



PEARL
BRITISH ACADEMY

Parent Information Pack

2023-2024



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Principal's Message



A very warm welcome to The Pearl British Academy – the best British primary school in Abu Dhabi!

Our vibrant school is proud of its family feel where our children are at the very heart of everything we do. It is somewhere where everyone has a place and belongs, somewhere where we work together, in partnership, to 'nurture adaptable, creative future leaders in our high performing learning community.' As an inclusive British primary school located in the heart of Abu Dhabi, our curriculum and wide-ranging extra-curricular activities are firmly grounded in our school values of Empathy, Agility and Hard Work. We highly value collaboration and social responsibility; creativity and risk-taking; practice and resilience.

At The Pearl British Academy, individuality is of the essence, diversity enriches and the ability to think creatively is our future. We recognise that the skills needed in life are ever-changing and we are proud to work with our students to fill their tool-box of skills with experiences and opportunities to enable them to realise their potential both academically and as an individual.

With The Pearl British Academy being accredited and awarded the status of a High Performance Learning School, we develop learning through creative learning opportunities actively teaching children through the identified cognitive domains and values needed for lifelong success. We have a growth mindset at The Pearl British Academy; we believe that we can develop through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point!

The Pearl British Academy's excellent reputation within the community has been confirmed in our latest ADEK Inspection where all six Performance Standards were awarded 'Outstanding.' We continue to build on our successes and strive for further improvements in all areas, ever developing our school community.

Barbara Heaton

Principal, Pearl British Academy

Meet our Senior Leadership Team



Barbara Heaton
Principal

Barbara Heaton joined The Pearl British Academy with over 25 years' experience in educational leadership in the UAE, Spain and the UK.

Having completed the Accelerated Route N.P.Q.H. in 2000 as a Primary Head Teacher in the UK, Barbara moved to work in an International School in Spain where she taught in Primary and Secondary Departments broadening her experience teaching, amongst other subjects, English to GCSE. Here, she led Teaching and Learning across the whole school (Nursery to Year 13) and also held role of team inspector with NABSS (the National Association of Schools in Spain). She is now a BSO team inspector in the Middle East.

Throughout her career, Barbara has gained much experience in teaching second language learners as well as developing assessment and tracking systems to ensure students are maximising their potential and capabilities. She has developed planning and curriculum models which enable her to fulfil her passion for personalised learning and celebrating an individual's strengths, both as a person and a learner.

In her spare time, Barbara enjoys reading and loves her 6 pets- 5 cats and a dog, all rescue animals from Spain. She is focused on personal fitness and loves travelling. She is a true life-long learner, with her real joie-de-vivre she is curious about education, learning and life!



Samantha Hughes-Lewis
Vice Principal

Miss Samantha Hughes-Lewis is the Vice Principal of The Pearl British Academy and is responsible for student achievement. She has worked at The Pearl for four years and has lived in Abu Dhabi for eight years.

Miss H-L has been a teacher for 17 years and has lived and taught in schools all over the world. She trained to be a teacher in London, where she spent four very happy years developing her skills at an outstanding primary school. She left England to pursue her career abroad and moved to the French Alps, commuting to Switzerland daily to teach in a large international school in Geneva. She has also taught in France, Austria, Germany and Nepal! Her management roles in other schools have included Assistant Headteacher, Head of Primary Curriculum, Head of Year 6, Head of Pastoral and Head of English, Maths, Music, Languages and Computing.

Miss H-L loves kitesurfing and skiing in her free time. She speaks French and German and is also a keen musician - leading the school band!

As a member of the school's Senior Leadership team, Miss H-L works hard with her colleagues to develop the school's ethos and implement the school's development plan. She enjoys her role at the The Pearl British Academy because she loves working with our amazing children, families and staff.



Louise Elizabeth Kershaw
Assistant Principal

Miss Kershaw has been a teacher for 14 years. She trained in London and spent her first five years teaching there. She worked across primary age groups with children mostly new to England and learning the English language. During her time there she helps set up new schools and nurseries to accommodate the expanding population.

In 2014, Miss Kershaw moved to the UAE with her son Max. She completed her Masters in Technology and Educational Design while here and worked in various middle and senior leadership roles, supporting staff and children with the English National curriculum. During the pandemic Miss Kershaw supported students and teachers with e-learning and is passionate about technology supporting learning.

Miss Kershaw enjoys outdoor activities including running and scuba diving. She likes to travel and is a keen environmentalist. She brings her passion for protecting the environment and using innovative technologies to find sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle choices into the classroom.



Laura O'Donoghue
Head of Key Stage One

Miss O' Dee is Head of Key Stage 1 and a Year 1 Class Teacher. She has been a teacher at The Pearl British Academy for four years and originally began her journey at the school as an FS2 teacher.

Miss O' Dee has been a teacher for 6 years and trained at Froebel College, Maynooth University, in Ireland. As well as being a qualified in Primary Education she also holds a Bachelors Degree in English and French. She has a passion for Continuous Provision and child-centered learning, where every child is inspired and supported to reach their potential.

In her spare time, Miss O' Dee loves to surf, travel and read. She brings her passion for reading into the classroom and she hopes to instill a love of reading for all her students from a young age. She always encourages the children to pick up a book!

Miss O' Dee loves working at The Pearl British Academy and has built some wonderful relationships with children, families and friends while here.



Siobhan Ann Tunley
Head of Key Stage Two

Miss Siobhan Tunley is Head of Key Stage 2 and she has been at The Pearl British Academy for five years. In her role, Miss Tunley will be working alongside the SLT team to help develop our child centered and enriched curriculum throughout Key Stage 2 and continue to build the Enquiry based learning ethos.

Miss Tunley has been a teacher for 10 years and holds three degrees including a Masters in Education. She is passionate about all aspects of education. She has lived in Abu Dhabi for five years with her daughter and has taught in schools all over the world; England, China and Japan. Having such a broad experience of teaching, Miss Tunley has learnt that teaching is not just an occupation, it is a commitment to every child. A responsibility to develop their moral, social and cultural values, teaching them vital skills, helping them to develop a high self-expectation and creating independence.

In her spare time Miss Tunley loves to scuba dive, build Lego and try new adventures and experiences, including canoeing and ariel hooping.



Jaskirn Singh
Head of EYFS

Miss Jaskirn Kaur Singh is Head of the Early Year Foundation Stage (EYFS) in The Pearl British Academy. Miss Singh joined the school in 2021 as an FS2 class teacher and is delighted to lead a team of outstanding practitioners across the early years. She has a passion for Early Years education and child-centered learning, where every child is inspired and supported to reach their potential in a safe, secure and nurturing environment.

Miss Singh is currently completing her National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL) with the University of Central London and, gained a BH(Hons) in Education and a Primary PGCE at Roehampton University in London. Miss Singh has lived in Abu Dhabi for 10 years and has taught and managed several international schools across the emirate.



Maha Jallad
Head of MOE

Mrs Jallad holds a Bachelor Degree of Science from Al Yarmouk University, Jordan, a Bachelor of Education in Arabic Language and Islamic Studies from Al Hosn University, UAE, as well as an Advanced Instructional Leadership of Professional Diploma. With more than 25 years of experience in teaching and leadership gained through working in different British curriculum schools in the UAE, Mrs Maha has developed her skills in implementing meaningful learning experiences for children.

She joined The Pearl British Academy in its second year 2008. It has been a great pleasure to witness the growth and success of the school as the years have progressed. Joining the Pearl was my choice to develop myself and my career further and it has been a pleasure to work and grow in such a nurturing environment.

Mrs Jallad is always keen to further her knowledge and development to enhance the student's learning experience.



Kate Maguire
Head of Digital
Transformation/STEM
and Head of Science

Miss Kate Maguire is Head of Digital Transformation/STEM and Head of Science at The Pearl British Academy from August 2021 and joined our school in 2018.

Miss Maguire has been a teacher for 7 years and holds a PGCE in Primary Education. She has a keen interest in STEM subjects and will be working closely with the SLT team to develop the digital advancement of teaching and learning encouraging an innovative curriculum through Enquiry based learning.

She enjoys Scuba Diving, reading and building Lego in her spare time.



**Magdalena
Anna Kantor**
Operations Site Manager

We would like to welcome Magdalena Anna Kantor to The Pearl British Academy. Magdalena joins us as our new Operations Site Manager.

In 2020, she completed the Digital Business Strategy program, which equipped her with advanced knowledge and skills in digital transformation, artificial intelligence, platforms in a digital economy amongst other things. She also has obtained a Bachelor's (Hons) degree in Events Management from Technological University Dublin. Her undergraduate years provided her with a strong foundation in business development, team management, commercial and financial business preparedness, marketing and health and safety.

In her current role as an Operations & Support Services Manager, Magdalena assumes a vital position within the senior leadership team at The Pearl British Academy. Working closely with the Principal to ensure the effective execution of all operations, administration, and support services, we ensure the school implements the highest standards of learning with a purpose of empowering the next generation to shape the future.



Yvonne O'Donoghue
Head of Inclusion

Miss Donoghue has a BA in Pastoral Care, an MA in Special Education Needs and Behaviour Management, CELTA, and PGCE.

Ms Donoghue taught in her native Ireland for three years, before moving to the UAE in 2002 where she taught Key Stage 1 and 2 in Sharjah and Learning Support in Dubai. In 2010, Ms Donoghue moved to Malaysia to work for the Ministry of Education as a teacher trainer, mentor and facilitator in local primary schools.

Returning to the UAE in 2011, Ms Donoghue joined a school in Dubai and worked as part of the Student Support Services team, before becoming the director.

Miss Donoghue enjoys a sense of community, inclusiveness and positivity. She appreciates a learning environment that is flexible and driven by students and all elements of achievement are celebrated equally.

Ms Donoghue's favourite quote is:
Every child can learn, just not on the same day or in the same way.



Eleanore Barker
Head of Pastoral

Mrs Barker joined The Pearl British Academy eight years ago and is Head of Pastoral Care. She has lived in Abu Dhabi for twelve years, moving here to gain a deeper understanding of international education. Mrs Barker has a BA Hons in Ancient History and PGCE in Primary Education from the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK.

Throughout her career, spanning over fifteen years, Mrs Barker has had many leadership roles including Head of Key Stage 1, Head of Key Stage 2, Assessment Coordinator, PE and Science Coordinator as well as leading Teaching and Learning by implementing policies, initiatives and mentoring. Mrs Barker is passionate to be the Head of Pastoral Care because it allows her to work, inspire and motivate pupils throughout the whole school.

Working alongside our staff, Mrs Barker has enabled the team to further enhance our pastoral care and ensure a smooth transition from one year to the next. Mrs Barker is here to support all students every step of the way by encouraging them to achieve their full potential.

Welcome from the Parents Committee

Parent Testimonials

“ I am very happy at The Pearl British Academy because of several factors. Most importantly, my children love going to school every day. All the staff are incredibly supportive and helpful- admin, teachers, CAs, management and green team – everyone.

The education that The Pearl offers is of high standards and the way the curriculum is taught is always exciting and fun for the kids. The community we have at The Pearl is the best! ”

Student Leadership

Student Leadership opportunities are taken seriously at The Pearl. Our students actively lead the way through various roles as members of the Pearl Parliament (School Council), Eco Ambassadors and Reps, Culture Ambassadors and Reps, Playground Leaders, House Captains, Head and Deputy Head Boy and Girl, Sports Captains and many other roles.



Parent Portal Information

The Parent Portal

A key part of communication at The Pearl Academy occurs through the Parent Portal. Use the following website to access the portal: <https://portal.aldaracademies.com>

Through the portal you will be able to:

- ▶ View attendance information
- ▶ Access your child's termly school report

Seesaw application

- ▶ Receive the weekly newsletter
- ▶ Receive any letters regarding trips and year group or class event information including class events etc.
- ▶ Reminders about events and activities for your child's year group etc

Children's Information on Microsoft Teams and Seesaw
Children from Year 3- 6 use Microsoft Teams channel for all communication regarding their learning.

Please ensure we always have your preferred contact telephone numbers and email address so that you do not miss any key information or communication.

Registration Forms/ Documents Checklist

In order to ensure the school has accurate and up to date information and to enable the school to meet the requirements for registration with the Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), it is essential that you provide the following documents:

- ▶ Acceptance letter
- ▶ Confirmation of payment slip
- ▶ Student's, father's, and mother's Emirates Identity Card front and back
- ▶ Student's, father's and mother's passport copy
- ▶ Student's, father's and mother's residence visa (not applicable to UAE Nationals)
- ▶ Student's birth certificate
- ▶ Student's immunization record
- ▶ Your address location proof—either ADDC (electricity) bill or Tawtheeq
- ▶ Passport size photograph of student
- ▶ Copy of the two most recent school reports
- ▶ Graduation requirements undertaking
- ▶ Transfer certificate (applicable if current school is outside of Abu Dhabi)

Essential registration forms:

- ▶ Form 1: Parent security pass
- ▶ Form 2: Student health record
- ▶ Form 3: Consent medical issues
- ▶ Form 4: Parental consent to administer emergency medication
- ▶ Form 5: Learning support information
- ▶ Form 6: Consent form for photography and images of children
- ▶ Form 7: Consent form for use of photographic devices at school events by parents
- ▶ Form 8: ICT parents acceptable use agreement

For more information, please email:

admissions@pearlbritishacademy.sch.ae



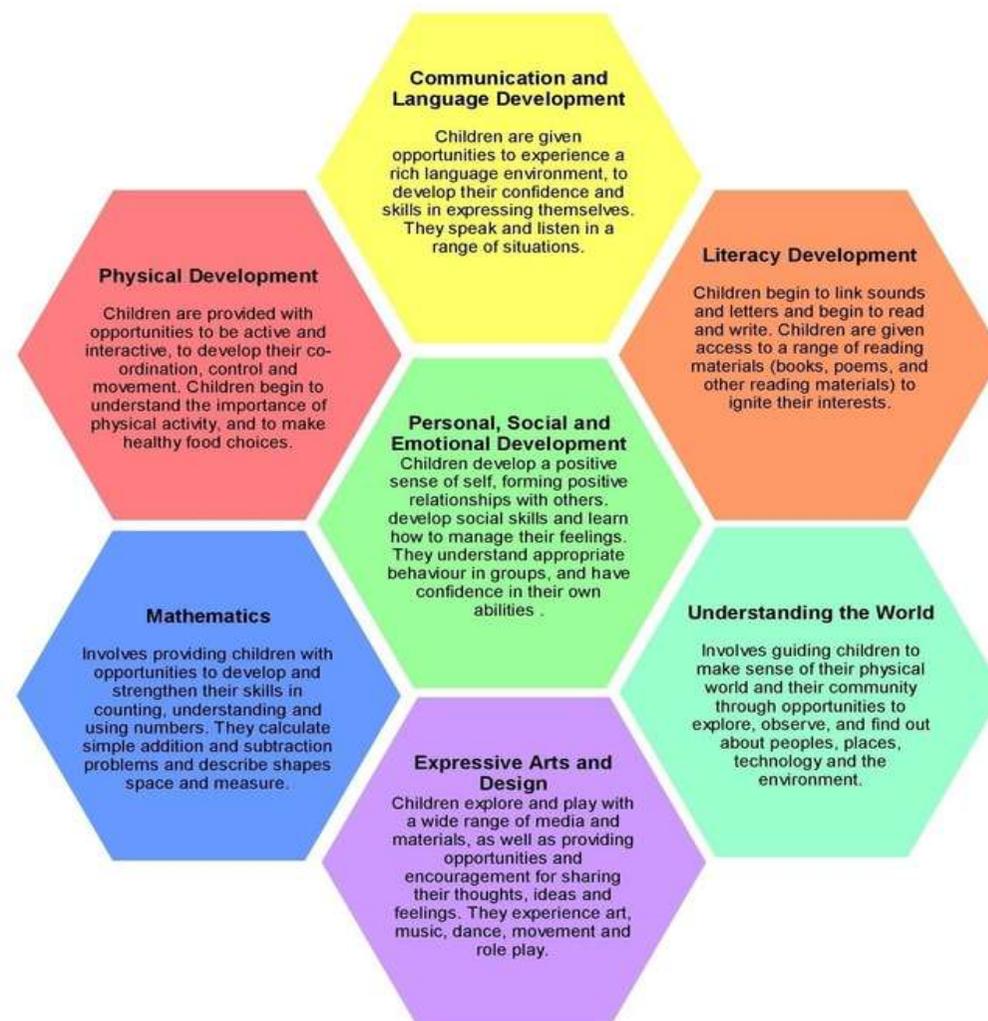
Curriculum Information

At Pearl British Academy, we follow two curricula: the English National Curriculum (ENC) and the Curriculum of the Ministry of Education for the United Arab Emirates. In Early Years, we follow the UK Early Years framework.

The English National Curriculum is organised in to three main age groups called Key Stages:

- ▶ Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): Nursery and Foundation Stage 2
- ▶ Key Stage 1: Year 1 and Year 2
- ▶ Key Stage 2: Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework supports an integrated approach to early learning and care. It gives all professionals a set of common principles and commitments to deliver quality early education and childcare experiences to all children.





Parents/ Guardian ID

Upon registering at The Pearl Academy, each parent is required to fill out the Adult Identification Form. Our team will then process your Adult ID card to allow your safe access into the school's premises.

Parents Security Pass

Please note a maximum of 3 security passes can be issued per child. Additional and replacement for lost cards will be subjected to 50 dhs fees. Please collect your Parents Security Pass from the school receptionist.

STUDENT NAME	YEAR GROUP	FORM
Guardian 1		Insert Photograph
Relationship to Child		
Mobile Number		
Guardian 2		Insert Photograph
Relationship to Child		
Mobile Number		
Guardian 3		Insert Photograph
Relationship to Child		
Mobile Number		





School Uniform

S C H O O L U N I F O R M S



V-NECK SWEATER
WITH PIPING
BOYS & GIRLS
FS1 - YEAR 6



NAVY BLUE CARDIGAN
GIRLS
FS1 - YEAR 4



FLEECE HOODY
BOYS & GIRLS
FS1 - YEAR 6



KHAKI BERMUDA SHORT
BOYS & GIRLS
YEAR1 - YEAR6



KHAKI SKORT
GIRLS
FS1 - YEAR6



KHAKI PINAFORE
GIRLS
FS1-YEAR6



DRESS
FS1 & FS2



POLO T-SHIRT
BOYS & GIRLS
FS1 - YEAR6

P.E. T-SHIRT
BOYS & GIRLS
FS1-YEAR 6



P.E. T-SHIRT
BOYS & GIRLS
FS1-YEAR 6



P.E. SHORT
BOYS & GIRLS
FS1-YEAR 6



GFORCE P.E. TRACK PANTS
BOYS & GIRLS
FS1-YEAR 6



BLACK RAMPERS
GIRLS
FS1-YEAR 13



SWIMMING TRUNKS
BOYS
FS1-YEAR 6



BLACK SWIMMING COSTUME
FS1-YEAR13



BLACK BOOKBAG WITH LOGO
FS1-YEAR6



BLACK BAGPACK WITH LOGO
FS1-YEAR13



LEGIONNAIRE CAP
FS1-YEAR6



SPORTS BAG WITH LOGO
FS1-YEAR13



BLACK P.E./ SWIM BAG WITH LOGO
FS1-YEAR13



BASEBALL CAP
YEAR1-YEAR6

You can purchase items online at <https://uat.magrudry.com/uniforms/aldar-pearl-academy>
Alternatively, you can visit Magrudry's store in Al Wahda Mall.



Bus Information

Emirates Transport

The buses we use are inspected by the Department of Transportation (DoT) and have been given approval to operate. The team has been given training in first aid, child protection and safety.

For any enquiries, please contact Emirates Transport:
Mohamed Rafaat 0545151752 or email pearl@et.ae



Bring Your Own Device

We continue our successful Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative.

Children in Years 2 to 6 bring their own device to school every day and use it for planned educational purposes throughout the day. Children in FS and Year 1 have access to the school's own supply of iPads.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, it is preferred that children bring an Apple device to school. For BYOD to be successful, we ask that each parent sign the BYOD policy before devices are brought to school. In addition to bringing their devices, we ask that all children in Years 2 to 6 also bring their own headphones to school.



School Supplies

We provide all the resources the children require in order to access the curriculum.



Darna Rewards

The Darna Rewards Programme is a free application available to parents. It enables them to earn points upon payment of tuition or for experiences and purchases across Aldar and participating brands, which can then be redeemed for future payments.

Parents register through the Darna Rewards application by using the same email provided to the school. Points accrued will be added to the parents account within seven days.

Online Education Platforms

Each child registered in our school will receive a Microsoft Office login (@thepearlacademy.net) that will be used to log in to Microsoft Teams and the Onelogin (<https://thepearlacademy.onelogin.com/portal>).

From the Onelogin, children will be able to access all other educational digital subscriptions such as Education City, Seesaw and Reading A-Z. These are set up and rolled over at the beginning of each academic year.



School Day Timings

All children should be in school for the National Anthem, which we play daily at 7.44am. Children are registered in class from 7.45am.

The main school gate is open 24 hours a day. The side gates open at 7.30am. Children in the EYFS must remain with parent or carer until they enter the EYFS gate.

Our school day finishes at 2.25pm for all children. Nursery finishes at 1.30pm with option childcare offered until 2.25pm.

DAILY ABSENCE

If your child is ill, parents are requested to email the class teacher or reception@thepearlacademy.sch.ae before 7.30am on the first day of absence. One day of absence due to illness will be authorised. If your child is absent due to illness for more than one day, we require a medical certificate authorised by a doctor.

MONITORING ATTENDANCE

Your child's class teacher is responsible for monitoring your child's daily attendance. If your child's attendance becomes a cause for concern, Mrs Barker, Head of Pastoral Care, will contact you to discuss ways forward.

EARLY DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL

We request that you do not collect your child early from school. In the case where this is unavoidable (for example a medical appointment where an after-school time was not available), we ask you to inform your child's class teacher at least one day before early collection is required. Parents are asked to present the medical appointment card to support the need for the appointment to be made during the school day. Parents should complete an Early Collection Form, which should be emailed to reception@thepearlacademy.sch.ae in advance.

PLANNED ABSENCE DURING TERM

Please note that the school does not authorise holidays taken during the term. Requests for authorised absence must be made on a Request for Absence Form given to the School PA, at least seven days in advance for the principal's approval.





Payment Information

School fees may be paid in the following ways:

- ▶ Cheque made payable to Aldar Academies LLC – The Pearl Academy
- ▶ Cash paid to the finance office within the school building
- ▶ Bank transfer. Please reference your pupil code in the description and upload a copy of your confirmation to our web application. This will assist us in reconciling the account promptly.

Bank Name: Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank
Bank Branch: Salam Branch, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Account Name: Aldar Academies-T.Pearl P.S.LLC BR1
Account Number: 10482902020002
IBAN: AE56 0030 0104 8290 2020 002
Swift Code: ADCBAEAA



School Fees Cashless Payment Options

Dear Parents

We are writing to notify you about a change in the school's policy regarding tuition fee payments.

To help collect payments in an efficient and streamlined manner and provide convenience to both yourselves and our school teams, we will no longer be accepting any cash transactions for your child's school fees.

Below are the payment options now available to you:

- **Bank Transfer** - Please include the Student Codes and Invoice References in the payment description fields and please send an email confirmation of the payment to the school's finance email address.
- **Cheques** - Please put these in a sealed envelope with the Student Codes and Invoice References on the reverse of the cheque and submit it via the dedicated drop box placed at the school premises. Upon clearance of the cheque, a receipt will be issued to the registered email address within 3 working days.
- **'Payit' mobile phone application** – the UAE's first all-in-one digital wallet by First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) and available for download for free on iOS and Android devices.

The school will not be able to accept credit or debit card transactions.

We believe this change will benefit how our schools operate more efficiently to serve you and help reduce the need for handling or transporting cash.

For ease, invoices will be shared to your registered email address and will be available on the parent portal. We would kindly ask that fees are paid by the due date mentioned on the invoice.

We are here to help you however we can, so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school's finance team.

Kind Regards

Aldar Education – Finance

الدار للتعليم
ALDAR EDUCATION



ADEK Rating



Outstanding



BSO Rating



Outstanding



Key Contacts

- **Operations**
Ms. Magdalena Anna Kantor
magdalena.kantor@aldareducation.com
- **Parent Relations Executive**
Mrs. Saleha Saeed
pre@pearlbritishacademy.sch.ae
- **Accountant**
Mrs. Simi Ummer
finance@pearlbritishacademy.sch.ae
- **Admissions**
Mrs. Heba Al Qablan
admissions@pearlbritishacademy.sch.ae
- **PA to the Principal**
Mrs. Jennibeth Domaya
pa@pearlbritishacademy.sch.ae





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