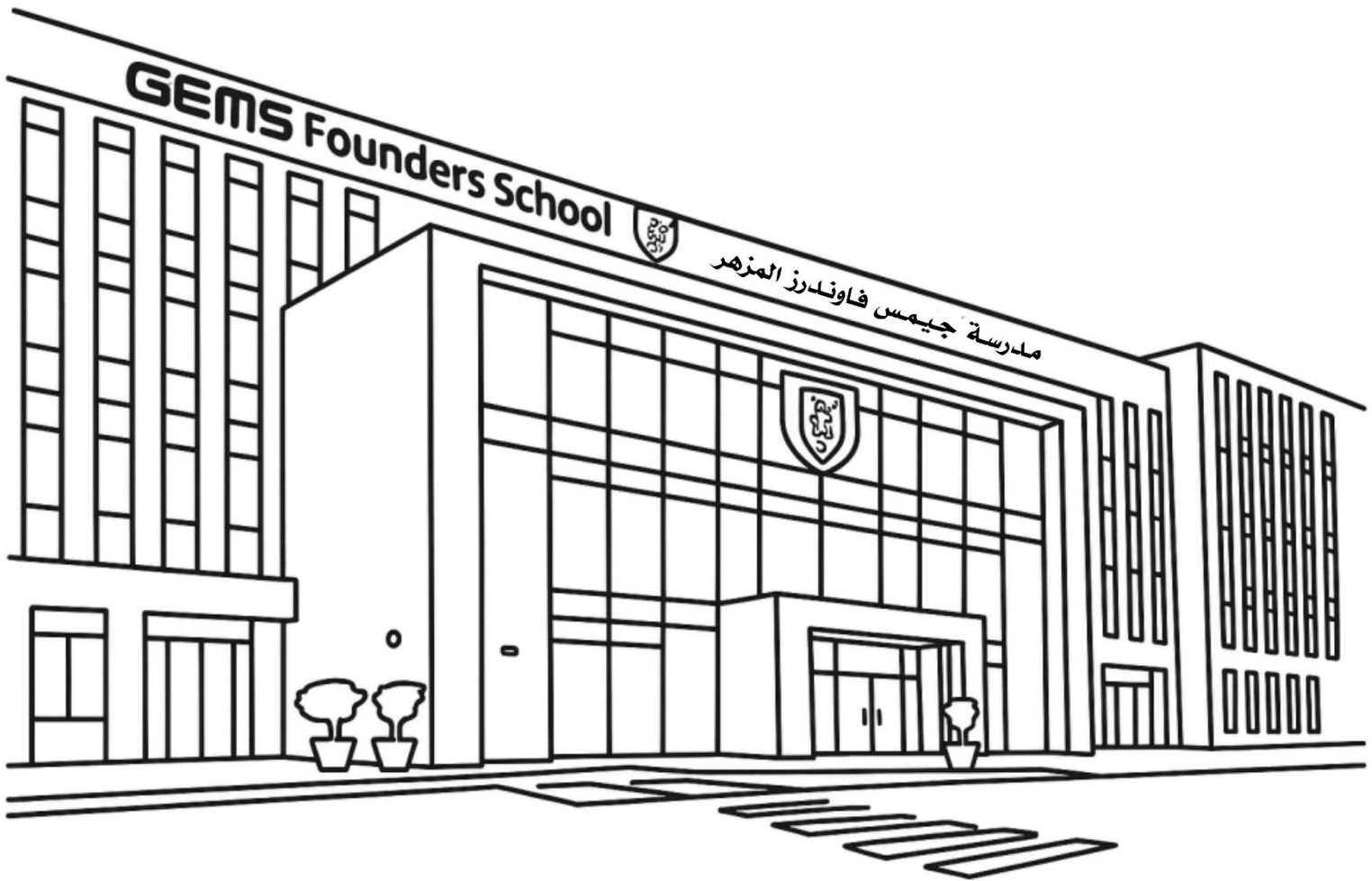


GFM School Excellence Plan Update

Parental Update

October 2025



A culture of continuous sustainable improvement

GEMS Founders School Al Mizhar

<https://www.gemsfoundersschool-mizhar.com/en/>

School Excellence Plan, an update on GFM's key priorities for 2025-26

29 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

At GFM, our vision is simple but powerful: to help every member of our community **Grow**, **Flourish**, and be **Mindful**. This vision comes to life through our core pillars, known as **#TheFoundersWay**:

#TheFoundersWay defines how we do things at GFM. It shapes the culture, character, and high standards we expect from both our students and staff, guiding every aspect of school life.

A key part of our growth is our partnership with you, our families. I would therefore like to update you on our progress against our priority actions, which outline both our current strengths and areas for development this academic year.

Twice a term, we will share an easy-to-read report that summarises progress against our Educational Excellence Plan. This plan forms part of our [three-year Strategic Plan](#), ensuring that every improvement we make leads to a real, positive impact on student outcomes and school performance.

Our Excellence Plan is built around three key pillars:

1. **Educational Excellence** – focusing on curriculum intent, teaching and learning (Teach Like a GEM, Read Like a GEM), academic outcomes, school culture, and the UAE National Agenda.
2. **GFM Strong Family** – strengthening student and parent satisfaction, wellbeing, and people development.
3. **Operational Excellence** – ensuring the highest standards in health, safety, and compliance across our school.

We are committed to making our progress visible and meaningful for everyone in the community. I encourage you to read the upcoming report carefully to see how your child's school is developing and the many initiatives underway.

Our shared goal is to continue our journey toward becoming an Outstanding high-performing school, and we truly value your ongoing support in making this a reality. Together, we are creating tomorrow's successful and caring citizens today.

With best wishes,



Akram Tarik

Principal / CEO

GFM Parent Excellence Report 2025-2026

School	GEMS Founders School, Al Mizhar		Curriculum	British international	
Principal	Akram Tarik				
Inspection Rating	KHDA: <i>Good 2024-24</i>	Inspection Other	BSO <i>Outstanding</i> in all standards 2024 -2025		
Progress Review Date					
	October	December		February	May
Academic outcomes					
Curriculum					
Teaching and Reading					
Culture					
Parent & student voice					
Wellbeing					
Safeguarding					
Health and Safety					

At GFM we want you to be happy with the communications we share with you. How happy were you to receive this communication?
We may use your answer to improve our communications and their relevancy to you.

<https://forms.office.com/r/UvBf1kJ1Mi>

Areas of Focus	RAG	Strengths 2024-2025	Priority actions for improvement 2025-26	October 2025 update
Educational Excellence				
Academic Outcomes	Green	GFM students achieved excellent results across all phases this year, with A Level and GCSE outcomes above both GEMS and UK averages and continued strong progress in Primary and Early Years.	We are focusing on raising achievement from Term 1 by providing extra support in key GCSE and A Level subjects, especially subjects we have identified for additional focus and support.	We have put targeted support in place for students in key exam years, with extra lessons, revision sessions, and personalised plans to help every child reach their full potential in upcoming English, Maths, and A Level exams.
Curriculum	Yellow	Last year, GFM achieved excellent results across all phases, strengthened its curriculum through the new 2025–2028 strategy, deepened its focus on reading and teaching quality, and prepared for the next step in digital learning and assessment.	This year, our priority is to strengthen early Arabic bilingual learning, align the curriculum from FS2 to Year 9, integrate future-ready skills like digital literacy and AI, and enhance teaching through regular assessment, staff training, and responsive planning to ensure every child makes strong progress.	- We are moving toward full KHDA compliance. - The Arabic team has strengthened the FS2 and Year 1 curriculum, introduced Arabee for students and teachers, and begun a Year 1 Arabic A baseline reading assessment to share with KHDA. - Across Primary and Secondary, curriculum audits have improved sequencing and progression, with English, Maths, and Science refined and Secondary overviews updated for next year. - Digital skills are embedded, with e safety, computing, and an introductory AI course in Secondary, and many students are taking part in national and international competitions. - Regular assessments, moderation, and teacher coaching through TLAG are in place, and staff are using Century data to plan support and drive progress.
Teach Like A GEM (TLAG) – Teaching Read Like a GEM – Reading	Yellow	- Last year, GFM made great progress in both teaching and reading. - More students are now confident readers, with reading levels rising from 65% to 72%, and EAL learners showing strong improvement through targeted support. - The Read Like a GEM strategy and new reading resources have made reading a key part of learning across the school. - Teaching quality also strengthened through Teach Like a GEM, with excellent lesson structure, clear learning goals, and	- This year, GFM is deepening its focus on high-quality teaching and reading. - Read Like a GEM is being launched across all phases, with clear support for students who need extra help, daily reading routines, and exciting initiatives like DEAR time and parent workshops to build a strong reading culture. - At the same time, Teach Like a GEM continues to grow, with every teacher receiving regular coaching, practice clinics, and professional development to ensure consistently excellent teaching and learning in every classroom.	- At GFM, we continue to strengthen teaching through our Teach Like a GEM (TLAG) approach, where every teacher works closely with a coach to keep improving classroom practice. - From September to October, over 500 lesson drop-ins and 400 coaching sessions have taken place, helping teachers focus on small, high-impact strategies that make a big difference to student learning. - Most teachers are already showing strong consistency in key techniques such as starting

Areas of Focus	RAG	Strengths 2024-2025	Priority actions for improvement 2025-26	October 2025 update
		strong coaching that helps teachers keep improving every week.		lessons effectively and maintaining student focus. We are also building a bank of best practice resources and launching the TLAG Decoded podcast to share how great teaching looks in action across our school.
Culture and BeAGEM		GFM has strong and forward-looking leadership that sets clear goals, maintains high expectations, and continuously works to improve teaching and learning so every student can succeed.	This year, we are focusing on strengthening our school culture through the Be a GEM Playbook, which promotes positive behaviour and shared values across all phases. We are celebrating student success more consistently, developing leadership through mentoring and community programmes, and embedding the GEMS Leadership Gemstones into daily life so that every child grows in character, confidence, and purpose.	- Since September, GFM has seen a clear improvement in behaviour and school culture through the Be a GEM approach. - Students have been awarded over 200,000 achievement points so far, showing a strong focus on effort, kindness, and respect. - Teachers and leaders now track behaviour and rewards weekly, helping to celebrate success and address concerns quickly. New routines, visible leadership, and the GEMS Gateway have created a calmer and more positive start to each day, while the updated behaviour policy ensures consistency across all phases.
Strong GEMS Family				
Parent and student satisfaction		Parent satisfaction at GFM continues to grow, with recent surveys showing that more families are happy with their child's experience. Our latest results show a strong satisfaction score, and new families have also shared very positive feedback about how well they have settled into the school community.	We are focusing on giving new families the best possible start through our First 100 Days programme, which helps everyone settle in smoothly and feel part of the GFM community. Our goal this year is to continue improving parent satisfaction	All milestones in our First 100 Days programme have been completed, with teachers calling new parents to check in, surveys shared for feedback, and open sessions starting the week of 27 October. Our weekly Parent Solution Days every Wednesday are also well attended and continue to strengthen communication and support for families.
Wellbeing		GFM placed a strong focus on wellbeing last year, with regular activities, assemblies, and awareness days that helped students feel supported, confident, and cared for.	Appoint a new Wellbeing Lead for AY25-26 and introduce a refreshed wellbeing strategy that includes enhanced education programmes for both staff and students.	We have introduced a new Wellbeing Lead and team this year to further support our students and staff.
Operational Excellence				
Safeguarding		GFM has a strong safeguarding culture where staff are well trained, vigilant, and proactive in identifying and addressing concerns, ensuring that every student	This year, we are strengthening our safeguarding work by ensuring all staff complete training, reducing incidents through greater awareness, and supporting families with regular safeguarding	All staff have completed safeguarding training this year, and teachers are more aware and confident in keeping students safe. Parents will also receive regular safeguarding updates and training sessions to stay informed and involved.

Areas of Focus	RAG	Strengths 2024-2025	Priority actions for improvement 2025-26	October 2025 update
		feels safe, supported, and well cared for at school.	newsletters and parent workshops throughout the year.	
Health and Safety		GFM provides a safe and well-maintained environment for all students, with regular safety checks, staff training, and strong health and safety procedures that ensure everyone's wellbeing on campus.	- Ensure all aspects of HSE are fully compliant to ensure that all members of the school community are working in a safe environment. - To collaborate with the RTA to improve parking facilities and enhance traffic flow around the school.	All areas of health, safety, and environment at GFM meet full compliance standards and have been approved by our HSE Business Partner. This includes regular safety checks, staff training, and inspections to make sure our school remains a safe and well-managed place for everyone.

*RAG		Significant concern		Target remains achievable by the end of the academic year		Minor or no immediate concern
------	--	---------------------	--	---	--	-------------------------------



The GFM Way



T. +971-4-210-3555

E. registrar_gfm@gemsedu.com

W. <https://www.gemsfoundersschool-mizhar.com/en>

Link Tree: [https://linktr.ee/GEMS Founders Almizhar](https://linktr.ee/GEMS_Founders_Almizhar)