

**STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK | 2017-2018**  
**SCHOOL OF THE NATIONS 聯國學校**



*'Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.'*

- Bahá'u'lláh



**SCHOOL OF THE NATIONS**

**STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK**

**2017-2018**



*'Knowledge is praiseworthy when coupled  
with ethical conduct and a virtuous  
character.'*

- Bahá'í Writings



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## **GENERAL SECTION**

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**



## GENERAL SECTION

### A 1 INTRODUCTION TO THE HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to provide the school community with a comprehensive list of policies and procedures that govern the day to day running of the School. We hope this will ensure that our families have a better understanding of how we function, and know what to do if they have a specific query or concern.

As this handbook is updated annually, we look forward to regular feedback from you to help improve future editions. If you feel that there are other questions that are not addressed in this handbook, please contact the school with your suggestions or ideas.

Our curriculum is based on a “best practice” educational framework that aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through understanding their dual purpose.

One of our defining attributes is our strong belief in educating the whole child and focus on character development. We are committed to fostering the development of responsible and caring future world citizens.

Daily life in school involves raising student’s awareness and appreciation for the SON Learner Profile attributes and attitudes. These are the foundational steps in creating internationally minded individuals.

In addition to providing students with a strong academic and spiritual education, we also value and promote active participation in sports and the arts. We come together regularly to celebrate our student’s achievements and share with each other what we have been learning about in our classes.

At School of the Nations, we have an open door philosophy. Parents<sup>1</sup> are welcome to make arrangements to meet with teachers. Equally, teachers

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this handbook, “PARENTS” includes any parent, legal guardian, or person having lawful control of the student.



may request additional meetings with parents if they need to discuss the child's progress or experiences in school. We realize that when having discussions about a child, it can potentially be an emotional time. However, we believe that both parents and teachers always have a child's best interest at heart. Therefore, we feel it is important to remember that during meetings everyone interacts in a positive, productive manner and that the focus is on target setting and/or best solutions for the child.

We also invite parents to join us on parent visit days to observe the "nuts and bolts" of what happens on a daily basis in our classrooms. Please see the parent visit guidelines and keep an eye out for invitation letters.

Parental involvement is always welcome and it plays a critical role in the children's development. Throughout the school year, you will receive invitations to participate in your child's learning experiences by assisting with activities in the classroom, providing additional support to some of our ELL students or helping on field trips. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to assist with any activities in the classrooms, whether it be on a regular basis or when you have pockets of time.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a successful year of learning.

## **A 2        S.O.N. VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT**

As an integral component of the educational programs of the Badi Foundation, the School of the Nations is dedicated to nurturing the physical, intellectual and spiritual development of children and youth, and developing their capabilities to contribute to the well-being of their families and communities.

Founded in 1988, we educate students from kindergarten through secondary, employing curricula that develop character and build capacity for service while promoting academic excellence, along with internationally recognized programmes such as International Baccalaureate (IB) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE).

The school seeks to contribute to the development of the Macau Special Administrative Region through engagement with the broader community, including school exchanges, seminars and the service of its teachers and students. The School of the Nations also serves as a resource for the advancement of educational processes in the Peoples' Republic of China through exchanges with schools and education bureaus.

### A 3 THE S.O.N. LEARNER PROFILE

The School of the Nations seeks to prepare world citizens who will become active, positive and conscientious participants in the advancement of society and in their own development. To achieve this, the learner must strive to acquire different elements of identity. Each identifying element is composed of a set of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skill and habits. A partial set of these is indicated for each element

The SON student, without regard for nationality, religion, gender, age, culture, or social level, endeavours to be a:

**Seeker of Truth (ST):** The SON learner strives to become free from prejudice, unquestioning imitation and personal ambitions and actively seeks to independently investigate and understand issues for themselves. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Knower of Self (KS):** The SON learner is continuously pursuing self-development and knowledge of the self is a perquisite. The learner must work to identify their talents, strengths, weaknesses and faults and then work systematically at all times to improve. At the same time the learner must avoid focusing on the faults of others. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Pursuer of Excellence (PE):** The SON learner will devote their full strength to acquire both inner and outer perfections of character, knowledge, wisdom, perception and eloquent speech. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Committed Contributor to Social Progress (CP):** The SON learner will subordinate personal concerns and opinions to the needs of society and, thinking of the welfare of others actively search, without consideration of personalities, for ways to contribute to the progress of all humanity. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Promoter of Unity and Justice (PJ):** The SON learner will transcend the stage of doing others no harm and actively promote unity and justice as prerequisites for overcoming the ills of society. The following chart is

a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Practitioner of Moderation (PM):** The SON learner will strive towards moderation in all areas of life while avoiding excesses, radicalism and violence whether in actions, life-style, expression, dress or recreation. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Upholder of High Standards of Morality (UM):** The SON learner considers excellent character and high resolve to be the main source of happiness, honour and prosperity. Words and actions must coincide if the learner expects efforts towards social and personal progress to be effective. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Participator in Group Actions and Decision Making (PD):** The SON learner realizes that wisdom comes from combining the experiences, views and knowledge of others. Continuous effort is made to acquire the necessary skills for effective consultation with others. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

**Well-Wisher of Mankind (WM):** The SON learner will regard humanity as a single body, and their own self as just another member of the whole, and know that if pain or injury afflicts any member of that body, it must inevitably result in suffering for all the rest. The following chart is a partial example of the universe of attitudes, qualities, understandings, skills and habits needed for this element.

## **A 4        SCHOOL APPROACH**

- To explore all curriculum areas through a range of techniques including inquiry based learning
- To ensure effective assessment strategies to report and record progress
- To develop in our students the qualities, attitudes, and characteristics of the SON Learner Profile
- To enhance student learning through the use of technology
- To actively promote our school spirit to enhance and celebrate student learning

## **A 5        RESPONSIBILITIES**

The school community includes students, parents, teachers, administrators and staff. All the members of the community are responsible for cooperating together to provide an appropriate educational atmosphere conducive to encouraging life long learning and development. To achieve this each person has certain responsibilities and accepts to conform to the rules and regulations necessary to maintain order and efficiency in the community.

### **A 5.1     Teacher Responsibilities**

Our academic staff are internationally qualified, experienced and dedicated teachers who continue to develop their skills and talents through professional development and professional learning communities to help ensure that your child receives an excellent education. Teachers have the responsibility to:

- Perform teaching and extracurricular duties with appropriate preparation;
- Teach the School curriculum;
- Serve as appropriate role models for the students, in accordance with standards of the teaching profession;
- Use discipline management techniques developed in the school discipline management plan;
- Promote good student discipline by modelling regular attendance and punctuality;
- Comply with school policies, rules and regulations, and directives;
- Maintain an orderly classroom atmosphere conducive to learning;
- Establish open lines of communication with parents, students, and

other staff members, as well as participate in meaningful parent teacher conferences;

- Encourage students to strive towards self-discipline

## **A 5.2 Parent Responsibilities**

For the student's success parents are encouraged to:

- Make every effort to provide for the physical and emotional needs of the student(s);
- Encourage the student's daily attendance, and promptly report absences and tardiness to the school;
- Keep informed of school policies and academic requirements of school programmes;
- Support student(s) in pertinent school-related activities/organizations;
- Be sure student(s) is/are appropriately dressed at school and school-related activities;
- Discuss school reports and assignments with student(s);
- Maintain up-to-date homework, and emergency telephone numbers and other pertinent information at the school;
- Promote high expectations for your student's behaviour, school achievement, and homework;
- Participate in school activities including parent-teacher conferences.
- Establish and maintain open lines of communication between home, school and teachers and,
- Regularly check school communication and homework assignments (if applicable) on Edmodo.

## **A 5.3 Student Responsibilities**

Student responsibilities for achieving a positive learning environment at school or school-related activities shall include (not in order of priority):

- Attending all classes, daily and on time;
- Being prepared for each class with appropriate materials and assignments;
- Being properly attired;
- Being informed and adhering to the rules and regulations established by the school;
- Exhibiting respect towards the rights and dignity of other students, staff and teachers;
- Using language which is kind, respectful and decent;
- Conducting themselves in a responsible manner;

- To refrain from libellous remarks, obscenity, and violence in verbal, physical and written expression.
- To assist in maintaining a safe environment for all staff, teachers and peers;
- To use English and Mandarin while at school;
- To solve problems through talking and discussions;
- Obeying all school personnel, school rules, safety rules at school-related activities and on the bus;
- Conveying information to parents about academic and extracurricular requirements, school policies, and the academic progress (including progress reports).
- Respectfully bringing any concerns or issues to the attention of the teachers or administrators.

#### **A 5.4 Student Integrity**

All homework, assignments, tests and exams are expected to represent the student's own effort. Parents and tutors may assist the student to understand assignments but should not dictate answers. All forms of cheating on tests or exams, plagiarism and other forms of deception to obtain credit without effort are universally recognized as improper conduct. Such conduct is not acceptable and marks will not be awarded for work that does not represent the students' personal effort.

#### **A 6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

The School of the Nations will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, religion, nationality or sex. Any person who has a concern regarding discrimination should bring the matter to the attention of the Director.

#### **A 7 COOPERATIVE DISCIPLINE**

At School of the Nations, Cooperative Discipline is the approach taken to classroom management. This approach assists students to understand the goals of their behaviour and choose the most appropriate conduct to achieve their goals. Parents are invited to familiarise themselves with the principles and techniques of this model. The development of correct

behaviour can best be achieved when there is close collaboration between the home and the school.

Cooperative Discipline is based on assisting students to feel **connected, contributing** and **capable**. There are a variety of ways in which we can do this both at home and at school. You will note that this is a proactive approach towards student behaviour.

Serious issues, such as bullying, and specific issues, such as uniform inconsistencies, are dealt with as part of this greater policy of ensuring students feel this sense of connection, capable and contributing members of the school family. Each stage of our procedures includes support and/or consequences and each case is considered within its context. At all times any staff member, teaching or support staff, will involve themselves immediately when issues occur. We are committed to paying close attention to our students' well-being. On the whole, our students are very happy and well behaved. Most incidents requiring behaviour management generally consist of minor reports from students involving their friends. We work with students to teach them conflict resolution techniques and the importance of listening to others and respecting their reasonable requests.

We take all issues brought to our attention very seriously and deal with them in the best way that helps all involved. School is a place where students learn many individual and group social skills. It is a place and time for them to learn what is and is not appropriate behaviour. To best help students, we always work with parents, so we will keep you informed of any concerns, expecting support and follow-up at home when serious issues are reported. In the same way we ask that parents inform us of any concerns that their child may feel more comfortable sharing at home so we are empowered to deal with their situation at school.



## **A 8        STUDENT UNIFORMS**

We strictly enforce our uniform policy and will ask students to call home if they are not in complete or neat uniforms (including missing parts, such as the tie). Students are expected to report to school in proper school uniform.

### **A 8.1      School Uniform**

Should always be complete and neat in appearance while coming to school, in school or returning home.

- Changing between casual wear and uniform is not permitted in the school.
- Special attention should be paid to ties and shirttails.
- Any additional clothing may be worn underneath uniforms as long as it is not visible or modifies the colour of the uniform.
- Stained or torn items should be replaced.
- Make-up and nail polish are not allowed.
- Students are required to wear the most up to date school uniform. As such, students are no longer allowed to wear the shorter version of the PE shorts.
- Uniforms can be purchased from **Luen Ieng 聯盈校服** (Address: Calcada Central de S. Lázaro No.5, R/C, Macau    Tel: 28354161)

Further information and pictures of school uniform may be sought from the School Reception.

### **A 8.2      Hair**

Hair should be neat and kept out of the eyes at all times. It should be of a natural colour and not bring undue attention to the student. Girls may wear bands or hair ties of black colour only.

### **A 8.3      Socks and Shoes (Except for Kindergarten)**

- With regular school uniform: Shoes must be leather black dress shoes (Not sports style shoes, canvas shoes or ballet-style shoes).
- With PE uniform: white socks and sports shoes that are predominantly white.

### **A 8.4      Accessories and Jewellery**

Excessive jewellery is not allowed. The following are acceptable:

- one simple wrist watch (no smartwatches, excessively gaudy or expensive ones)
- one medic alert bracelet, if required
- one plain ring
- one religious necklace worn under the shirt and out of sight
- one pair of simple sleepers or studs for pierced ears at the ear lobe (girls only)

### **A 8.5 Casual Day Dress Code**

Casual dress may be worn on days allotted as "casual dress days". Students should continue to dress respectably and remember that their dress should not serve as a distraction to teaching or learning.

The following requirements should be adhered to; otherwise students will be required to change before they can attend classes:

- Students should wear neat, clean, and comfortable clothing appropriate to their age, the school setting, and the weather.
- Students should wear appropriate tops that cover undergarments and midriffs. Tank tops, spaghetti straps and halter-tops are not permitted.
- Students can wear pants, shorts, a skirt, or a dress. Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be appropriate in length. The bottom of the hem must touch the top of the student's kneecap while the student is standing upright.
- Leggings, tights and yoga pants may be worn only under dresses, skirts or shorts.
- Clothing should not be ripped, torn or have any inappropriate or offensive messages or graphics.
- Hats may not be worn inside the school building.
- The same requirement regarding hair, accessories, jewellery, make-up and nail polish, still pertains.

Students should come to school in their regular uniform if they cannot follow the casual day dress code.

## **A 9        STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Regular school attendance increases the likelihood of student academic success, encourages students to be academically current in classes, develops student responsibility, and prepares students for attendance expectations in their future careers. The following guidelines pertain to students:

- Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Students are expected to remain in the school from the time of arrival until dismissal. Students are not allowed to leave the premises at recess or lunch or any other time without permission from their Administrator. IBDP students' privileges and responsibilities regarding this policy are stated in the Middle School and Secondary section of this handbook.
- All medical, dental and legal appointments or family responsibilities should be arranged for after school hours.
- Family vacations should be arranged according to the school calendar.
- Punctuality is important. As Kindergarten and Primary students are dependent on parents to get them to school on time, we require the support of parents and families to ensure we teach this important habit to our students. Student attendance will be recorded on all formal report cards.

### **A 9.1      Excused and Unexcused Absence**

If students are going to be absent from school for personal reasons, parents should inform the school in writing PRIOR to the absence. Family vacations are not considered a valid reason, as the calendar allows for many holidays and we request that family travel plans respect the school calendar.

Students' leave may fall into the categories of excused absence or unexcused absence:

#### **A 9.1.1    Excused Absence**

Student excused absences are considered under the following circumstances:

- Student's health and safety
- Religious holidays
- Mandates by government agencies
- Grave illness/ Funeral Services of a member of the immediate

family

- Other circumstances (requires the explicit written approval of the school)

#### A 9.1.2 Procedure and Consequences

- It is the parents' responsibility to inform the school if the child is sick, especially of a case of contagious disease.
- Parents must inform the school by 8:30 a.m. in case of unexpected circumstances.
- If a student is absent due to sickness for more than two consecutive days, a doctor's note must be submitted upon the student's return to the school.
- If a student is ill during school hours the child will be sent to the School Nurse. The Nurse and the Administrator will determine whether or not it is advisable for the child to return home. In case it is necessary for the child to return home the parents will be contacted to come pick up the child. Kindergarten and Primary students will not be allowed to return home alone.
- Application for other leaves should be submitted in writing at least three working days before the start date of the leave.
- The school will inform the parents and students whether the application of leave is approved or not. In case of denial, the leave will fall into the category of unexcused absence if the student is absent from school.
- Each student is allowed to take no more than 20 days of leave in an academic year, of which unexcused absences must be no more than 3 days. If the attendance falls below this standard, promotion to the next level may be withheld, and the student's enrolment in the school may be jeopardized.
- All missing work must be submitted on the first day of the student's return to the school.
- All missing assessments must be taken on the first day of the student's return to the school.

## **A 10      SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT AND RULES**

*(Note: The bus driver may make additional rules as necessary to maintain the safety of the bus.)*

- Remain seated, facing forward in your assigned seat. Keep your hands and feet to yourself at all times. Aisles must be kept clear at all times.
- Talk quietly. Yelling and loud noise will not be permitted.
- Eating, chewing, drinking and littering are prohibited on the bus.
- Swearing and use of inappropriate language and/ or gestures is prohibited. The driver is to be shown courtesy and cooperation at all times.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus. Throwing, shooting, and/or spitting of any object on, from or at the bus are prohibited.
- Do not play or tamper with the bus or bus equipment (including seats). The emergency door is to be used only in an emergency.
- No hitting, "horseplay," or fighting. Students are not allowed to encourage others to fight, or to continue or incite a fight by teasing, threats, or harassment.
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices that create a disruption on the bus is prohibited. This includes cell phones, games, and headphones etcetera. Use of any type of camera to take photos of students is also prohibited.

If students are in violation of the above guidelines, the school may withdraw their access to the school bus service and no refunds of fees will be made.

## A 11 BAHÁ'Í HOLY DAYS

School of the Nations is an institution founded on and guided by Bahá'í Principles. As such, a strong emphasis is placed on the development of character, attitudes that will empower the students to lead worthwhile and satisfying lives in an increasingly complex society. Specific theology, rituals or practices of the Bahá'í Faith or any other religion are not included in the school's programme.

The Bahá'í Holy Days, unlike the special days of other religions and cultures, are new and unfamiliar to many people. Most religions specify certain days of the week as well as annual holidays, which should be reserved for worship with ordinary work suspended. In the Baha'i calendar only nine days in the year are regarded as holy or sacred days during which work should be suspended. Please refer to the school calendar in [Appendix 01 - Student Calendar 2017-18](#). Of these only those falling on a working day will affect the operation of the school. Each of these days is associated with major events in the lives of either Bahá'u'lláh or the Báb. Bahá'u'lláh is the author of the laws, principles and teachings of the Bahá'í Faith. The Báb challenged the religious understandings and practices of His time in order to prepare hearts and minds to comprehend and accept the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Since the school observes these days by suspending work we feel it is important for the children to understand the significance of each date. For this purpose, we have requested that teachers prepare activities or lessons focusing on the spiritual significance of these days while avoiding any emphasis on titles, dates, places, rituals or dogmas. These activities should address the following objectives:

- Inspire the students with a sense of the importance of these days in the development of human society.
- Attract the students towards the performance of positive action.
- Encourage a sense of duty and responsibility for the betterment of the world.

## **A 12      HOMEWORK (P1 to F6)**

Homework is an important component of the teaching-learning process. Well-designed and properly regulated homework can be very useful in a number of ways. It can help teachers to further develop and reinforce students' learning outside class hours. It provides a chance for students to check how well they have learned the materials and to identify areas for improvement.

- Homework is not just written assignments. Other types of work like reading, accessing media resources, collecting information for specific purposes, project work, etc. can also be assigned as homework. This gives students a variety of meaningful and enjoyable activities for learning in different subjects.
- Homework assignments aim at consolidating, reinforcing and validating classroom learning, and at monitoring teaching effectiveness and students' progress.
- Homework is not given as a means of punishment.
- Homework may also be self (student) assigned tasks.
- Sufficient time should be allowed for students to relax, offer service, engage in hobbies, social functions, outdoor activities, etc.
- Not completing homework will result in a hierarchy of consequences.
- Homework assignments will be recorded for P1 – P3 students in the planner, and Edmodo for P4 and above. Parents are asked to sign the planner each day for P1 – P3 students and communicate with teachers through Edmodo for P4 and above. Any comments or concerns can be shared with the teacher by writing them in the Planner. It is our hope that there will be frequent communication between parents and teachers.

Homework policy for the Kindergarten classes can be found under item K8 in the Kindergarten section of this handbook.

## **A 13      ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) SUPPORT**

The objective of the ELL Support Department for Primary and Middle School is to assist learners whose first language is not English and whose English language proficiency skills are not at grade level. Most ELLs (English Language Learners) will receive individualised or small group support (depending on their needs) during their mainstream English classes. The focus of instruction is to improve overall levels of proficiency in reading, writing, and oral skills (speaking and listening) whilst preparing student to re-enter the mainstream English program. The ELL support teacher is entirely responsible for assessment and reporting for his or her ELLs. ELLs attend all other classes with the rest of the students at their grade level.

The progress of ELLs is frequently monitored. Regular meetings are held between the ELL support teacher and the classroom teacher to determine whether or not an ELL is ready to return to mainstream English classes. Decisions are based on a variety of assessment tools including an English Skills Inventory Checklist and an Essential Skills Inventory Checklist. When a learner is no longer showing substantial skill gaps, they will return to the mainstream English programme.



## **A 14 USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

### **A 14.1 General Policy on Technology**

- Mobile phones are not recommended and must be turned off while at school. Should they in any way be visible to the teachers or cause a disturbance they will be confiscated. The school does not take responsibility for any loss. Students should use the school phone at the reception desk if they have to communicate with their parents. In case of emergency or some specific situation, they should seek teacher's permission if they need to use their mobile phone.
- Electronic dictionaries are not allowed in examinations. It can be used in class with teacher's permission for structured learning activities only.
- E-Readers (Nook, Kindle, etc.) are only allowed at Middle School and Secondary.
- Laptop computers (please see section A 14.2 for IB students), tablets, portable media players, smartwatches and other electronic devices are not allowed.
- Individual music or video is not allowed in the classroom except for planned activities.
- Students are only allowed to have earphones on when they are needed for a class activity set by the teacher.
- A student's privilege to use computers in school might be taken away if expectations for using technology are not met.

### **A 14.2 Special Permission on Technology**

- IBDP (F5 and F6) students are allowed to bring personal laptops and use them under the teacher's permission and after they sign a contract for using personal laptops in school at the start of the school year. Earphones are not allowed if it is not needed as equipment for activities arranged by the teachers. Tablets, smartwatches and other devices for communication are not allowed.

## **A 15      EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Fire drills and evacuation exercises are carried out regularly throughout the year for the students and staff members of the School. Parents visiting the school should make themselves familiar with the emergency procedures that are clearly posted around the school, and follow instructions from the staff.

## **A 16      REGULATIONS FOR TYPHOON AND OTHER EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The Education Department (DSEJ) has published regulations governing the functioning of schools during typhoons and rainstorms. These regulations can be seen by referring to the document titled “*Enforcing Precautionary Measures for Tropical Cyclones and Rainstorms*” found in the **Appendix 02 – DSEJ Typhoon, Rainstorm and Adverse Weather Condition Guidelines**. This document can also be found on the DSEJ Website at [www.dsej.gov.mo](http://www.dsej.gov.mo).

If the Typhoon T8 signal or other extreme weather conditions is raised in the middle of the school day, the School will inform students and parents via Edmodo and the post announcements on the School Website.

In case of cancellation of school in the middle of the day, student’s dismissal will be arranged and parents will be informed.

## **A 17      PERSONAL INFORMATION AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE OR EMAIL**

It is very important for the school to have complete and up-to-date information about all the students and parents/guardians we may need to contact in case of emergency. Please make sure that the school is informed in the case of changes or additions to any of the following information by informing our Reception desk:

- Home address or telephone number
- Parents contact details, especially mobile phone numbers and email addresses
- Updating this information will ensure that we will be able to contact you in case of an emergency.

## **A 18 STUDENT HEALTH**

- The use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol or cigarettes is absolutely prohibited. Use or possession of these substances will result in an immediate suspension from school and possible expulsion.
- The School must be informed of any regular prescribed medication that a student needs to take regardless of whether it is taken at home or at the school.
- Students are expected to follow healthy habits of eating, sleep and exercise in order to have the necessary energy for study.

### **A 18.1 Administration of Medication**

We are fortunate to have a full-time qualified and registered nurse. The nurse is not only available to meet students' immediate medical needs but also to advise the School Administration on health-related issues. The nurse also liaises with external organizations and ensures that our school meets all our medical obligations with regard to DSEJ requirements.

Parents should inform both the classroom teacher and the nurse of special health information. It is essential for us to know of any allergies, short or long term health problems or medical conditions. If your child needs specific medication during the day, it is important to communicate the administration of medication needs, accompanied by a valid prescription, to the School Nurse or class teacher. The school will contact you in the case of illness or injury that may require further observation at home. For this reason, it is vital that the School has up-to-date records of telephone numbers and addresses. For the administration of medication, please complete and return the attached **Appendix 03 - Medicine Taking Form** as found at the end of this book

### **A 18.2 Student Insurance**

All students are required to have insurance that covers activities during the school day. All students are registered with the Education Department (DSEJ), which issues a student card. This card entitles the students with Macau I.D. cards to free health care at the government hospital and clinics. This insurance does not cover students without Macau I.D. cards. They must purchase insurance privately or purchase it through the school.

## **A 19 SCHOOL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Students, parents and teachers are expected to share in the task of maintaining the quality of the building, furniture and equipment of the School. Listed below are a few items related to the usage of the facilities that are required of every student.

- Desks and lockers (lockers only for P4 and older grades) should be kept neat and tidy
- Special care should be taken when using the washrooms to keep them clean at all times.
- Use paints, markers, ink, etc. carefully as these can permanently damage furniture, floors, and walls.
- Ensure that papers and rubbish are placed appropriately in rubbish and recycle bins and not on the floors.
- Be prepared to reimburse the school for any damage to facilities or equipment resulting from careless or inappropriate use.

## **A 20 LOST AND FOUND**

Students are responsible for all personal items brought to school. If an item has been misplaced, please check the lost and found box by reception. Items left in the lost and found will be disposed of at the end of every month.

## **A 21 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students from P1 onwards are required to pursue extracurricular activities. The School will provide a range of extracurricular activities for students after school. Information regarding the range of activities will be sent by letter. Attendance for extra-curricular activities will be recorded and reported every semester as a separate report.

## **A 22 HOUSE SYSTEM**

The School uses a House System, where each student and staff member is assigned a house colour in order to earn points for their respective houses.

The House System is a way to promote school spirit, positive attitude and unity throughout the school.

## **A 23      LIBRARY ITEMS**

- K1 students may check out 1 book at a time with their parents after school.
- K2 - K3 students may check out 1 book at a time.
- P1 - P2 students may check out up to 2 books at a time.
- P3 - P6 students may check out up to 3 books at a time.
- F1-F6 students may check out up to 5 books at a time
- Books not returned by the end of the year will have a minimum of MOP150 fine.
- Books that are damaged beyond normal wear and tear will be charged a minimum MOP150 fine.
- Textbooks issued to students and not returned at the end of the year have a minimum of MOP1000 fine

The library is open to parents and students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. No after school access is given on Wednesdays. The library is also open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00pm. Kindergarten students are to be accompanied by a parent or helper at all times.

During recess times Primary, Middle School and Secondary students may visit the library to read, write, or create. Additional assistance with research, citations, and book recommendations is available from 3:30-5:00pm or by appointment with the librarian.

Parents are also invited to open a library account. To do this, please visit the SON library after school to fill out an application. A refundable deposit of MOP500 is required. Once set up, parents may check out up to five books.

A study support programme is available in the library every weekday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on Wednesdays.

## **A 24      WITHDRAWAL**

### **A 24.1    Procedure**

Students who wish to withdraw from school must indicate their decision by having their parents inform the school by writing to the administrator in order to initiate the proper procedure for withdrawal.

All library items, class materials and/or any school belongings must be returned before the student leaves the school.

All outstanding fees, fines and damage charges must be paid before the student records are released.

Students planning to enrol in another school must present a written request for an official transcript. The administration may require up to 10 working days to process the transcript. Only after all of the above procedures have been completed will the student be officially withdrawn from the school.

In the case when entrance tests to another school are required to be administered by the SON staff, the school will normally accept this extra responsibility free of charge for one school per academic year. Any additional external examinations administered by the school will incur an administrative fee of MOP800 per school.

### **A 24.2    Refund Policy**

Deposit paid by new student - Non-refundable, Non-transferable

1<sup>st</sup> Semester - 20% paid to confirm seat. Non-refundable, Non-transferable

1<sup>st</sup> Semester – 80% balance of the 2nd instalment tuition fees. If notice of withdrawal is given before 15 of August, the School will refund 50% of the balance of fees paid. Beyond this date, once the fees are paid, it cannot be refunded nor transferred to another student.

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester tuition fees (1<sup>st</sup> instalment 20% and 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment 80%) paid is Non-refundable, Non-transferable

## **A 25 SPECIAL AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS (Primary 1 to Form 6)**

### **A 25.1 School Awards**

Each year students are eligible for the Peace Maker, Light upon Light, Pursuit of Academic Excellence and Pursuit of Excellence in Character awards. These awards are given at the end of the year based on the performance of the students.

#### **Pursuit Of Academic Excellence**

To be awarded to students who have APPLIED themselves CONSISTENTLY and DILIGENTLY to their studies in both English subjects and Chinese.

Students should display high academic merit through grades achieved on the report cards submitted. Grades overall should be high in all subject areas, however, particular attention should be paid to:

- Consistently achieving above 80% in English, Chinese, Maths, and Sciences
- Maximum of 15 absences for the year
- Consistently achieving 4 or 5 in Effort evaluations

#### **Pursuit Of Excellence In Character**

Awarded to students who strive to:

- Demonstrate qualities such as truthfulness, honesty, kindness, justice, humility, courage, trustworthiness etc.
- Demonstrate attitudes such as attitudes of learning, cooperation, perseverance, resilience, helpfulness, etc.
- Demonstrate behaviours such as engaging in acts of service to others (such as their family, school, and community), taking actions that promote unity and justice, diligence in various endeavours, positive response to adversity, etc. are cooperative; contribute and participate well in class
- Obey school rules
- Show respect to teachers and other students

#### **Peacemaker Award**

Awarded to students who have shown special capabilities and willingness to promote unity and justice to the School Community. Students who strive to

- help to bring people of different backgrounds together
- help build a consensus in groups
- promote unity among their peers
- recognize good qualities in everyone
- set an excellent example for others

### **Light Upon Light Award**

Awarded to students who fulfil the criteria for BOTH the Pursuit of Excellence in Character and the Pursuit of Academic Excellence. In addition these students should have achieved EXCELLENT academic results, according to their grades.

## **A 25.2 Government Awards**

The Macao S.A.R. Government recognises outstanding students every year through awards given by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ). Students at the School are eligible for the following awards:

### **Lotus Award**

This is awarded to the Primary 6, Form 3 and Form 6 graduating students who have the most outstanding academic achievement.

### **Li-Bai Award**

This is awarded to the Primary 6, Form 3 and Form 6 graduating students who have the most outstanding academic achievement in Chinese Language.

### **Macao Foundation Subject Awards**

This is awarded to P1 to Form 6 students who have outstanding performance in the following subjects or areas:

- Chinese
- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Arts Education
- Science and Technology
- Humanities and Social Studies
- Conduct
- Academic Improvement



## **A 26      COMMUNICATIONS**

Good communication between home and school is essential to a child's education. The following will assist you in identifying where information may be found. The school website has a wide range of information about our program and announcements for your perusal. The school also has Twitter and Facebook accounts that you can "like" or subscribe to for real time information about activities, and special announcements.

### **A 26.1    Edmodo**

Edmodo is a digital communication platform for schools, enabling communication and collaboration between teachers, students and parents. Accessible through smartphones and computers, it allows the School and its teachers to easily share messages, photos, important announcements and homework deadlines to students and parents. It also provides a forum for collaboration and discussion as participants share ideas, information and resources on the platform. Using Edmodo, parents can easily keep up to date with what's happening at School and in the classroom, directly communicate with the teacher, support their child's learning process, and become fully engaged in the School community.

For K1 to P3, Edmodo is used to disseminate information about goings-on in class but must not be used for direct communication about individual children, The Student Planner/ Green Book should be used for that purpose.

Parents must ensure that they sign up for their child's class and department accounts on Edmodo following the instructions given by the school in the beginning of each academic year.

## **A 27     PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

### **A 27.1    Parent Orientation**

Within the first few weeks of school in September, an orientation session will be provided to you and your child with information specifically about your child's classroom, year level and specialist lessons. Details of different presentations and meeting times will be specified in parent letters sent by the different departments of the School.

### **A 27.2    Parent Visit Days**

In an effort to espouse greater collaboration between teachers and parents, we warmly invite you to attend our Parent Visit Days for your child's class. These opportunities are designed to provide you with occasions to see your child's class in action and observe a typical lesson being carried out.

So as not to disturb the regular school day activities or the classes, we will be limiting the number of parents on each occasion, but will provide continuous opportunities throughout the school year so we can have as many parents as possible take advantage of this opportunity. We appreciate your assistance in adhering to the attached guidelines, in order to make these visits successful for all stakeholders involved.

### **A 27.3    Parent Volunteers**

We like to involve our parents in the daily life of the School. Our parent population is extremely rich in experience and culture and we recognise that students benefit greatly from this. We welcome and encourage parents' input. These are just some of the ways in which you can participate:

- Give a presentation on your country
- Demonstrate your special talent in music or crafts
- Chaperone field trips and social events
- Assist with the work of Special Needs, EAL, French and other languages
- Share your career experience with students
- Help out in the Library

This is not an exhaustive list. If you have time to spare and an idea of how you might help, please contact your child's Administrator.

#### **A 27.4 Protocol for Raising Concerns with the School**

Should any issues or concerns arise, the first port of call should be your child's teachers, as they are most often in the best position to offer assistance. If however, you feel you would like to meet with the relevant administrator, please make an appointment through the school reception. If you still feel that the issue is not resolved, you may make an appointment to see the Director. Appointments can be made with the Executive Director of the Bádi Foundation as the final step in resolving issues with the School.

Please note that the School and Bádi Foundation will not respond or address any anonymous communications.

## **A 28      REPORT CARDS AND GRADING SYSTEM**

Currently, Report Cards and/or Progress Report are issued four times a year in order to inform parents and students of their continuous progress in the grade level. The School is in the process of reviewing its reporting system, and any changes will be announced before they are implemented.

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Report Type</b>
Kindergarten – all grades	Progress Report
Primary – P1 to P3	Progress Report
Primary – P4 to P5	Progress Report and Report Card (marks out of 100)
Middle School – P6 to F2	Progress Report (P6 only) and Report Card (marks out of 100)
Secondary – F3 & F4	Report Card (marks out of 100)
Secondary – IB (F5 & F6)	Report Card (marks out of 7)

Details of the grading systems for different sections are stated in the departmental section of this handbook.

## **A 29      SCHOLARSHIP**

Every year The School of the Nations offers a limited number of scholarships to selected students. Scholarships vary in amount and each case is considered separately. A scholarship application package may be obtained from the Scholarship Committee by requesting the application package from the School reception.

### **A 30      MONETARY AND OTHER DONATIONS TO SCHOOL**

The School accepts and greatly appreciates the support of the wider community in whatever form it is given. High quality education requires continual and significant investment, and financial support from other institutions and individuals ensures that the School is able to deliver the same.

Parents, individuals and institutions may make any monetary contribution they choose to, and earmark it to specific initiatives. The School will deploy those funds as directed.

### **A 31      REFERENCE LETTERS AND FORMS**

All requests of student reference must be applied for at the school reception by filling in a simple form. The administrator of the relevant department will only proceed with the reference referred by the school reception. The school will only communicate with other school admission offices, school administrations and government agencies.

### **A 32      EMERGENCY CONTACT**

From time to time, accidents or emergencies will occur. If a child is ill or has a minor accident, contact will be made with the parents. If the accident is serious, the child will be sent to hospital immediately and parents advised accordingly. Please keep the school informed of any changes of address or phone number. At the start of the year, the School sends home a medical release form which must be filled and signed by parents/legal guardians.

**DEPARTMENTAL SECTION**

**KINDERGARTEN**



## **K 1      GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **K 1.1      School Attendance**

Please refer to Section A9 regarding the general policy on student leave and leave application.

Punctuality to school is important. Kindergarten students are dependent on parents to bring them to school on time and so we request the support of parents and families in ensuring that they are on time. The teacher will mark students arriving to class tardy and this will be stated in the report card.

### **K 1.2      Parent-Teacher Handbook/Green Book**

The purpose of this book is to provide a continuous flow of communication between parents and the school. It also acts as a communication link between you and your child's teachers, so that you are aware at all times of the progress of your child. It gives you the opportunity to write your comments to the teacher. Please make sure that you always sign the book after reading a message. In this way we can work together towards the education of your child.

### **K 1.3      Field Trips**

At the beginning of the school year, a general consent form will be sent home for parents to sign for their children to participate in field trips. During the first month of school, the field trips planned for the whole school year will be sent home. We welcome the participation of parents, as assistants to the class teachers, in accompanying the classes on these trips. If you are interested in supporting these field trips, please let your child's class teacher know in advance. In case of bad weather, or extenuating circumstances, we might have to cancel the field trip. If it is possible to reschedule the trip then the teacher will inform you. Please note that no helpers/ maids are allowed on the field trips.

### **K 1.4      Children's Diet**

The school aims to provide balanced meals and snacks for its students. We would appreciate your cooperation in making sure that the children do not bring any snack to school.

Parents are requested not to send drinking water, as the school provides it.



### **K 1.5 Lunch Options**

The School offers two lunch options:

**School Lunch:** The school will provide a nutritious lunch. If the child is having school lunch no other food should be brought from home.

**Home Lunch:** Children should carry lunch with them in the morning when they come to school. Lunch cannot be delivered to school at any other time.

### **K 1.6 Birthday Celebrations**

We are very happy to help celebrate your child's special day at school with their friends and teachers. If you wish to have your child cut a cake on his/her birthday at school, please inform your child's teacher a week in advance. The cake should be delivered to school before 11:00 a.m. on that day.

### **K 1.7 Items Which Need to be Kept at School**

- K-1 a pillow & a small blanket for nap, and an old oversized shirt / T-shirt for art.

All students need a pair of white canvas shoes to be worn inside the school building. The address of the shop where the shoes can be bought from is available at the front desk.

### **K 1.8 Items Which Need to be Kept in the School Bag**

- The Green Book.
- A set of spare uniform, underwear and socks in case of accident.
- A small towel for Gym and park.

### **K 1.9 Toys and Valuables**

Students should not bring toys or other valuables to school except for educationally related activities approved by the teacher.

### **K 1.10 Uniform**

- The school uniform should always be neat in appearance while coming to school, in school or returning home.

- Stained or torn items should be replaced.
- Please do not mix different season's uniforms.
- Please mark all uniform pieces with the name of your child, so that they can be recognized when he/she does not wear them.

Socks      Please note that socks are also part of school uniform, therefore they must be:

- White
- Plain (without patterns)
- Ankle length (knee high or bulky around ankles are not acceptable)

Shoes      White canvas shoes.

Jewellery      No jewellery is permitted except a simple religious symbol if it is part of a family's religious practice.

Hair      Dyed hair is forbidden.  
 Girl's hair, if longer than shoulder length, must be tied back  
 with black coloured ribbons, hairclips or head bands.  
 Boy's hair must be cut in a conservative style.

## **K 2      SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURES**

### **K 2.1      School Hours**

The Kindergarten school timings are from 8:25 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### **K 2.2      Arrival**

- Students may enter the building at 8:20 a.m. and line up in the lobby. The teacher will then walk them to the classroom.
- All Kindergarten students should be at school no later than 8:35 a.m. to prepare themselves and be ready in time for classes.
- To ensure safety, please do not leave your child unaccompanied either in the school courtyard or in the lobby.
- For students who arrive after the class teacher has collected the students, parents are requested to hand over their child to the door duty teachers.

### **K 2.3 Dismissal**

- We request parents, grandparents or legal guardians to pick up their child from the classroom when school finishes. Children will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m. Parents should be prompt in picking up their children at dismissal.
- Please note that the school issues two student pick-up cards. Your child will be released in the care of the person who presents the card to the teacher. **Parents are also required to bring the pick-up card when they come to collect their child. Please ensure that if the card is lost, you inform the school immediately.**

The school reserves the right to make photocopies of any ID cards.

## **K 3 ACADEMICS**

### **K 3.1 Progress Reports and Parent/Teacher Conferences**

School of the Nations' Kindergarten Section issues four formal, written report cards per academic year. This report card is given at the end of each term and should be collected at the front desk. During the course of the year there will be two informal reporting opportunities at Parent - Teacher Consultation Days. These opportunities are for you to consult with your child's teacher regarding his or her progress and other concerns you may have regarding your child.

### **K 3.2 Homework**

Homework is assigned at K3 and K2 only. Three times a week is English and two times a week is Chinese. Homework is something that the child is familiar with, a reinforcement of what is being taught in the class. It also develops in children the habit of regular independent work. Homework should be completed and returned to school the next day.

## **DEPARTMENTAL SECTION**

# **PRIMARY**



## **P 1      GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **P 1.1      School Attendance**

*Please refer to Section A7 regarding the general policy on student leave and leave application.*

Punctuality is important. All primary students arriving late are required to complete a LATE ARRIVAL FORM and submit it to their teacher. Students arriving late to class more than two times in a week, will be referred to the Administrator. As Primary students are dependent on parents to get them to school on time, we require the support of parents and families to ensure we teach this important habit to our students.

### **P 1.2      Electronic Equipment**

Students are not permitted to bring iPods, CD players, electronic dictionaries, electronic readers (Kindle), electronic games and smart-watches to school unless specifically requested by the teachers. If parents wish for students to carry mobile phones, they must be put away once they arrive on school property and must not be taken out again until students are dismissed from school. Earphones are not allowed except for specific learning activities assigned by teachers.

### **P 1.3      Toys and Valuables**

Students should not bring toys or other valuables to school except for educationally related activities approved by the teacher. Occasionally, students may wish to bring an item as part of a project or piece of school-related work. Under these circumstances, all valuables should be given to the classroom teacher for safe keeping to be returned at the end of the school day. The school does not take responsibility for the loss or theft of any valuables if these procedures are not followed.

### **P 1.4      Field Trips**

Field trips are designed to reinforce the lessons and topics being studied and enhance student's learning on all levels, and will take place regularly during the year. These trips will be rich in language acquisition experiences. The school welcomes parent involvement not only as chaperones but also as participants. We also welcome suggestions for field trip destinations. Parents are asked to sign and return a general consent form at the beginning of the year, for students to be able to attend field trips.

Prior to any field trips, parents will be informed of the date of the trip, the purpose, location, travel arrangements and any other pertinent information.

Students should remember that as participants in the school organized trips, they are representatives of the school at all times. As such, they are expected to abide by the school rules, to follow appropriate standards of behaviour and appearance and to demonstrate concern for the wellbeing of others. If students are not able to be safe on field trips, they will be asked to not participate in further field trips.

#### **P 1.5     Birthday Celebrations**

We love to help your children celebrate their birthdays at school, as it is a memorable time to share with teachers and friends. However, in an effort to maximize student instruction time, we request the consideration of providing “goodie” bags for classmates which can be distributed and taken home, in lieu of birthday cakes. If you still wish to send a cake, please notify your child’s teacher at least one day in advance and drop off the cake on the day of the celebration at the front desk by 11:30 am.

## **P 2        SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURES**

### **P 2.1      Arrival and Departure Procedures**

Children may enter the school building at 8:10 am and line up in the lobby; parents and guardians are asked to wait outside the glass doors. Students may be at school earlier accompanied by an adult, and may wait in the courtyard until the doors open at 8:10 am. Students will be picked up at 8:15 am by their class teachers and walked to their classrooms. Teachers are not available at this time to chat as they are on active duty and thus responsible for the safety and security of the students.

If students come after the class has walked up, they will be asked to get to their classroom on their own.

At the end of the day, students are walked in their class lines to the lobby and are dismissed when the doors open to parents and guardians waiting outside. P4 and P5 students may walk home on their own, if we have written consent from the parents. P1 – P3 students are required to be dismissed to their guardian or parent.

Teachers are on duty for 10 minutes after the bell and will wait with the students in the lobby. After that time, the students will be sent to the library to wait for their parents. For P1 students, we will call home.

### **P 2.2      Lunch Break and Morning Recess**

Students have a choice of bringing their own lunch or having school lunch supplied (if ordered in advance on a monthly basis). Information about the school lunch program is on the school website or you can get information from the school Reception.

Students who choose to have home lunch may bring it with them in the morning or have it dropped off at lunchtime. Please note that lunches may be left in the lunch boxes in the lobby or the parent/guardian can wait for the child to collect it outside of the glass door. Lunch boxes should be labelled clearly with the student's name and class.

We encourage our students to eat healthy and balanced lunches that should include fruits and vegetables. Students should not be sent to school with chocolates, fizzy drinks, sweets and candies.



Students should also be provided with a healthy snack to enjoy mid-morning during morning recess. Students are welcome to go to the cafeteria to enjoy their snack before going to play.

Students should also have a refillable water bottle with them at all times. Water is available from the water dispensers throughout the school.

Primary students are required to stay at school for lunch, unless a parent signs them out during lunchtime at the front desk.

### **P 2.3     Student Planner/Edmodo**

The P1 – P3 students have a student planner, which they must use to record homework in daily. This is the primary source of communication between teachers and parents and assists students to develop the habit of noting down important information and keeping organized.

In P4 and P5, parents and students must use Edmodo, an online platform, to keep track of homework and special announcements.

All course curriculum guides and class newsletters (published once monthly by the classroom teachers) can be found on Edmodo for all grades P1 – P5.

### **P 2.4     School Supplies**

All students are expected to bring with them each day common school supplies; pens, pencils, coloured pencils, erasers, scissors, textbooks, planners, and notebooks. A complete list is provided at the beginning of the year. Supplies should be kept current by the parents throughout the year so that the student need never be without supplies.

### **P 3        SNACKS, GUM AND CANDY**

Students should finish breakfast before coming to school. Snacks are allowed during the time allocated at morning recess. Snacks should be healthy and tidy to eat. Teachers can judge the appropriateness of the snacks. The school suggests snacks such as: fruits, vegetables, nuts, cheese and juice. Due to the effect large doses of sugar have on behaviour, students are strongly discouraged from eating candy during school hours. Students are not allowed to bring or chew gum at school or during school activities.

### **P 4        ACADEMICS**

#### **P 4.1      Parent/Teacher Conferences and Progress Reports**

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year. Reports are issued to students four times a year. These reports show academic and effort grades, absences and number of days a student has been tardy. For Primary students, parents need to collect these reports from the Reception desk. The first parent/teacher conference is a student-led conference and provides students the opportunity to share with parents what they have been learning. It is an opportunity for the students to lead and take ownership for their learning, and we appreciate parents supporting the students in sharing with them their progress and goals.

#### **P 4.2      Academic Advancement**

Students of Primary 1-3 are assessed on a continual basis. Performance goals are established and the children are monitored as they progress towards these goals. At this level the child's competency will be noted for each goal.

Students of Primary 4 and 5 will receive a grade in each main subject area at the end of each semester. Assessment will primarily be made on a continual basis; day-to-day work, assignments, project, homework, short quizzes and tests will provide 82% of the yearly grade. The remaining 18% is allocated to the Mid-Year Assessment and the Final Examination. The marks will be reported on a percentage scale with 100% representing the maximum. Please note that 65% is pass.

To be promoted, students must achieve a satisfactory academic standard. For P4 and P5, the passing mark for all subjects is 65%. A student will be promoted to the next level if he/she

- passes ALL subjects      **or**
- has an average mark of 65% or above, has failed at most TWO subjects other than English.

Students are allowed to sit supplementary examination(s) in no more than TWO subjects provided that they have achieved at least 50% in these subjects. Should they gain a grade of 65% or higher in the supplementary examination they will be awarded a pass grade for that subject.

As School of the Nations adopts a number of rigorous international programmes in the Secondary sections, students need to be well prepared for entry into these programmes.

**DEPARTMENTAL SECTION**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
&  
SECONDARY**



## **MS 1 INTRODUCTION**

Learning is an active process that cannot be imposed on an individual. Middle School and Secondary students of the School of the Nations are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. With the assistance of the teachers and staff it is the student's responsibility to find the fullest advantage of the opportunities open to them at the school.

## **MS 2 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME**

### **MS 2.1 Overview**

The academic programme of the School of the Nations is designed to offer a well-rounded experience to all students. By the time students finish Form 4 they are expected to progress in the areas of English Language and Literature, Chinese Language, Mathematics, Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Humanities, Computer Science and the Arts, and sit for the CIE IGCSE (Cambridge International Examinations; International General Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations. At Form 5, the students begin the first year of a two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). At all levels the medium of instruction is English while strong emphasis is placed on learning Mandarin.

A special character development programme has been designed for all Middle School and Secondary students. The programme focuses on getting to know the needs of society and developing the habit of serving the community.

### **MS 2.2 Marking**

Marks are calculated on a percentage basis from Primary 6 to Form 4. More weight is given to coursework than to examinations. Course work is a combination of homework, class work, assignments, projects, quizzes and short tests. There is a Mid-Year Assessment and a Final Examination. Marks depend on the standard and regularity of all work completed during the year. At Forms 5 and 6, the IB Diploma Programme is marked on a separate 1 – 7 scale, with comments from the individual subject teachers.

## **MS 2.3 Term Mark and Exam Mark Weightage**

### **Primary 6 to Form 2 (out of 100)**

- Term 1 coursework mark: 20%
- Term 2 coursework mark: 20%
- Mid-Year Assessment: 10%
- Term 3 coursework mark: 20%
- Term 4 coursework mark: 20%
- Final Exam: 10%

\* For PE (P6 to F6) there are no exams, so each term weighs equally

### **Form 3 and Form 5 (out of 100)**

- Term 1 coursework mark: 19%
- Term 2 coursework mark: 19%
- Mid-Year Assessment: 12%
- Term 3 coursework mark: 19%
- Term 4 coursework mark: 19%
- Final Exam: 12%

### **Form 4 and Form 6 (out of 100)**

- Term 1 coursework mark: 20%
- Term 2 coursework mark: 20%
- Mid-Year Assessment: 15%
- Term 3 coursework mark: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

(F4 and F6 Final Exam periods are at the end of Term 3 or beginning of Term 4)

## MS 2.4 Effort Marks (1 to 5)

Effort marks are given and recorded in the report cards from Primary 4 to Form 6 for all subjects.

Effort Mark	Description
5	Consistently demonstrating a high degree of effort in all areas of the subject
4	Frequently demonstrating a high degree of effort in all areas of the subject
3	Generally demonstrating a significant degree of effort in all areas of the subject
2	Occasionally demonstrating effort in some areas of the subject
1	Rarely, if ever, demonstrating effort in some areas of the subject
* A legitimate reason is needed to award a “5” to a student who fails the subject * The Administration will discuss the cases of “1” and “5” with the subject teachers	

The areas students may show effort in include, but not limited to,

- participation in class activities
- preparation of lessons
- preparation of quizzes, tests and exams
- meeting submission deadlines of assignments
- maintaining good attendance records
- perseverance when facing challenges, etc.



## **MS 2.5 Promotion Standards**

### **MS 2.5.1 Promotion Conditions: P6 to F4**

To be promoted, students must achieve a satisfactory academic standard and complete the requirements of the Character Development Programme. The passing mark for all subjects is 65%. A student will be promoted to the next level if he/she

- passes ALL subjects      **or**
- has an average mark of 65% or above, has failed at most TWO subjects other than English.

Students are allowed to sit supplementary examination(s) in at most TWO subjects provided that they have achieved at least 50% in these subjects. Should they gain a grade of 65% or higher in the supplementary examination they will be awarded a pass grade for that subject.

These supplementary examination(s) will be held towards the end of August, once in order to give the students enough time to study well for these exams.

### **MS 2.5.2 Promotion Conditions: F5 and F6 (Years 1 and 2 of the IB Diploma Programme)**

F5 Students whose total score is 20 points or above in the six IB Groups will be promoted to the next level, along with:

- satisfactory completion of the Extended Essay requirements for DP year 1
- a final mark of a C or higher in Theory of Knowledge for year 1
- satisfactory completion of CAS (Creativity, Action & Service) activities for year 1
- no grade 2 or lower in any Higher Level (HL) subject

To graduate from Secondary at the end of F6, students must gain 20 points or above in the six IB Subject Groups, along with:

- completion of the Extended Essay
- a final mark of a C or higher in Theory of Knowledge
- completion of CAS (Creativity, Action & Service) activities
- no grade 2 or lower in any Higher Level (HL) subject

## **MS 2.6 Diplomas and Certificates**

Students who successfully graduate from Primary 6, Form 3 and Form 6 are issued Diplomas (as designated by the Government).

- Primary 6 – Primary Education Certificate
- Form 3 – Intermediate Secondary Education Certificate
- Form 6 – Higher Secondary Education Certificate

School of the Nations adopts a number of rigorous international programmes in the Secondary section; students may receive the following qualifications:

- Form 3 and Form 4 – Cambridge University International Examinations: International General Certificate of Secondary Education (CIE - IGCSE)
- Form 6 – International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma/Certificate

## **MS 2.7 Schedules**

The daily schedule for P6 to F6 students for this academic year are published and distributed on the first day of school.

## **MS 3 EXPECTATIONS**

Positive and cooperative behaviour is expected of every student in the School of the Nations.

Students should strive for courtesy and respect in all aspects of their life and be impeccably honest and truthful. We view truthfulness as the foundation of all human virtues. Each student is a representative of the school. The image of the school and the reputation of fellow classmates is enhanced or damaged by the behaviour of individual students. For greater clarity some major areas are discussed below.

### **MS 3.1 Language**

- Students are expected to use only English or Mandarin while at school
- During class, only one person should speak at a time unless small group activities have been organised

- Language should be decent, respectful and kindly
- Vulgar language, threatening language, and name-calling are not allowed
- Problems are to be solved through consultation and discussion

### **MS 3.2 Relationships**

- Students are encouraged to form a large number of friendships
- Demonstration of boyfriend/girlfriend relationships through hand-holding, embracing, or other affectionate behaviour is not allowed while in school uniform
- Intimidation, sexual harassment and abusive language are absolutely prohibited
- Students are expected to encourage one another and be a positive influence

### **MS 3.3 Safety**

- Air guns, knives, and other dangerous instruments are not allowed at any time.
- Steel tipped shoes, large belt buckles or similar elements are not allowed at any time.
- Fighting is, of course, absolutely prohibited.

### **MS 3.4 Integrity**

- Copying of homework, assignments or test papers is not allowed. Copied work will be awarded a "0" mark.
- Cheating/Malpractice and plagiarism will be dealt with severity, and the assignment will get a "0" mark. In addition, it may lead to reporting to the relevant authorities in the case of international examinations.
- Students play the most important role in their progress, and hence if a student needs additional assistance to understand lessons or assignments, it is their responsibility to seek help from the teacher concerned.
- Truthfulness and honesty are expected at all times. Stealing and lying will lead to suspension and possible expulsion.
- Students are expected to be helpful, courteous and cooperative with each other and with the staff of the school.
- School property as well as the property of classmates is to be respected at all times.

- Students must pay for school properties that are wilfully damaged and equipment that is misused.

### **MS 3.5 Academic Honesty**

“Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues ...”. The students at the School of the Nations must uphold a high standard of academic honesty and integrity. Students are prohibited from cheating, lying, plagiarising, or committing other acts of academic dishonesty. The well-being of the entire school community depends on the student accepting responsibility for personal conduct in both social and academic endeavours.

Students must produce work representative of their own efforts and abilities. They should refrain from even attempting to show knowledge and skills they do not possess and claiming it as their own.

Students and staff of the School must be fully aware of the fact that academic dishonesty undermines the purposes of education and denies the students’ right to personal and academic integrity. Upholding the standards and promoting academic honesty is the responsibility of the whole school community in order to nurture a positive and meaningful academic environment. Students must be fully informed that teachers, administrators, and parents/guardians will hold them accountable for any act of academic dishonesty.

#### **MS 3.5.1 Consequences**

The School of the Nations intends to help students to learn from mistakes and not exhibit dishonest behaviour in the future through the use of consequences. Violations of academic honesty are cumulative during the student’s entire attendance at the School. Consequences will include:

- Teacher will assign zero for the work in question, and the student has to re-submit the work even though no grade will be given
- Teacher will submit a referral to the level administrator
- Teacher or administrator will contact parent/guardian regarding the incident
- Administrator will enter incident into student’s file into the School’s Student Information System.

The following are also consequences which may also apply:

- Administrator may inform relevant external exam bodies like the IGCSE or the IB
- Administrator may suspend student's membership in any school sport team or opportunity of representing the School in other activities
- Conference will be held with the parent/guardian and student.

#### MS 3.5.2 Use of TURNITIN

The School has subscribed on a site license of Turnitin.com. Students and teachers will regularly use Turnitin.com as a vehicle for assessment submission, self- and peer-assessment of works, and as a tool for ensuring originality of student work.

### MS 3.6 Learning Environment

To maintain an appropriate learning environment, students should note the following:

- Respect their immediate physical environment. This requires a high level of cleanliness, self-control and selflessness. The environment is shared by all and is not owned by any one individual.
- Students are expected to bring with them all required elements such as books, note paper, calculators, pencils, pens, etc.
- Within the classroom, students may only store their items in their backpacks (which can be stored at the back of the room) – nothing is to be kept in desks
- Students are expected to keep their desks and areas surrounding them clear of materials except for those needed for the current lesson.
- Lockers are to be used for storage of students' materials and personal items
- Electronic music players, electronic dictionaries, unauthorised electronic devices, playing cards, toys, comics, teen magazines, pornographic materials, etc. are not allowed.
- Litter is to be placed in appropriate receptacles
- Chewing gum is not allowed.
- Eating or drinking in school is permitted only in the cafeteria

## **MS 4      STUDENT ASSISTANCE**

Middle School and Secondary students should not only be concerned with their academic development, but should also be actively engaged in developing themselves as individuals and members of a community. They will confront and resolve many issues on a daily basis. Some of these issues have to do with studies, understanding of self, family, society or relationships. The School of the Nations provides many opportunities for you to discuss any questions, concerns or problems. Students may bring any issue to, or seek help from:

- Any teacher they have confidence in
- The school social workers
- The administrators
- The school director

## **MS 5      DETENTION, PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION (This section is under review)**

Students who deviate significantly from the norms expressed in this handbook will be assisted to review and modify their conduct. This assistance will begin with advice and counsel. If the inappropriate behaviour continues, other means may be used including requiring the student to carry out different types of work, producing special assignments, detention, arranging a probationary contract, or being placed under short-term suspension. If the behaviour is seriously affecting other students or the image of the school and does not improve, withdrawal of the enrolment will be considered.

### **MS 5.1    Consequences**

Middle School and Secondary students are required to attend detentions during the week for the following reasons:

- If students are late for classes two times or more in a week
- For other disciplinary measures with the approval of the level administrator.

Students may be summarily expelled from the school without notice or compensation for the following:

- Intimidation

- Violent and/or dangerous behaviour
- Gang related activities
- Sexual harassment
- Use, sale or distribution of illicit drugs
- Theft

The school director in consultation with the administrative team will decide cases on an individual basis.

## **MS 5.2 Probation**

If a student's academic progress or behaviour falls below satisfactory and is of significant concern, he/she may be placed on a probationary contract. The probationary contract itemises specific areas of concern, sets expectations, and places the student's continued enrolment on a conditional basis. Failure to meet the conditions of the contract could ultimately result in a student being asked to leave the school.

**MS 6 THE CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS (CIE)  
INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE FOR SECONDARY  
EDUCATION (IGCSE)**

The students in F3 and F4 are being prepared for 8 to 9 IGCSE syllabi and the corresponding examinations.

**Compulsory Syllabi:**

0457	Global Perspectives
0478	Computer Science
0500	First Language English (Oral Endorsement)
0580	Mathematics (Without Coursework)
0610	Biology
0620	Chemistry
0625	Physics

**Elective Syllabi based on Students' ability and/or preferences:**

0400*	Art and Design
0410*	Music
0411*	Drama
0486	Literature (English)
0509^	First Language Chinese
0523^	Chinese as a Second Language
0547^	Foreign Language Mandarin Chinese
0606	Additional Mathematics

\* ONE of the syllabi 0400, 0410 and 0411 must be taken

^ ONE of the syllabi 0509, 0523 and 0547 must be taken

All students in Form 4 must attend the IB Orientation and fulfil related assessments during the last two weeks of the academic year as one of the requirements to pass Form 4 and be admitted to the IB Diploma Programme in Form 5 at the School of the Nations.



## **MS 7 THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP)**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) at the School of the Nations is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19.

It is an internationally recognized, academically challenging and balanced programme of education that prepares students for success at university and life beyond.

It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities.

The Diploma Programme prepares students for effective participation in a rapidly evolving and increasingly global society as they:

- Develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.
- Acquire breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, studying courses from 6 subject groups.
- Develop the skills and a positive attitude toward learning that will prepare them for higher education.
- Study at least two languages and increase understanding of cultures, including their own.
- Make connections across traditional academic disciplines and explore the nature of knowledge through the programme's unique theory of knowledge course.
- Undertake in-depth research into an area of interest through the lens of one or more academic disciplines in the extended essay.

Enhance their personal and interpersonal development through creativity, action and service.

### **MS 7.1 IB Mission Statement**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## **MS 7.2 IB Learner Profile**

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

### **Inquirers**

They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

### **Knowledgeable**

They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

### **Thinkers**

They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

### **Communicators**

They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

### **Principled**

They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

**Open-minded**

They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

**Caring**

They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

**Risk-takers**

They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

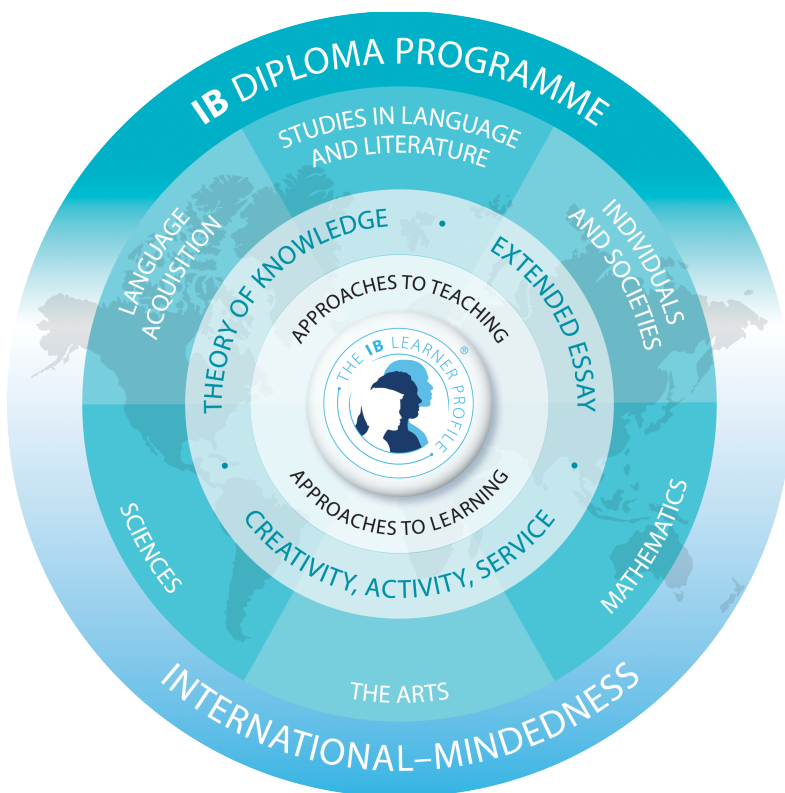
**Balanced**

They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

**Reflective**

They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

### MS7.3 The IB Diploma Programme Model



Besides the study of six subjects areas, IB Diploma students take the core elements consisting of:

- Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- Extended Essay (EE)
- Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

## **MS 7.4 IB Diploma Programme Admission Policy**

Candidates applying for entrance into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) at the School of the Nations must meet the requirements described in one of the two categories listed in this section of the handbook.

### **MS 7.4.1 Category 1: Candidates Who Are Internal Students**

#### **Internal Students**

Internal students refer to students who are enrolled to Form 4 at the school for at least two academic terms (5 months) before the end of the Form 4 year.

#### **Promotion from Form 4 to the IBDP in Form 5**

To be entered into the IBDP, internal students have to achieve a promotion status described below:

Students must achieve a satisfactory academic standard at the Form 4 level in the school and complete the required credits from the Character Development Programme.

The passing mark for every subject is 65%. A student will be promoted to Form 5 and therefore enter the IBDP if he/she

- passes ALL subjects **or**
- has an average mark of 65% or above, has failed at most TWO subjects other than English

Students are allowed to sit supplementary examination(s) in at most TWO subjects provided that they have achieved at least 50% in these subjects. Should they gain a grade of 65% or higher in the supplementary examination, they will be awarded a pass grade for that subject.

### **MS 7.4.2 Category 2: External Candidates Who Are Applying to Enter The IBDP**

External Students: External students refer to candidates who are applying for a seat in Form 5 and entering the IBDP.

Entrance Requirements and Tests for External Students:

a. Application timeline:

For September entry, applicants must meet the regular application deadline for full consideration. Entrance exams and interviews will be completed after applications are accepted.

Entry into the IBDP after September in Year 1 (Form 5) is discouraged. Unless a student is currently pursuing the IB diploma at another institution, it is very challenging to start an IB curriculum after it has begun. If a student wishes to be considered for mid-year entry, a minimum of twenty (20) working days are required to coordinate document review, entrance exams, and interviews to be completed.

b. Required documentation:

Students who move from other schools need to provide the following documents:

- Completed application form, including a picture of the applicant and application fee.
- Proof (letter from Head of School, reports, etc.) that the student has completed Form 4 (Grade 10) or equivalent.
- Contact details of the previous school in order for us to receive a reference and coordinate entrance test administration if the applicant is not in Macau during the application process.
  - Two academic letters of reference are required. One must be from an English teacher and the other from a subject the applicant wishes to pursue at the Higher Level (HL) in the IBDP.
- Official report cards for at least the last two years of education.
- Any official or predicted exam results that an applicant has/will take (e.g. IGCSE, IELTS, TOEFL, PSAT, etc.).
- A recently-marked English essay with teacher commentary.
- A copy of the admission policy signed by the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Any medical documentation in the case of a medical condition that may affect student learning or experience at SON.
- Subject Proposal of curriculum to be taken for the IBDP.
  - Applicants must indicate which subjects he/she wishes to study at the Higher Level and Standard Level (three of each). Please consult the SON course offerings.

c. Entrance tests:

All applicants are required to take entrance tests for admission. Depending on the student's first language and programme preference, the following subjects may be tested:

*English*

Skills: English language mastery and analytical skills

Content:

Part 1: Unseen Commentary

Part 2: Essay on a prescribed topic

*Mathematics*

Skills: Mathematical techniques and Applying mathematical techniques to solve problems

Content: - Numbers and mathematical notations

- Algebra

- Mensuration

- Plane and 3D Geometry

- Trigonometry

- Graphs

- Sets, Vectors and Functions

- Matrices and Transformations

- Statistics and Probability

*Sciences*

Skills: Knowledge and understanding, handling information and problem solving

Content: CIE IGCSE syllabi of Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics depending on the Science subject(s) selected in the proposal of curriculum.

d. Time and venue of entrance tests

The School will accept applications beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March for admission to the following academic year. This process continues until the class is full or the academic year has begun in September.

Students who fail the entrance tests in April are allowed to retake the tests in August. Applicants living in Macau may be able to schedule alternate testing and interview dates, but must be done so with IBDP Coordinator approval.

To meet the needs of prospective students who cannot sit tests in Macau, the School allows students to take entrance tests at their present

school, providing the school assures that the tests will be taken in strict exam conditions. Completed test papers should be scanned and emailed to the IBDP Coordinator. Contact information for a school guidance counsellor or administrator must be submitted with the admission application to coordinate entrance test procedures.

e. Interview:

In addition to the entrance tests, the School may request that the student attend an admission interview. This is an opportunity for the student to present his/her educational background and explain any inconsistency in the test results or to demonstrate language proficiency. A web-based interview is possible for students living abroad during the time of application.

f. Admission decision and choice of curriculum:

Having considered entrance requirements (e.g. tests, references, etc.) and the applicant's curriculum proposal, the School will make an admission decision. Students may be admitted to the full diploma programme or advised to follow a certificate track that is tailored to their needs and abilities. Admission to the School or the IBDP may be denied if a candidate's command of the English language, academic preparation, or academic commitment is considered insufficient for the student to successfully cope with the requirements of the programme. Decisions will be made in writing.

## **MS 7.5 Subject Selection in the IB Diploma Programme**

Students accepted into the full IB Diploma Programme or into the certificate track must confirm their subject preferences by completing the Subject Selection Form. Students should bear in mind that there is no guarantee that they will be able to attend all of the selected courses. The school will try to meet the needs of as many students as possible, however, due to scheduling, some students may be asked to choose a different subject.

### **MS 7.5.1 Requirement For Taking An IB Subject At The Higher Level (HL)**

- Mathematics HL: Grade A or A\* in IGCSE Mathematics or Grade B or above in IGCSE Additional Mathematics



- Other subject HL: Grade C or above in IGCSE of the corresponding subject
- For students who enrol to the School through Category 2 mentioned in Section 2, if IGCSE or equivalent exams were not taken, the decision of enrolment to an HL course is go to be made by the coordinator and the teachers after evaluating the entrance tests.
- Students who do not fulfil the requirements listed in the two points above but wish to take those subjects at the Higher Level, a probation period of 3 months will be set up with a contract. Evaluation will be made by the faculty at the end of the probation period to decide whether the student can stay in that subject at HL or move to the standard level (SL) of that subject, and therefore moving the Certificate track of the IBDP as described in 3.1.3 below.

#### MS 7.5.2 IBDP Full Diploma Programme:

Students for the IBDP full diploma programme must satisfy assessment requirements in six subjects and the core in a two-year programme at the School. The six subjects must be selected from six groups as described in the relevant handbook for the examination session, at least three and not more than four subjects to be taken at higher level and the others at standard level (SL). Recommended teaching time is 240 hours to complete higher level (HL) courses and 150 hours to complete standard level courses.

In addition to the six subjects, students must complete the following core requirements:

Take a course in, and complete the required assessment in, Theory of Knowledge (TOK), over the two-year period of the Diploma Programme.

Complete the programme of Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) activities, for which the IB recommends at least 150 hours for the combination of activities.

Complete and submit for assessment an Extended Essay (EE) in a subject available for this purpose. Work on the essay, which is expected to occupy approximately 40 hours, must be done under the direct supervision of a teacher at the school who has appropriate qualifications and/or experience in the subject chosen by the candidate and is familiar with the Diploma Programme.

### MS 7.5.3 IBDP Certificate Track:

For students who do not fulfil the requirements listed in 3.1.1 regarding the enrolment to the subjects at HL for 3 subjects, a certificate track of the IBDP is offered to them. In the certificate track of the IBDP, students at the School are required to take less than 3 subjects at HL but still have to fulfil the school requirements of TOK, CAS and EE. This is to ensure the greatest effort is put into the preparations of skills and practice of what is required in their tertiary education.

### MS 7.5.4 Taking FOUR Higher Level (HL) Subjects in IB

Based on the individual student's needs and abilities in the subject area, the School of the Nations may allow students in the IB Diploma Programme to select up to 4 subjects at the higher level (HL) based on certain conditions.

Students who wish to take FOUR subjects at the Higher Level (HL) at the time of enrolment to the IBDP must fulfil ALL of the following conditions:

Fulfil individual subject requirements for any HL course they wish to take.

- Approval from the IB Diploma Coordinator in consultation with the corresponding IGCSE subject teachers, IB subject teachers and guidance counsellor.
- An agreement signed by the student, parent, and the IBDP Coordinator regarding the possibility of moving one of the HL subjects to SL according to the student's academic performance in that subject at any time during the programme.

### MS 7.5.5 Core Components

The three core requirements of the IBDP - Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Extended Essay (EE) - are compulsory for students following the Full Diploma Programme and the Certificate Track of the programme. Students following the full Diploma Programme can earn up to 3 extra marks for successful completion of TOK and EE.

#### MS 7.5.6 Self-taught Mother Tongue

The School of the Nations appreciates the variety of languages spoken by the school community. Advice and support are given to students whose mother tongue is other than the currently offered Languages A, and who want to include their mother tongue in their subjects programme. The School will assist parents in searching for suitable teachers and offers internal training to the latter. Upon request, classrooms can be provided for such classes at the school. However, it is also acceptable for these classes to take place outside of the School. Any additional costs (e.g. tutor's remuneration) are the sole responsibility of the parents/guardians. It is expected that external tutors will inform the DP Coordinator of the student's progress on a regular basis and complete report comments four times per year. The current subject available for self-taught is Language A: Language and Literature SL only.

#### MS 7.5.7 Students Transferring From Other IB Schools

The School of the Nations accepts students who started the IBDP at other IB schools on condition that the school currently offers the subjects they studied in their previous school. Transferring students may be exempted from entrance tests. However, the transferring student needs to submit reports and/or a letter from their previous school, which confirms that he/she was enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme. Students who wish to carry over any Internal Assessment tasks from their previous school need to ensure that all required IB forms have been completed and signed by their supervisor. It is of paramount importance that all Group 4 lab work (including evidence of the Group 4 Project) is documented and the documents are signed by the previous teacher.

### **MS 7.6 Language Policy in the SON IB Diploma Programme**

#### MS 7.6.1 Philosophy

For an individual to actively participate in the progress of society language is essential. Language is used to transmit knowledge, communicate principles, ideas, opinions, needs, desires and emotions. Language is necessary for thinking. There are various types of language: social language, scientific language, mathematical language and artistic

language. Language also refers to specific lexical and grammatical sets known as English, Mandarin, Russian or some 3,000 other tongues. The mother language is acquired at the beginning from parents and other family members as well as the surrounding social milieu. Initial learning takes place by correlating physical objects, actions and expressions with specific sounds. Additional languages can be learned in the same way or through more structured activities that include also correlating sounds in the target language with sounds in the mother language. Subsequent learning, not only increases vocabulary but also the precision of expression and the skills of communication. Individuals also learn to use different types of language for different purposes.

The School of the Nations provides for the development of language primarily in English and Mandarin. English is the primary language of instruction and enables the individual to access knowledge worldwide and interact with a significant percentage of people from all the nations of the world. Mandarin enables the students to function throughout China, a region of growing economic, political and social importance and influence.

Proficiency and familiarity with different languages is recognized as an important element in the development of a sense of world citizenship and international mindedness. Language is a window on the world and different languages provide different windows. A knowledge of different languages opens the mind to different points of view and different ways of understanding.

#### MS 7.6.2 Language profile

Students entering the IB diploma programme come from the following backgrounds:

- Cantonese speaking families who have provide opportunities to the student to acquire English to an adequate degree as ascertained through examination.
- English speaking families from North American, British, Australian or New Zealand background who have developed their language ability through the school systems associated with these countries and may or may not have knowledge of or proficiency in another language

- English speaking families from countries such as India, Philippines, Singapore or Malaysia who have developed their English language abilities in the school systems of these countries and also have knowledge of one or more additional languages learned in the home.
- Mandarin speaking families who have provide opportunities to the student to acquire English to an adequate degree as ascertained through examination.
- Families with other home languages who have provide opportunities to the student to acquire English to an adequate degree as ascertained through examination.

### MS 7.6.3 Language of instruction

#### **IB Language courses**

The IB programme at the School of the Nations will use English as the language of instruction. As a general rule students accepted to the IB diploma programme will have demonstrated adequate proficiency in English either through an admissions examination (see admissions policy) or through previous study at the School of the Nations. In some cases where students whose proficiency is somewhat weak have been accepted in the IB programme, the School of the Nations will provide additional support by steaming students according to language level during language instruction classes and/or arranging for additional tutoring at the request of the teachers and/or students.

The majority of students will be learning in a language other than their mother tongue. For this reason the curriculum of all subjects will take into account the fact that students may not naturally understand the language used. When necessary, explicit instruction will be provided to familiarize students with the subtleties of meaning, range of expression and structural forms appropriate for different subjects and purposes. This will occur either in the instruction of Language A or Language B classes or in the respective subject class.

#### **Language A**

Students will usually choose between English and their mother tongue as their first language. In some cases students may choose to study both English and their mother tongue as their Language A

course. The school will assist students who choose their mother tongue as the Language A course to find appropriate academic assistance. A student who chooses to study his/her mother tongue that is other than English as their Language A course must choose either English or Mandarin as his/her Language B course. The study of another Language A course will be conducted entirely outside of school hours.

Approval of each student's choice will be based on

- prior experience with the student at lower levels of instruction at the School of the Nations
- entrance examination at the time of enrolment.
- educational background
- family background

### **Language B**

Students will have the option of choosing Mandarin, English or another language for the Language B component of the curriculum. The school will provide instruction in Mandarin and English and will assist students to find appropriate academic support for other languages. A student who chooses to study another language as the Language B course must choose either Mandarin or English as his/her Language B course. The study of another language at the B level will be conducted entirely outside of school hours. Approval of each student's choice will be based on

- prior experience with the student at lower levels of instruction at the School of the Nations
- entrance examination at the time of enrolment.
- educational background
- family background

### **Language *ab initio***

Students who are unable to pursue Mandarin as their Language B course will be required to study it at the *ab initio* level. The growing importance and influence of China in the region and the world fully justifies the emphasis placed on Mandarin at the school.

In addition the school will assist all students to study other languages according to their needs and desires. There are a number

of organizations in Macau that are useful for this purpose as specified in the next section.

As all students are required to follow the School of the Nation's Mandarin programme, such additional studies would be organized outside of the normal school functioning hours.

#### MS 7.6.4 English Language Learning and English Language Learners (ELL)

At the start of the 2012-2013 academic year, the ELL Support Department at School of the Nations was official created. Prior to this, the school provided ESL support, but formal structures, practices, and procedures were not well-established.

One of the primary objectives of the ELL Department has been to develop and formalize clear guidelines and practices. Now in its second year, much has been accomplished by the department; however, much work remains to be done.

The ELL Support Department coordinators met frequently and regularly with SON administration to monitor the progress of the Department and as a forum to discuss the future of ELL support at SON. Meetings were always very constructive.

The overriding goal of the department is to identify, assist, and monitor the learning of those students who are in need of English language support. Identified learners are in need of support because their first language is not English and who have not developed their English language proficiency at a rate and level on par with their peers.

#### MS 7.6.5 Mother Tongue Support

The school will encourage students of linguistic backgrounds other than English or Mandarin to find opportunities for self-study of their primary languages if so desired. For this purpose there exist in Macau various organizations such as the Alliance Francaise de Macao, the Associacao de Cultura Japonesa de Macao and the Government's Centro de Difusao de Linguas that promotes Korean, Japanese, Portuguese, and Cantonese in addition to English and Mandarin. When appropriate, parents will receive orientation regarding the importance of the Mother Tongue on learning and identity.

#### MS 7.6.6 Communication with Parents

The School of the Nations regularly communicates with parents and also encourages parents to initiate communication with teachers and administrators. Written communication is carried out in both English and Chinese. Oral communication will take place in English, Mandarin or Cantonese. Staff is available for translation from English to Mandarin or Cantonese and from Mandarin to English.

#### **MS 7.6.7 Communication with Academic Staff**

Teachers at the School of the Nations are proficient in English, Mandarin, Cantonese or any combination of these. There are a significant number of staff members who do not share a common language. Written communications are provided in bilingual English and Chinese and translation is provided for oral communication between staff members.

#### **MS 7.7 Use of ManageBac**

ManageBac is an online platform that enables efficient curriculum planning, assessment and reporting, while eliminating paperwork and enhancing communication to parents and students. Currently, F5 and F6 Students have access to ManageBac and use solely for

- CAS records and reflections logging.
- Extended Essay tracking and reflections.

#### **MS 7.8 University Counselling**

The university selection process can be exciting, challenging, nerve-racking, and difficult. The University Guidance Counsellor compiles resources, consults his/her experience and various guidebooks, and attempts to synthesise the information that IBDP students must know as they begin or continue their search.

Given that School of the Nations students are considering university options all over the world, the University Guidance Counsellor provides information and assistance in this process while students and families are expected to take ownership of carrying out steps and making decisions regarding university and programmatic choices.

The university guidance counselling services include:

- Individual and group meetings with students
- Individual meetings with parents/guardians



- Guidance Counselling Handbook
- Parent information nights
- University visits
- University talks and fair on campus
- Information pamphlets from different universities
- Personal statement support
- University application workshops

## **MS 7.9 IB Student Privileges**

### **MS 7.9.1 Off Campus Times**

IBDP students in the SON are granted the privilege of spending their time off campus when there is not class scheduled during the day. However, for subjects with mixed HL and SL classes, explicit permission from the teachers is required if a SL student wishes to leave campus during the HL-only times.

This privilege is to be revoked once the school finds concerns in a student's attendance and punctuality record.

### **MS 7.9.2 Use of IB Student Lounge**

Students in F5 and F6 are allowed to use the IB Student Lounge as a venue for group or individual work. All rules regarding uniform, food, language, etc. apply.

### **MS 7.9.3 CAS Trip**

F5 and F6 student may organise a trip as their CAS Project described in the SON CAS Handbook. They must consult with the CAS Coordinator and gain permission from the School administration regarding cost, location, project nature, etc. prior to any further step in the planning. A trip of this nature, while encouraged, is not compulsory, and other activities may take its place. The School policy of 90% participation rate is strictly enforced for trips outside of Macau.

## **MS 8      INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATION REGISTRATION**

Students are registered in following international examinations by December of that academic year. The examinations are:

- IGCSE: All F4 students and some F3 students who are taking advanced courses
- IB Diploma Programme: All F6 students

Students will receive confirmation of the examination subjects, examination timetables and candidate log-in details to access their results as soon as the registration is completed.

Should the parents decide that remarking or retaking some of the examinations is necessary, they should contact the Secondary Administrator, the IGCSE Exam Officer and/or the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator of the school to seek information regarding examination time, cost and approval. This communication must be done within a week of the official release date of the results in order to secure the availability of the services.





## Appendix 01 – Student Calendar 2017-18

SCHOOL OF THE NATIONS STUDENT CALENDAR 2017/2018												
Y 年	M 月	S 日	M 一	T 二	W 三	T 四	F 五	S 六	Date 日期	Events & activities 事項與活動	Date 日期	Holiday 假期
2017	September 九月	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1-Sep	Kindergarten, Pri, Middle & Sec school commences <b>幼稚園、小學及中學開學日</b>		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9-Sep	Kindergarten, Primary, Middle School and Secondary Parent/Student Orientation Day <b>幼稚園、小學和中學家長、學生介紹會</b>		
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
	October 十月	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1-Oct	Chinese National Day 中國國慶日
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14			5-Oct	Day after Mid-Autumn Festival 中秋節翌日
	November 十一月	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			28-Oct	Chung Yeung Festival 重陽節
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
		29	30	31								
	December 十二月				1	2	3	4	11-Nov	Term 1 Summative Assessment Review Day & Report Card Distributed <b>第1學段成績評估日及派發成績表</b>	1-3 Nov	Term Break 期中假期
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18-Nov	Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews (Kindy/Pri/Middle/Sec) <b>幼稚園、小學及中學家長日</b>		
2018	January 一月	19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
		26	27	28	29	30						
							1	2	4-8 Dec	Book Week 書展 Book Week Family day 讀書週/家庭日	20-31 Dec	Macau SAR Est. Day, Winter Solstice & Christmas 澳門回歸日、冬至及聖誕節
	February 二月	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9-Dec			
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
	March 三月	31										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	12-19 Jan	P4-F6 Mid-Year Exam 小四至中六期中考試	1-Jan	New Year 元旦
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	27-Jan	Public Informations Days 開放日		
	April 四月	14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27				
		28	29	30	31							
	May 五月					1	2	3	3-Feb	Term 2 Summative Assessment Review Day & Report Card Distributed <b>第2學段成績評估日及派發成績表</b>	15-25 Feb	Chinese New Year 農曆新年
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10-Feb	Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews (Kindy/Pri/Middle/Sec) <b>幼稚園、小學及中學家長日</b>		
	June 六月	18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
		25	26	27	28							
							1	2	24-Mar	Unity in Diversity Celebration Day 慶祝聯合國日	21-Mar	Naw Ruz 巴哈伊節日
	July 七月	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	31-Mar	Musical 學校音樂節		
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
	August 八月	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
	September 九月	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14-Apr	Term 3 Summative Assessment Review Day & Report Card Distributed <b>第3學段成績評估日及派發成績表</b>	2-6 Apr	Cheng Meng Festival & Term Break 清明節 及 期中假期
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21			30-Apr	Ridvan 巴哈伊節日
	October 十月	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
		29	30									
	November 十一月			1	2	3	4	5	5-May	Musical 學校音樂節	1-2 May	Labour Day & Ridvan 勞動節及巴哈伊節日
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12			24-May	Declaration of the Bab 巴哈伊節日
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19			29-May	Ascension of the Baha'u'llah 巴哈伊節日
	December 十二月	20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
		27	28	29	30	31						
	January 一月						1	2	14-22 Jun	P4 - F6 Final Exam 小四至中六期末考試	18-Jun	Dragon Boat Festival 端午節
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	15-Jun	Kindy Closing Ceremony 幼稚園結業典禮		
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	22-Jun	Primary end-of-year celebration 結業典禮		
	February 二月	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	25-Jun	Middle School Closing Ceremony, Middle School 結業典禮		
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26-Jun	Secondary closing ceremony 中學結業典禮		
									26-Jun	Kindy and Primary activity days 幼稚園和小學活動日		



## Appendix 02 – DSEJ Typhoon, Rainstorm and Adverse Weather Condition Guidelines

Measures taken by schools when Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals, Rainstorm Warning Signal are in force or the weather conditions are exceptional				
When the SMG has issued Tropical Cyclone Signal or Rainstorm Warning Signal, or when the exceptional weather is forecast,		according to the Dispatch of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture No.105/2016, the announcement of class suspension will be issued.		
		Time of issuance	Education level	Arrangement of class suspension
Rainstorm Warning Signal		Between 06:30 and 09:00	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
			Secondary	Classes are suspended in the morning
		Between 11:30 and 14:00	Infant Primary Secondary Special Education	Classes are suspended in the afternoon
Tropical Cyclone Signals	<b>13</b>	Between 06:30 and 09:00	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
		Between 11:30 and 14:00	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended in the afternoon
		At any time	Secondary	Classes are as usual
	<b>8</b> or above	At or after 06:30	Infant Primary Secondary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
	<b>8</b> is lowered to <b>13</b> or above	Between 00:00 and 06:30 <b>8</b> or above is lowered to <b>13</b> , and <b>13</b> is still in force at 06:30	Infant Primary Secondary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
Exceptional Weather Conditions		If the maximum / minimum temperature of the next day is expected to be 38°C or above and 3°C or below respectively at 17:30	Infant Primary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day
		If the maximum / minimum temperature of the next day is expected to be 40°C or above and 0°C or below respectively at 17:30	Infant Primary Secondary Special Education	Classes are suspended all day

During the aforesaid class suspension period, schools must ensure that school premises are open, and staff are arranged to look after the students who have arrived at the school and arrange appropriate activities for them. Parents do not need to rush to school to pick up their children. (Except Tropical Cyclone Signal 8 or above)

Source:

[http://portal.dsej.gov.mo/webdsejspace/internet/Inter\\_main\\_page.jsp?id=40196](http://portal.dsej.gov.mo/webdsejspace/internet/Inter_main_page.jsp?id=40196)



Appendix 03 – Medicine Taking Form



SCHOOL OF THE NATIONS  
MEDICINE TAKING FORM  
聯合國學校服藥單

Name of Student / 學生姓名：\_\_\_\_\_

Age / 年齡：\_\_\_\_\_ Class / 班級：\_\_\_\_\_

Type of illness / 病症：\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Medicine 藥物名稱	Dosage 服藥劑量	Times per day 每日服藥次數
1.		
2.		
3.		

Medicine taking time/委託服藥時間：\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact No. /緊急聯絡電話：\_\_\_\_\_

Any other remark/其他備註內容：\_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: I will not hold the school responsible if there is any adverse reaction after taking the medicine by my above named child/ward.

聲明：如以上學生服藥後出現任何不良反應，學校都將不需要承擔任何責任。

Parent/Guardian Signature 家長/監護人簽名：\_\_\_\_\_

Date 日期：\_\_\_\_\_





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Name of Student / 學生姓名：\_\_\_\_\_

Age / 年齡：\_\_\_\_\_ Class / 班級：\_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Medicine 藥物名稱	Dosage 服藥劑量	Times per day 每日服藥次數
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3.		

Medicine taking time/委託服藥時間：\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact No. /緊急聯絡電話：\_\_\_\_\_

Any other remark/其他備註內容：\_\_\_\_\_

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Any other remark/其他備註內容：\_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: I will not hold the school responsible if there is any adverse reaction after taking the medicine by my above named child/ward.

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Parent/Guardian Signature 家長/監護人簽名：\_\_\_\_\_

Date 日期：\_\_\_\_\_





Website: [www.schoolofthenations.com](http://www.schoolofthenations.com)

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