

The Integrated Curriculum Project (IC)

The Integrated Curriculum project (IC) is a project that started in the academic year 2006/07 in four cycle one schools in Muscat region. This project follows the philosophy of integration; therefore it provides children with the needed learning skills and knowledge following an integrated approach to learning, through one book and by one teacher (class teacher).

The IC project aims to develop the child as a whole; cognitively, physically, emotionally, linguistically and socially. It also aims to develop children's literacy skills in both Arabic and English language. In addition, the IC project aims to meet children's natural and instinctive way of learning, which is seeing learning as a whole and not separating between subjects. Learning is contextualised around child-centred topics and children learn through motivating and meaningful activities such as, songs, stories, games, role-plays, surveys and problem solving.

Children in the project schools learn six subjects; these are the IC book- Bustan Al Marifa in grades one and two and Yanboo Al Maarif in grades three and four; English, IT, Sport, Music and Arts. The IC book (Bustan Al Marifa) integrates Islamic Studies, Arabic, Maths, Science, Social Studies and Life Skills. Yanboo Al Maaarif in grades three and four integrates the same subjects as Bustan Al Marifa, except Maths, which becomes a separate subject from grade three onwards.

Children in grade one start the first semester by learning an Arabic preparation book for the whole of the first semester. This book focuses on letter sounds, names and shapes. It allows children to recognise and use the short vowels, long vowels and the grammatical signs that the Arabic language consist of. Also, children learn a Maths preparation book that teaches them the basics of Maths such as number, three dimensional shapes and the relative place. In addition to the Arabic and Maths preparation books children learn other subjects such as English, Sports, Music, Art and IT.

The English language Curriculum in IC focuses on the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) right from the beginning. It also consolidates the Maths and Science terms and concepts that children learn in the IC book with the class teacher. This is to equip children with a strong foundation of the working language needed to do Maths and Science in the future through the English language medium.