundation stage, the majority of children exceed expectations from their assessed starting points on entry to the school. Most students make outstanding progress over time and, by the end of Year 6, students' achievements are well above curriculum expectations.

- Student achievement in **mathematics** is outstanding. Students make outstanding progress in the foundation stage and have a secure knowledge of number. In Years 1-6, students demonstrate exemplary skills in calculation and problem solving. They have very good mental agility skills.
- Students' achievement in **science** is outstanding. Across the school, most students make outstanding progress. In primary, most students attain levels above curriculum expectations. Most students have a secure understanding of scientific concepts such as a 'fair test' and hypothesising. In investigations, they use their critical thinking and problem-solving skills very well.
- Students' achievement in **other subjects** is very good. Most students are developing creative skills in art such as being able to paint in the style of pointillism. Within physical education, students engage enthusiastically and are developing high quality skills in swimming and in basketball. Computers and tablets are used very well by students across the school to support independent learning.

### Learning skills

- A major strength of the school is that most students are innovative and enterprising. Their skills of enquiry, problem -solving and critical thinking are very well developed.
- From FS1, they have very effective skills in using ICT to support learning across the curriculum. Throughout the school, most students can work very effectively in pairs, and collaboratively in groups to find the best way to complete tasks, which are frequently open-ended. They articulate their learning very well.
- The school's cross curricular approach to learning, with an emphasis on learning in real life and relevant contexts enables students to apply their learning skills successfully and gain a deep understanding of their world.



**Areas of Relative Strength:**

- Attainment and progress in Islamic education.
- Very high attainment and outstanding progress within English.
- The very well -developed enquiry, problem -solving and critical thinking skills of most students.

**Areas for Improvement:**

---

- Attainment and progress in Arabic, and social studies to match the very high achievement in other subjects.



## Performance Standard 2: Students' personal and social development, and their innovation skills

Students' personal and social development, and their innovation skills Indicators	KG	Primary	Middle	High
Personal development	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A
Understanding of Islamic values and awareness of Emirati and world cultures	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A
Social responsibility and innovation skills	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A

- Students' personal and social development, and innovation skills are outstanding. They display highly positive and responsible attitudes in lessons and around the school. They are consistently self-disciplined, and their behaviour is exemplary. Across the school, students are friendly and respectful to one other, to staff and visitors. Older students manage their own projects and make informed decisions.
- Students participate in an extensive range of activities that promote healthy lifestyles. They understand the need for healthy diets and regular physical exercise. Attendance at 96% and punctuality are very good. Students understand that every lesson counts.
- Students demonstrate an excellent understanding of Emirati culture. They live up to the school values including kindness to others. School values are influenced by Islamic values. Students demonstrate excellent understanding of other world cultures from discussions with peers born in different countries who attend their school.
- Students work diligently to support others in school and in the wider community. For example, older students organise table-top sales to raise funds for charities such as Red Crescent and cancer research.
- Students collaborative purposefully in learning activities that promote innovation and creative thinking in classrooms. They demonstrate growing ability to manage their own projects. Participation in the school council and eco committee enables them to voice their opinions and propose innovation solutions to everyday



problems.

**Areas of Relative Strength:**

---

- Students' innovative skills in lessons and in activities.
- Highly positive relationships between students and staff, and amongst students themselves.
- Students' social skills and their sense of social responsibility.

**Areas for Improvement:**

---

- Further development of links with the local community.



### Performance Standard 3: Teaching and Assessment

Teaching and Assessment Indicators	KG	Primary	Middle	High
Teaching for effective learning	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A
Assessment	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A

- The overall quality of teaching and assessment is outstanding across both phases of the school.
- Across the school, teachers demonstrate expert knowledge of their subjects and plan effective and imaginative lessons to meet the needs of different groups of students. They share their knowledge in meaningful contexts. Teachers organise challenging group work and paired activities that help develop students' learning skills. Teachers within Arabic and social studies continue to develop their teaching skills.
- Almost all teachers challenge the most-able students, and provide support for the less-able students by working very effectively with support staff, advising them on how to support students.
- In English-medium subjects, most teachers limit didactic teaching and use open-ended questions very effectively to challenge students to think deeply, and to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Almost all teachers use assessment data skilfully to meet the learning needs of all groups of students and optimise their progress. They mark work regularly and give helpful advice about the next steps to progress learning.
- Most lessons include a range of activities, and teachers use practical resources very effectively to help students to learn.
- The school uses internal assessment data skilfully and effectively to track the progress of different groups of students. Senior leaders use international data to set ambitious achievement targets which inspires the school to maintain very high levels of achievement.

#### Areas of Relative Strength:

- Teachers' questioning skills.
- Meeting the learning needs of different groups of students.

#### Areas for Improvement:

- The quality of teaching in Arabic and social studies.



## Performance Standard 4: Curriculum

Curriculum Indicators	KG	Primary	Middle	High
Curriculum design and implementation	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A
Curriculum adaptation	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A

- The curriculum, which has a very clear rationale, is relevant, broad and balanced. It meets the needs of all students and motivates them exceptionally well to learn. The curriculum is highly effective in developing skills, knowledge and understanding in all subjects. It promotes enjoyment, innovation and challenge for almost all students.
- The school vision permeates all aspects of curriculum planning and ensures that the implemented curriculum is comprehensive and highly innovative. School leaders have very successfully embedded excellent learning experiences about UAE culture and society across all subjects. The planned curriculum is very well structured to ensure continuity and progression in the students' learning. It provides excellent cross-curricular opportunities for students to transfer knowledge purposefully across subjects.
- An extensive range of extra-curricular activities, which promote and respond to students' interests, is available to them. The range of opportunities enables them to make choices, research and problem-solve, and be physically active.
- Opportunities for enterprise and innovation are deeply embedded and facilitated through cross-curricular links, extra-curricular activities, and volunteering and fund-raising activities.
- School leaders review the curriculum regularly and rigorously to ensure excellent provision in all subjects.
- The new Moral Education programme is delivered effectively by class teachers who ensure students' learning is consistent and relevant.

### Areas of Relative Strength:

- A curriculum that is well modified to meet the needs of all students.
- Interesting and relevant extra-curricular activities.





دائرة التعليم والمعرفة  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND KNOWLEDGE

### Areas for Improvement:

- Further promotion of links with Emirati culture.



## Performance Standard 5: The protection, care, guidance and support of students

The protection, care, guidance and support of students Indicators	KG	Primary	Middle	High
Health and safety, including arrangements for child protection/safeguarding	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A
Care and support	Outstanding	Outstanding	N/A	N/A

- The overall quality of protection care, guidance and support for students is outstanding. All staff, students and parents are informed of the clearly written procedures for the safeguarding of students, and parents report they are confident about the safety of their children. The nurse, counsellor, and health-and-safety officer liaise effectively, and deal sensitively with students' needs and concerns.
- The school premises are very well suited to the educational needs of all students. Rigorous safety checks are made frequently on all facilities including equipment, school transport and the swimming pool. All checks are documented accurately and filed appropriately. Comprehensive risk assessments precede all visits, and parental volunteers attend 'helping hands' training to ensure they provide appropriate support. Ensuring students' safety on the internet is given high priority.
- Interactions between teachers and students are exemplified by warmth, trust and mutual respect.
- Students with special educational needs (SEN) are identified promptly and their teachers are informed confidentially about their medical or academic needs. The school staff works closely with outside agencies to ensure accurate identification of each student's learning needs.
- The school provides highly effective support for students with SEN and for those who are gifted and talented. Collaborative curriculum planning and in-class support ensure all lessons are inclusive. Individualised planning ensures that the learning needs of students with SEN are met and their progress accelerated.
- The school gives excellent guidance to both students and parents regarding the transition to secondary school. Well co-ordinated visits to the linked secondary schools, complemented by workshops for parents, ease their transition. The school promotes a healthy lifestyle very effectively both in the classroom and through a comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities and campaigns.



دائرة التعليم والمعرفة  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND KNOWLEDGE

#### **Areas of relative strength**

- The safe, secure and inclusive school community.
- The targeted support given to students with special educational needs

#### **Areas for improvement**

- Ongoing development of safe and healthy lifestyles.



## Performance Standard 6: Leadership and management

Leadership and management Indicators	
The effectiveness of leadership	Outstanding
Self-evaluation and improvement planning	Outstanding
Partnerships with parents and the community	Outstanding
Governance	Outstanding
Management, staffing, facilities and resources	Outstanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The overall quality of leadership and management is outstanding. The inspirational principal and leadership team have established a dynamic vision that is shared by all. They have initiated an annual CPD programme, complemented by weekly courses, to facilitate the ongoing development of staff skills. As a result, they have developed exemplary practice in teaching which leads to very good standards in students' academic and personal development. Morale is very high within this inclusive school.</li><li>• School leaders' and teachers' approaches to self-evaluation are systematic and rigorous. These reflective approaches are fully embedded in the school's improvement planning process. They lead to the identification and development of best practice in teaching and assessment within the school. The development plan drives improvement very successfully in the school.</li><li>• Partnerships with parents are consistently professional and highly effective in raising standards. There is a clear focus in the school on consultation and empowering parents as partners. Parents receive accurate and informative reports which identify what their children need to do to improve. Very positive links with local sports and arts foundations enrich the students' learning.</li><li>• The board of governors has a comprehensive and accurate view of the school. It includes effective participation from parents and the local community. Board members have a sound understanding of the school's performance. The board is supportive whilst holding senior leaders fully accountable to ensure the continued outstanding performance of the school.</li><li>• The school is managed very efficiently on a day-to-day basis. The school building has been modified successfully and is highly conducive to learning. Modern technology is used very well to support learning throughout the school. The school is extensively resourced to meet the needs of its curriculum and promote</li></ul>	



excellent teaching and learning.

**Areas of Relative Strength:**

- Inspirational leadership.
- High quality self-evaluation.
- Vision that is shared and understood by staff, students and parents.

**Areas for Improvement:**

---

- Further promotion of shared leadership.