

Standard 1a

COMMENDATION

The school is commended on the thoroughness of the recruitment process and the number of trained staff in safer recruitment.

Standard 1b

An extremely strong safeguarding culture is apparent within the school.

There is a strong sense of awareness of community safety and responsibility, and this is backed by robust and effective safeguarding policies and procedures.

COMMENDATION

Oryx is commended for the high level of commitment of its community to building its safeguarding culture, and the work of the school in developing this.

Standard 2a

Students praised the kind and caring attitude of the staff and its 'family feel'. Staff commented that a strength of the school is its welcoming nature and relationships with the parents. The parents value the strong community atmosphere that makes their children feel safe.

The SLT and counsellor are on the gates every morning to welcome the students. This makes them visible and approachable to both parents and students.

COMMENDATION

Oryx School is commended for the multi-layered and thorough approach to student welfare that has been established within the pastoral system.

Standard 2b

They were genuinely effusive about how the school promotes well-being and the attention given to individual children.

The high levels of safeguarding and health and safety awareness is also enhanced by the attention given to the mental health and wellbeing of the students, parents and staff.

BEACON STATUS

Oryx school is awarded Beacon School Status for its outstanding work around well-being throughout the community and its dedication to training in this area. This is supported by its strong pastoral system and strong safeguarding culture.

COMMENDATION

The school is also commended for its provision and protocols in response to the COVID-19 epidemic, both in terms of supporting health and well-being, but also in its provision to supporting children who have been, and are, learning remotely as well as their parents.

Standard 2c

They [parents] stated that the school has ‘high levels of discipline’ and that this is created through fairness, consistency and encouragement of respect for others.

The school has high standards in terms of student conduct based on being respectful, prepared, hardworking and responsible.

One student said that one of the best things about the school was that “teachers listen to us and respect our ideas” and another said, “student voice is taken seriously at Oryx as they ask us our opinions”.

COMMENDATION

The school is commended for its establishment of such a consistent and effective behaviour policy that is clearly fully embraced by students and parents.

Standard 3a

The school's buildings are beautifully designed and built to a high standard.

The internal accommodation for learning is safe, self-contained and manageable. The rooms are sufficiently spacious to support the curriculum and learning needs of all ages.

Standard 3b

The school has a clear communication pyramid to be used in all emergencies and their procedures are also checked and verified by Qatar Airways health and safety personnel.

The school’s procedures enable it to ensure that it can account for everyone at all times both during and after the school day

At the beginning and end of the school day the gates are supervised by guards and members of SLT.

The school has a thorough fire evacuation procedure

COMMENDATION

The school is commended for its attention to detail on site security.

Standard 3c

Appropriate risk assessments have been carried out

Standard 3d

The school has policies around disability and equal opportunities to ensure that children and adults with a disability can flourish at the school.

Standard 4a

Police and identity checks are all in order and recorded on the SCR]

Standard 4c

There is a clear delineation between the ownership/ governance and the leadership of the school.

The responsibilities and expectations of the Operating Committee and Principal are clearly set out in a document which underpins the smooth functioning of the school. The structure and relationship between the two parts of the Board works well.

Standard 5a

One student said: "Oryx allows us to pursue our passions and gives us a strong feeling of empowerment - they really care."

Respect is a key element that underpins all parts of school life and this came across very strongly in the meetings with parents and students.

The school clearly addresses the whole child in everything it does and there is a strong commitment to holistic education.

COMMENDATION

The school is commended for its establishment of a strong culture of respect and tolerance.

Standard 5b

The school's outward-looking perspective permeates through every part of school life. The diverse cultural makeup of the student body is also mirrored in a diverse staffing body and intercultural education is at the heart of the curriculum.

Student leadership and ideas are developed, respected, and encouraged within the school. There are authentic opportunities for student leadership

COMMENDATION

Commendation for the commitment to integrating intercultural education so effectively.

Standard 5c

The provision is excellent for EAL learners, and they make rapid progress, which was commented on by parents.

Mother tongue languages are highly valued in the school and they have a trans-language approach to communication.

COMMENDATION

Commendation for the school's excellent provision of EAL learning, support and related staff training.

SUMMARY

OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

The cultural diversity of the student body and the common ties of Qatar Airways gives the school a unique culture and sense of belonging to its members. There is authentic value placed on intercultural education that permeates through the holistic curriculum.

Oryx has achieved a great deal in a relatively short time since its opening and has established a community culture of respect, safety and tolerance. There is great attention to detail surrounding the provision of care for the students, supported by a strong pastoral system, caring and dedicated staff and a commitment to training and excellence.

The school has achieved and maintained all this in spite of COVID restrictions over the last 2 years. It responded and adapted excellently to the pandemic, and once the restrictions are eased it is set to be in a good place to build upon the solid foundations it has established and the plans and preparations it has made for future developments. It is all set to go from strength to strength.

The Beacon Status award will help the school connect with like-minded colleagues and students in other places and countries and hopefully they will be a beacon of excellence in the COBIS family around student welfare, care, and wellbeing.

