



Foundation Stage Admissions Procedure (FS1 & FS2)

Foundation Stage 1 (FS1)

Age Eligibility

For admission to Foundation Stage 1 (FS1), the child must be a maximum of 3 years old as on 31st December 2026, in line with KHDA age guidelines.

FS1 Admission & Interview Procedure

Applicants for FS1 will normally undergo a two-stage admission process:

Stage 1: Play-Based Group Observation

Children will participate in group-based, play-oriented activities on campus. This session is designed to observe the child in a natural learning environment and is not a formal test.

During this stage, the school will observe: - Social interaction with peers and adults - Communication and early language skills - Cognitive development (curiosity, problem-solving, use of senses) - Motor skills (fine and gross motor control) - Creativity and imagination - Behaviour, emotional readiness, and ability to settle in a group - Ability to follow simple instructions

Play-based observational assessments are conducted in line with Early Years expectations and KHDA/MOE guidelines.

Stage 2: Individual Interview (Parent & Child)

If the applicant meets the criteria in Stage 1, the child and parents will be invited on the same day for an individual interaction.

Admission decisions at this stage are based on:

Child's Readiness & Interaction - Language and basic cognitive abilities - Social and communication skills - Willingness to engage, respond, and ask simple questions - Ability to understand and respond to simple instructions - Comfort interacting with adults other than parents

Parents' Interaction & Partnership - Alignment with the school's vision and mission - Willingness to support the school's approach, values, and innovations - Ability to provide adequate parental support at home - Commitment to positive home-school communication and cooperation

Admission to FS1 is subject to the child being **toilet trained** and able to follow simple instructions in English.

Foundation Stage 2 (FS2)

Age Eligibility

For admission to Foundation Stage 2 (FS2), the child must be a maximum of 4 years old as on 31st December 2026.

Foundation Stage 2 (FS2) Admission Criteria

To be considered for admission to Foundation Stage 2 (FS2), applicants must meet the following criteria:

The child must have attended a Nursery for a minimum period of 6 months to 1 year, or have successfully completed Foundation Stage 1 (FS1) in a recognised school.

The child must be **fully toilet trained** and able to manage personal hygiene independently.

In addition, the child should demonstrate age-appropriate school readiness skills, including:

Literacy Readiness

- Ability to recognise and correctly write uppercase and lowercase letters (Aa–Zz) with appropriate letter formation
- Use of a correct pencil grip and basic fine motor control
- Recognition of letters and awareness of letter sounds

Numeracy Readiness

- Ability to recognise numbers
- Basic counting skills and understanding of quantity

Communication & General Awareness

- Ability to communicate using simple English sentences, such as stating their name and age
- Recognition and naming of common colours
- Ability to identify familiar animals, fruits, and vegetables
- Ability to follow simple instructions and respond appropriately to questions

Admission to FS2 is based on age eligibility, developmental readiness, and availability of seats. The school reserves the right to recommend the most appropriate placement in the best interest of the child.

Required Documents (FS1 & FS2)

- Parents must submit clear copies of the following documents:
- Passport copies – Child and both parents
- Residency visa pages – Child and both parents
- Emirates ID (front and back) – Child and both parents
- Child's Birth Certificate (English or Arabic)

- Recent passport-size photograph of the child
- Updated Vaccination Card

Preparing Your Child for the Admission Interaction

Parents play an important role in helping their child feel confident and secure during the admission process. We recommend the following:

Before the Interview / Observation Day

- Talk positively to your child about school. Explain that they will be visiting a new place to play, talk, and meet teachers.
- Keep explanations simple and reassuring. Avoid using words like test or exam.
- Ensure your child has a good night's sleep before the visit.
- Make sure your child has had a light meal and is comfortable.
- If your child is unwell, anxious, or not feeling their best, parents are encouraged to request a reschedule.
- Supporting Independence
- Encourage your child to practise separating from parents for short periods.
- Help them become comfortable interacting with other trusted adults.
- Encourage basic self-help skills such as toileting, handwashing, and tidying up.
- Provide opportunities to play with children of a similar age to build confidence and social skills.

Settling into a New Environment

- Help your child understand that meeting new adults and settling into a new environment is a normal and positive experience.
- Reassure them that teachers are there to help and care for them.

Independence, emotional readiness, and the ability to settle into a new environment are key aspects of the Foundation Stage admission criteria, as permitted within KHDA and MOE Early Years guidelines.

Important Notes

Admission is subject to age eligibility, readiness, interview outcomes, and availability of seats.

The school reserves the right to recommend the most appropriate placement in the best interest of the child, based on age eligibility, developmental readiness, and educational needs, in consultation with parents and in line with KHDA inclusion guidelines.

Apple International School values a strong partnership with parents to ensure a smooth and successful start to school life.

For further information, please contact the Admissions Office.

We look forward to welcoming your child and family to Apple International School.