

3. Promoting Students to the Next Grades or retaining them to repeat

Aim

- To demonstrate clear and transparent methods for student promotion and retention.
- To safeguard student needs.

Cross reference

- This policy follows ADEC Policy 46 of The Private Schools Policy and Guidance Manual.
- This policy follows Article (51) of the Organising Regulations.

Procedure

Promotion or Retention

Students were placed in the following Grades according to their age from 1st September. All other students were placed in the grade appropriate according to their eSIS file.

Section	Grade	National Curriculum of England Year	Minimum age on 1 st September 2017
KG	KG1	FS2	3 years 8 months
	KG2	Y1	4 years 8 months
Primary	GR1	Y2	5 years 8 months
	GR2	Y3	6 years 8 months
	GR3	Y4	7 years 8 months
	GR4	Y5	8 years 8 months
	GR5	Y6	9 years 8 months
Secondary	GR6	Y7	10 years 8 months

KG1 to Grade 5

All students from KG1 to Grade 5 will be promoted to the next grade, except in rare circumstances and with the approval of the guardian. The decision to retain a student in the same grade will be taken after considering the guidelines included in this policy.

Grade 6

All students in Grade 6 will be promoted to the next grade except when they do not meet the promotion requirements as per the MOE Curriculum and/or The English National Curriculum.

50% is the passing grade for all subjects. Make-up examinations take place immediately after the End of Year Examinations in June (Grade 6+) for those who do not achieve this pass mark.

Students who achieve a pass result in the make-up examinations are promoted. If the student fails the make-up exams, then he/she has to repeat the grade.

Students with special education needs

All students on an Individual Education Plan who meet their objectives progress to the next age-appropriate placement and grade-level sequence. The Principal and SENDCO in conjunction with the parents/guardians must seek assistance from Zayed Higher Organisation (or another suitable organisation) for any student who is not making the expected progress.

Guidelines

Wales International School is a fully inclusive school, as per its English National Curriculum aspect and therefore aims to promote every child to the next grade.

The decision to retain a student will only be taken if:

1. The school has followed a specific process, described below under “Process”
2. The school has considered a variety of factors; described below under “Considerations”

This policy is consistent with research indicating that requiring students to repeat a grade level does not lead to improved achievement for the student.

Process

When deciding whether to promote or retain a student, the process will be led by the Principal. No single individual will have the authority to decide that a student will not be promoted.

The Principal will consult with the following individuals and the final decision will reflect the collective judgment of the group:

- All teachers who worked with the student over the current academic year
- The school Social Worker/Social Counsellor/Psychologist/Speech Pathologist/ Diagnostician
- Heads of Faculty/key stage
- The parents of the student
- Other members of the SEN and Learning Support Team

Considerations

Schools will explore all potential alternatives to retention. A student will only be retained in a grade level if the circumstances provide a compelling rationale for how and why a student’s achievement will improve when repeating the grade. Specifically, schools must ensure that the following considerations are met:

- Social and developmental impact on the student resulting from being separated from peers, and the capacity of the school to provide an improved, differentiated learning experience for retained students
- No student will be retained in a grade level if he or she has already been retained previously

(since beginning his or her school career)

- Before retaining a student in a grade level, schools will assess the student for special needs to determine whether the student's learning needs would be better met by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Students who are not meeting learning expectations for their grade level will be identified during the course of the school year, consistent with the Policy on Reporting of Student Progress. The school will provide academic interventions for such students during the school year, to try to prevent students from finishing the academic year behind expectations. The parents will also be informed at the time and asked to participate in the production of the Individual Education Plan. Parents will be informed of the progress of the intervention.