

1. Introduction

Today, parents have a variety of educational boards to choose from, to enroll their children, it is not just the traditional SSC (Secondary School Certificate), CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) or ICSE (Indian Certificate of Secondary Education).

GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY presents a beginner's guide on the IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) curriculum in GUNDECHA.

2. Recognition, Acceptance & Highlights

The IGCSE is recognized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) as being at par with CBSE, ICSE and other state boards.

The curriculum of IGCSE board is balanced between education and co-curricular activities and tends to give an international perspective to studies. There are a good number of schools with the IGCSE curriculum, distributed across states of India, which offer quality international education.

The IGCSE curriculum in GEA is being introduced in the school for interested students of Std. 6 from June 2012.

The **International General Certificate of Secondary Education** (abbreviated **IGCSE** or **iGCSE**) is an internationally recognized qualification for school students, typically in the 15-16 age-group. It is similar to the GCSE in England, Wales & Northern Ireland, Standard Grade in Scotland or Junior Certificate in the Republic of Ireland.

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is a globally recognized qualification, conducted at the Class 10 level, similar to the Class 10 examinations of the CBSE and ICSE or the middle years' programme of the IB.

IGCSE, formed in 1988, is a comprehensive two-year programme, spread over Class 9 and 10, and leads to the final examinations offered every year in **May** and **November**. A wide range of international schools in India offer high quality International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) programme to students. IGCSE is one of the most sought-after and recognized qualifications in the world.

- Cambridge IGCSE provides a broad study program and covers subjects from a variety of areas: **Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Creative, Technical and Vocational.**
- This is designed to make IGCSE suitable for students with varying levels of ability. Cambridge IGCSE allows teaching to be placed in a localized context, making it relevant in different regions.
- It is intended to be suitable for students whose first language may not be English and this is acknowledged throughout the examination process.
- In the past years, the Cambridge IGCSE papers in more than 70 subjects have been taken by students in over 120 countries worldwide, including the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Egypt, Kuwait, Hong Kong, India, Bahrain, Peru, UAE, New Zealand, Vietnam, Thailand and Costa Rica.
- IGCSE caters to different levels of ability with a choice between core and extended papers in many subjects.

- The resulting qualification provides a foundation for higher level courses, such as the International Baccalaureate, A and AS Levels, the Advanced International Certificate of Education and the North American Advanced Placement programme.
- International education develops and encourages vital educational skills, including oral skills, problem solving, team-work, recall of knowledge, smartness and initiative.

3. Affiliations

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is a globally recognized qualification, conducted at the Class 10 level, similar to the Class 10 examinations of the CBSE and ICSE or the middle years Programme of the IB.

IGCSE assessment is conducted by two UK assessment bodies: Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

The Cambridge IGCSE was developed by University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in 1988.

IGCSE is a high profile qualification. IGCSE has an excellent reputation amongst international schools worldwide.

IGCSEs are recognized as a reliable record of attainment which counts towards entry to universities and colleges around the world.

4. Eligibility Criteria

More than the assessment body, parents need to think about which school is better for their child.

In most subjects there is a choice between core and extended curricula, making IGCSE suitable for a wide range of abilities.

Students can enter for the level that is most appropriate for them and this need not be the same across all subjects.

5. Cambridge Checkpoint Examination

The Cambridge Checkpoint is a standardized diagnostic test in English, Mathematics and Science conducted for the IGCSE students at the end of Grade 8. Students of IGCSE class of Grade 8 will appear for the Checkpoint examination in April-May.

IGCSE (class 9 and 10) courses take two years to complete and exams are taken at the end of that period.

6. Subjects and the IGCSE curriculum

Most IGCSE subjects offer a choice of Core or Extended papers (in Cambridge), and foundation or higher papers (in Edexcel).

At school, students are encouraged to study a wide range of subjects at IGCSE level, at the same time, in order to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, many students take courses from each of the IGCSE groups particularly if they're aiming to go on to further education.

The course differs for each subject, but throughout there will be a mix of assessment methods, including coursework, practical exercises, oral and listening tests, projects and written examinations.

Cambridge ICE is the group award of the International General Certificate of

Secondary Education (IGCSE) and requires the study of subjects drawn from the five different IGCSE subject groups.

It gives schools the opportunity to benefit from offering a broad and balanced curriculum by recognizing the achievements of students who pass examinations in at least seven subjects, including two languages, and one subject from each of the other subject groups.

There are five Subject Groups in IGCSE (class 9 and 10) with several subjects to choose from, in each group:

- **Group 1:** Languages (First Language, Second Language, Foreign Language, etc)
- **Group 2:** Humanities and Social Sciences (Geography, English Literature, History, etc)
- **Group 3:** Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc)
- **Group 4:** Mathematics (Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, etc)
- **Group 5:** Creative, Technical & Vocational (Accounting, Business Studies, Computer Studies, Music, etc)

For each subject, the certificate merely indicates the grades scored, and not pass or fail. Five scores of 'C' or higher indicates a student's readiness to pursue +2 level qualifications, like the Class 12 CBSE, ISC, IB Diploma, Advanced Placement Diploma (US), etc.

Selection from five curriculum areas:

- Candidates hoping to gain the Cambridge ICE group award must enter and sit for at least seven subjects selected from the five IGCSE curriculum areas.
- The subjects selected must include two (different) languages from Group 1 (i.e. English; Hindi/French) and
- One subject from each of Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5. The seventh and eighth subjects can be opted from any of the subject groups 2 to 5.
- A subject opted by less than 10 students may not be offered.

7. IGCSE Assessment

- IGCSEs are 100% externally assessed. This allows schools to offer an IGCSE qualification, even if teachers are not coursework specialists.

Some IGCSEs contain a coursework option so that centre's that do have the experience and expertise can offer coursework.

- IGCSEs are graded in the same way as GCSEs (A* to G). For tiered subjects, Foundation tier papers are targeted at grades C to G, and Higher tier papers are targeted at grades A* to D.

This allows students of all abilities the opportunity to gain good results.

8. Comparison between IGCSE and other programmes like CBSE, ICSE or the Middle Years' Programme of the IB

- i). Like other modern programmes, IGCSE offers a **wider** range of subjects and **encourages high academic standards** through a **practical approach** to teaching and learning. Assessment is **not limited to conventional written papers** and they consist of a **variety of tests e.g. oral and listening tests**.
- ii). The assessment is aimed at a wide ability range of students, with **an eight-point grading scale**, from A+ to G, with A+ being the highest.

- iii). IGCSE is a **balanced curriculum** and a **flexible** course of study.
- iv). Most subjects offer a **choice between core curriculum and extended** curriculum.
- v). The subject options give students of all ability levels the **freedom to choose subjects** that are right for them and, thereby, the opportunity to score good grades.
- vi). The **core curriculum is an overview of the subject** and is suitable for students who are expected to achieve grades C to G.
- vii). The extended curriculum is, sort of, a specialization in that subject. It is more challenging and designed for students who are expected to achieve grades A+ to C.
- viii). While the syllabi and curricula of both IB MYP (Middle Years' Programme) and IGCSE have an international outlook, IGCSE appears to be slightly better, in that it is tailored for a more multi-cultural and more multi-lingual audience. In some subjects, IGCSE can be opted with or without coursework.
Cambridge IGCSE allows teaching to be placed in a localized context, making it relevant in different regions.
- ix). Basically, IGCSE is a two-year programme starting at the Class 9 level. A student who has done his/ her early schooling from any other board can join the IGCSE programme at the Class 9 level. But the pattern of testing and teaching being quite different in the IGCSE, it is advisable to begin the preparation for the IGCSE checkpoint (diagnostic test conducted in class 8) from class 6.
- x). CIE has launched its new Cambridge International Primary Programme which means students will be able to study the IGCSE from age four through age 18.

9. Parents' Concerns: Why should one choose IGCSE curriculum for their children?

- i). IGCSE is one of the most sought-after and recognized qualifications in the world. It develops and encourages vital educational skills, including oral skills, investigative skills, problem solving, teamwork, recall of knowledge, and initiative.
- ii). The IGCSE programme has worldwide status and credibility. In India, the course is delivered in over 130 schools with the number expected to touch 600 soon. It is recognized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) as being at par with CBSE, ICSE, etc.
- iii). Worldwide, it is delivered in schools in over 140 countries and is recognized by colleges and universities everywhere, more so in the UK and other Commonwealth countries.
- iv). The IGCSE curriculum is balanced and lends an international perspective to studies. It also takes into account the differing abilities of students.
- v). IGCSE students can take advantage of the Cambridge Checkpoint, a diagnostic service comprising of standardized tests, that pin-point a student's strengths and weaknesses in key curriculum areas in subjects (English, Maths, Science).

AT GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY.....

WHY DO WE NEED AN INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM- International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)?

- ❖ Globalization is a fact of life, which needs to be met with challenge and capability.
- ❖ Countries worldwide now seek to modernize teaching methods in order to maximize their students' potential at the cutting edge of the international workplace.
- ❖ The demand is to compete at an international level. Employers require well-rounded people with versatility and flair to meet challenges head on with creativity and consistency.
- ❖ Therefore teaching methodology and learning need to be thoroughly developed and revised.

❖ **IGCSE Middle School - Grades VI, VII, VIII**

Middle and Secondary School - University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) (Grade VI - Grade X)

At Gundecha Education Academy (IGCSE) the Middle and Secondary School Programme is designed to be taught as a course of studies for students aged 11 to 16, culminating with an externally-validated examination at the end of Grade X.

The middle school

The seeds of sound reasoning and the overall development of academic rigour are sown at the primary level. At this next stage between childhood and teenage a greater ability for abstract thinking begins to emerge in children. The focus on inquiry-based learning continues, as do parallel in-depth explorations of subjects – biology, physics and chemistry; algebra, geometry and arithmetic; history, civics, geography; language and literature appreciation; art and music; and sports; which often culminate into integrated projects.

The shift from a theme-based approach to a more specialized and focused understanding of concepts in varied disciplines helps students gain insights into their areas of interest. Teachers and students continue to be partners in the learning process as they explore and make connections across subjects, develop critical thinking and apply their knowledge to real-life situations. The acquisition of new knowledge is made more meaningful through opportunities to apply it. Projects, exhibitions, presentations or field trips ensure that the learner finds many avenues to see the theory in practice.

The Middle School Programme

The Middle School years comprise Grades 6 - 8.

Gundecha Education Academy follows a curriculum based on guidelines provided by the ICSE & IGCSE.

Greater emphasis is placed on skills of written communication, preparation for broader academic challenges and on building independent study skills.

In keeping with our thrust on broadening the horizon of learning, the Middle School programme is also tailored to provide students the opportunity to work with the larger community and to develop a sound grounding in ethical values as well as collective social responsibility.

At Gundecha Education Academy (IGCSE):

- the Middle School academic programme is designed to cater to the needs of students aged 11 to 14.
- Students will study subjects from all the five groups of the IGCSE curriculum.
- in Grade VIII students will do Cambridge Checkpoint Assessment conducted by CIE in English, Mathematics and Science. (Cambridge Checkpoint Assessment is a unique tool administered by the Cambridge International Examinations to provide feedback on a student's strengths and weaknesses in

key curriculum areas. This Assessment is an invaluable source of information both to students and parents).

- Cambridge Checkpoint Assessment is not a formal qualification with a certificate, although a Statement of Achievement is produced. It is a method by which students can make the most of their educational opportunities. There are two papers in each subject, each approximately one hour in length. They provide good preparation for the IGCSE examinations, by allowing students to experience an external exam.
- In addition to Cambridge Checkpoint Assessment Gundecha Education Academy (International) students will do an internal examination at the end of Grade VIII in Humanities, Hindi and Performing Arts and a personal project on the Environment.

IGCSE Secondary School - Grades IX and X

At Gundecha Education Academy (International):

- every student will appear for the IGCSE Examination in all five subjects which are compulsory.
- every student must choose at least one subject from each of the five groups.
- every student is expected to study and appear for at least seven subjects in the core /extended curriculum of that subject.
- the course of study and preparation for every subject has a recommended time of 180 hours spread over Grades IX and X.
- close monitoring and mentoring by the faculty will encourage students to achieve to the best of their potential.

WHAT SUBJECTS ARE GENERALLY OFFERED AT IGCSE LEVEL?

❖ The Cambridge portfolio of IGCSE qualifications provides a solid foundation for higher level courses such as GCE, A and AS Levels and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

There are five Subject Groups in IGCSE with several subjects to choose from, in each group.

- Group I: Languages
- Group II: Humanities and Social Sciences
- Group III: Sciences
- Group IV: Mathematics
- Group V: Creative, Technical and Vocational

❖ Candidates hoping to gain the Cambridge ICE group award – the gold standard must enter and sit for at least seven subjects selected from the five IGCSE curriculum areas. The subjects selected must include two (different) languages from Group I (i.e. only one of First Language English and English as a Second Language may count towards Cambridge ICE) and one subject from each of Groups II, III, IV and V. The seventh subject can be taken from any of the five subject groups.

WHAT AFTER IGCSE?

❖ A student who has passed IGCSE is eligible for any 10+2 level qualification like: Local Boards -Class 12 CBSE/ ISC /HSC. Or International pre-university programme- IB Diploma(International Baccalaureate), Advanced Placement Diploma (US), and the seamless transition to AS and A Levels, AICE (UK) offered by the University of Cambridge U.K.

❖ *Three fair passes at A level allows students to skip a year in US, UK and Canadian Universities.*

HOW AND WHERE IS THE ASSESSMENT DONE?

❖ At the Cambridge International Centre in UK.

- ❖ TWICE A YEAR-May/June and November.
- ❖ Results issued in August and February.

An eight point scale of grades-A+ to G (for extended curriculum); C to G (for core curriculum), A, B, C, D, E, F.

- ❖ Grade A+ is awarded for the highest achievement level while Grade G is minimum performance level.

DOES MUMBAI OR ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY ACCEPT IGCSE & A/AS LEVELS?

❖ **The following is an extract from the notification provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development website –**

As per the AIU (Association of Indian Universities), 5(five) passes at IGCSE in Grade A, B and C and minimum 2 (two) passes at A level examination of the British examining bodies is equivalent to +2 stage qualification which is the minimum eligibility requirement for admission to Bachelor degree programme at Indian Universities.

- ❖ Recognitions according to CIE can be found at <http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition>

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF IGCSE?

- ❖ It is the most sought-after and recognized qualification in the world.
- ❖ It is a jump from State Board to International Level.
- ❖ Involves a variety of assessment techniques to test oral and practical skills, initiative and problem solving ability, application of skills, knowledge and understanding. Thus it does away with rote memory and mugging.
- ❖ Curriculum is balanced and lends an international perspective to studies.
- ❖ Takes account of differing abilities of students.
- ❖ Students of Class 8 will appear the CAMBRIDGE CHECKPOINT EXAMS, a diagnostic service comprising of standardized tests, that pin-points a student's strengths and weaknesses in key curriculum areas.
- ❖ Subjects provided have a very focused approach.
- ❖ Good grades at A/AS Level gets dispensation in the US and UK Universities while IB require a 13th year of education.

WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF IGCSE??

- ❖ Exams are conducted either in May/June or Nov with results issued in Aug and Feb respectively whereas local board results are out by June and college admissions are over by July.

To Overcome:

- ❖ Join the A Levels offered by Gundecha Education Academy (Junior College).
- ❖ After A levels students can join any University for undergraduate course or take an entrance exam wherever required.

WHAT WILL BE THE LANGUAGES OFFERED AT VARIOUS LEVELS AT GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY (IGCSE) OTHER THAN ENGLISH AS A 1ST LANGUAGE?

- ❖ 6th Standard to 8th Standard – Hindi
- ❖ 9th Standard and 10th Standard – Hindi

WHAT IS THE 'INTERNATIONAL' EDGE TO THE CURRICULUM

- ❖ The syllabus provides teachers and schools with Units of work around which to build a dynamic and exciting thematic curriculum for children.
- ❖ Children learn to respect the past and also get prepared for the world in which they are going to live. The focus is on academics and personal development and the development of a global awareness or international-mindedness.
- ❖ Learning is active and engaging, and, above all, meaningful to children. The units of work are focused around themes of real interest to children and contain dynamic, exciting things for them to research and record.
- ❖ The curriculum contains specific learning goals for each stage of education. Each unit contains activities that focus on international issues. Each unit contains specific activities which require children to think about their study from an international perspective.
- ❖ It acts as a foundation for higher education. It aids in the identification of the student's strengths and weaknesses which can be used to support learning and development. The programme progresses students seamlessly into the IGCSE and A levels.
- ❖ External benchmark: The Programme provides teachers with an external benchmark to inform their teaching and easily measure students' progress over time. It also allows detailed, structured reporting to parents.
- ❖ International curriculum: Appropriate and relevant internationally, the Programme has been designed to be culturally sensitive. It includes top-quality teaching and assessment resources appropriate for teaching and learning in local and international schools. The structure of the Programme encourages teachers to use their own materials bringing in local, national and international examples.
- ❖ Flexibility: The Programme complements a range of teaching methods and curricula. No part of the programme is compulsory and Centres are at liberty to choose the parts that best suit their situation.
- ❖ The Cambridge syllabus has been designed specifically with international schools in mind.
- ❖ The Curriculum Framework provides a solid foundation in Mathematics, English and Science that is relevant and useful to students and teachers across the world.
- ❖ The assessment materials have been developed carefully to ensure that there is no bias resulting from question context or colloquial language and the Programme structure allows full flexibility for teachers to include resources that are directly relevant to their students and the local context.

HOW DO WE ASSESS STUDENTS? WHAT ARE THE PROGRESSION TESTS?

Continuous Assessment facilitates both formative and summative evaluation of a student's progress.

Formative Assessment is skilled based and continuous. It focuses on application of learning, taking the form of projects, hands-on activities, presentations, working sheets etc.

Summative Assessments are paper-pencil tests that evaluate larger units or concept clusters. They take the form of unit reviews, as well as semester exams.

- ❖ The Progression Tests are a series of tests, which are conducted within the school to monitor progress of individuals and classes of students.
- ❖ They are used to provide diagnostic feedback, which can lead to improvisation in the teaching and learning, or can be used for reporting purposes. They can also be used to assess the performance of the students against an international benchmark.
- ❖ The assessment is done by the teachers in school strictly following the guidelines provided by CIE.
- ❖ The tests aim to assess skills and knowledge without penalizing for language.

However the same high standards are expected regardless of mother tongue of the student.

The tests will be conducted in June and November each year, but can be taken at any point within a fixed period of time.

HOW MANY TESTS/EXAMS ARE CONDUCTED ANNUALLY?

In the Middle School, a system of continuous assessment is followed with class assignments, projects, regular homework and scheduled unit reviews which form the basis for assessment. In addition to all the above, Gundecha Education Academy has term exams twice a year in all subjects.

Grades 9 to 12 have monthly test in all subjects.

Students appearing for board exams in Grades 10, 11 and 12 also take pre-finals in preparation for their final exams.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR PROMOTION TO THE NEXT CLASS?

- ❖ There is no change in the rules for promotion irrespective of SSC or IGCSE curriculum.
- ❖ Summative and formative assessments guide the students to improve their weak subjects.

WILL THE SCHOOL PROVIDE TEXTBOOKS FOR THE CAMBRIDGE CURRICULUM?

- ❖ The school will make arrangements for the purchase of the textbooks, endorsed by the University of Cambridge.

WHAT IS THE STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO AT GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY (INTERNATIONAL)? HOW MANY STUDENTS WOULD THERE BE IN EACH CLASS?

The projected, ideal and expected student-teacher ratio is 15:1 and the class size will be 30 to 35 students per class at Gundecha Education Academy (International).

HOW ARE THE TEACHERS SELECTED?

Our teachers are chosen from educational institutions in India and abroad. They seek a position at Gundecha Education Academy for the opportunity to teach differently, to be active agents of change and growth, and to evolve as "philosopher, friend and guide" in an empowered atmosphere of creativity, caring and challenge. Teachers undergo regular and rigorous training in pedagogical methodology, pastoral care and their specific subject areas. Ongoing training in both personal and professional areas ensures that faculty is motivated, and up-to-date with the curriculum for the next academic year.

The procedure for selection for faculty is as follows:

- Submission of a resume with a 500-word covering letter explaining how the candidate can contribute to Gundecha Education Academy's core purpose.
- 3 rounds of interviews: with the Section Head, Head of School & Head of Department.
- Class demo:– feedback from faculty & students.
- We also determine selection based on performance / attitude demonstrated during a two week induction training period prior to the school opening.

As a result of this process, our teaching team is enlightened and balanced, with a mix of youth & experience, and of relevant educational as well as "wider/real world" expertise.

CURRICULAR PRACTICES IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The foundation of the Middle School programme is based on the following practices, guided by the developmental needs of the students:

1. Curriculum based on clearly defined, age-specific outcomes.

2. Experiential, inquiry-based approach, balanced by structured academic goals, with due focus on developing the skills of articulation, analysis and application of information.
3. Individual Learning Plans: For Special Education Needs students.
4. Assessments: Relevant, formative and continuous, they are based on observations, projects, activities, worksheets, research and presentations, and weekly reviews – linked to learning experiences.
5. Bi-annual term exams; and a first exposure to the concept of Board Exams in Grade 8 through the Check Point exams recommended by CIE.
6. Subject specific activities and fests: Language Fest, Science and Maths Fair, etc.
7. Class Teacher Time: To discuss important issues that influence daily activities and the role of the individual in the wider context.
8. Extended learning opportunities in the form of field trips, workshops and guest lectures.
9. 21st Century learning techniques: The use of technology to learn maths and as an aid to learning all other subjects; the _____robotics programme.
10. Teacher student ratio of 1:30.
11. Weekly student-led assemblies.
12. Co-Curricular Activities: Sports [4 to 5 times a week], art, dance, music and special events both within school and at the inter-school level.
13. Community Outreach Programme: To build awareness and encourage sensitivity.
- 14.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM AT GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY?

Gundecha Education Academy is an international ICSE and IGCSE school. The curriculum is based on the guidelines provided by the ICSE and IGCSE (Cambridge International Examinations) Boards of Education. The custom-made curriculum is highly experiential, contextual, activity-oriented and based on multifaceted, multidisciplinary teaching approaches. We follow a common school based curriculum up to Grade 5 – after which students opt for their choice of board, ICSE or IGCSE.

In the **Preprimary & Primary School**, Thematic Learning helps students acquire a holistic understanding through an interdisciplinary approach. Learning is enquiry-based and experiential. Children acquire knowledge through a variety of activities designed to incorporate Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences.

In **Middle School**, learning takes place through research and independent study. In higher classes, we use a multidisciplinary approach combined with real-world application of curricula.

In **Senior School**, we focus on conceptual knowledge and the skills of application, analysis and higher order thinking. We also prepare students for examinations of National and International Boards. These give the students an excellent foundation for their higher education.

HOW DOES GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY DIFFER FROM OTHER SCHOOLS?

- Gundecha Education Academy is one of Mumbai's leading ICSE and international schools. It gives children a world-class education that prepares them for the pace and complexity of life in the 21st Century.
- We work with committed professionals supported by a strong, effective infrastructure.
- We offer the best of progressive and traditional learning and assessment techniques, while nurturing individuality and inventiveness in every student.
- We implement this ethos by restricting our class strength to 45 students only (for ICSE) and 30 (for IGCSE).
- Gundecha Education Academy simultaneously excels in academics & co-curricular activities, in addition to the discipline and challenge of time-tabled sports every day.

- We offer a superior education and are one of Mumbai's top 10 schools at an affordable cost.
- We believe in being child- & parent-centric, and are open, approachable & transparent in our working.
- We conduct market research & satisfaction surveys to take into account our market's wants & needs.
- Our educational approach leans heavily towards being learner-centered.
- Our school culture is performance based, friendly and empowering which attracts, develops & retains passionate educators.
- We work with an Academic Quality Management System accredited by the Quality Council of India with standard operating procedures to optimize delivery.
- We have a unique school management system, which facilitates the stakeholders' partnership with Gundecha Education Academy.

WHEN DO ADMISSIONS BEGIN?

The academic year starts in early June. Admissions generally start around October and are open throughout the year, depending on the availability of seats (we only take 35 students per class and we have one section per grade in the IGCSE section).

Overseas parents may review our website: www.gundechaedu.org

WHAT IS THE ADMISSION PROCEDURE?

Gundecha Education Academy has a simple and transparent admission procedure.

WHERE CAN I GET AN APPLICATION FORM?

Application Forms can be procured from our school office.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL INTERVIEW LIKE?

We do not hold interviews, only meetings and interactions, so that we can get to know each other better. We will invite the family for an interaction with Head of School / Head of Academics / Section Head / Special Educator and relevant Grade Level & subject teachers. Through this meeting, parents and students can familiarize themselves with the approach of the school.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL?

Gundecha Education Academy is a top-rated school. We welcome those who subscribe to our values and approach towards education. Preference is given to siblings, children who live in proximity to the school, and those who express an uncommon level of passion or excellence in any particular field. Students applying for admission to Grade 6 and above take placement tests in English, Maths and the Sciences. Admission is confirmed once appropriate fees are paid.

WHAT ARE THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSIONS?

Completed Application Forms to be submitted along with:

- 2 photographs
- A copy of your child's Birth Certificate
- Academic records / transcripts for the last 2 years
- Extra-curricular records or achievement certificates, if any
- Transfer Certificate, if any
- Copy of visa / permit (if the student is not a citizen of India)

- Student Information Form (Bus and Meal Plan, 2nd Language and 3rd Language and co-curricular electives.)
- Health Form

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ADMISSIONS?

- The School Office: 022 66776768 / 66401716
- Contact person: Mrs. Sonu Arora (Cambridge Coordinator)

HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE FACULTY, ADVISORS AND ADMIN TEAM TO PARENTS?

We encourage the involvement of parents. At Gundecha Education Academy, a parent is an important part of the learning process and can choose his / her degree and level of involvement in his / her child's education. Students will always have access to teachers and the Head of School in an open atmosphere that puts a child's needs first. Parents may contact teachers or the Head of Section or School via email or by prior appointment. We have Parent-Teacher Meetings, the schedule of which will be given in the school calendar.

An internet-based School Update System keeps parents informed of class progress, lesson plans, home work, behaviour reports, attendance etc.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's education. Apart from regular Parent-Teacher Meetings in the year, parents may also meet teachers by appointments set up through the co-ordinator. Teachers have their own email ids and may be contacted directly, with a copy to the appropriate Section Head.

WHAT POLICY DOES GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY FOLLOW TO ENSURE DISCIPLINE?

Gundecha Education Academy recognizes the importance of discipline to facilitate learning and growth for every child. We strive to create an atmosphere of orderliness and respect for others' needs which is nurturing at the same time – an environment of freedom to enquire and to express. We have a strict Code of Conduct for students.

There is also a merit system wherein students get positive or negative house points on areas such as hygiene, cleanliness, submission of homework, etc., exhibiting ethical behaviour which supports the Core Values of the school and of society.

Awards are given for excellence in different areas as we believe that positive reinforcement of good behaviour can build self-esteem and strong values.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL ADDRESS TEENAGE AND OTHER STUDENT ISSUES?

Social and emotional conflicts are a part of growing up and we expect that every student will at some time or the other grapple with peer issues, home related problems, academic performance, issues related to self-awareness etc. Issues and problems, if not dealt with, will directly impact a student's performance, relationships and ability to learn. Gundecha Education Academy is sensitive to teenage and student issues. While there is a full time Counsellor, teachers are also trained in basic counselling skills to be able to identify changes in manifested behaviour and offer support. The whole school community encourages sensitivity towards others and celebrates diversity of interests.

IS THERE A COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR STUDENTS?

There is a dedicated room for the Counsellor as well as a Learning Lab for students facing academic or learning difficulties. Also to ensure that accelerated learners are challenged, as kids who are ahead or bored can be disruptive.

HOW DO CHILDREN TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL?

We offer a bus service for students. Several well planned bus routes ensure the least possible travel time for every child. Children get on and off at designated pick-up points on the main routes.

WHAT CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CAN MY CHILD LOOK FORWARD TO AT THE SCHOOL?

Co-Curricular activities are given a lot of importance at Gundecha Education Academy as this is where children learn soft skills like teamwork, leadership, goal setting, confidence, interpersonal skills, communication skills etc. Every student is exposed to all activities: speech and drama, library, dance, and music / singing etc, during the school hours. Currently we have environmental club, public speaking, music, dance, art, debate, drama, financial quotient, erhwon and robotics.

WHAT IS THE SPORTS AND GAMES INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL?

Gundecha Education Academy places a strong emphasis on sports and physical activities and the exposure to it starts as early as Kindergarten years and goes on right up to Grade 12.

We have a tie up with Vishneel Foundation, DSO, MSSA and collaborate with them on our sports programmes to create a progressive and systematic approach to physical education and higher development in sports training at the school level.

We offer coaching in basketball, lawn tennis, athletics, cricket, table tennis.

WHAT IS THE FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON OFFER?

Every child in is exposed to sports & PE, music, singing, dance, drama and art & craft. While all classes have sports and PE every day, the rest of the activities are held once a week. There are also library and computer periods. The frequency is reduced to allow more time and focus on academics. While sports and PE continues to be offered it is also used for competitions, guest lectures, workshops etc. This is in accordance with our school vision and mission to take care of their intellectual, physical, psychological and ethical well-being.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY AT GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY (IGCSE) LIKE?

Regular school timings are 8.30am to 3.00pm.

WHAT LANGUAGES DOES GUNDECHA EDUCATION ACADEMY (IGCSE) OFFER? DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO STUDY AN INDIAN LANGUAGE?

English is the medium of instruction at Gundecha Education Academy. Second Language instruction starts in Grade 1. Third Language starts in Grade 3 and continues for four years till Grade 7.

ESL (English as a Second Language) classes are offered for those children whose mother tongue is not English.

Grades 1 to 7 – Second Languages offered are Hindi and Marathi

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 – Students study a Third Language, which could be Hindi, or Marathi.

Grades 9 & 10 – Only a Second Language is required. Students will follow the rules of the respective Boards – ICSE or IGCSE.

For ICSE, a student has to select an Indian language unless he/she is a foreign passport holder or gets special exemption from the ICSE Board on account of spending more than 3 years overseas.

For IGCSE, a student may select a foreign language. Hindi is also offered for IGCSE.

ICSE rules regarding Second Language:-

1. Candidates of Indian nationality have to take the examination for a second language. Options are: Hindi, Marathi or any other Indian language approved by the Council. Currently Gundecha Education Academy offers Hindi and Marathi only.
2. Candidates of other nationalities must appear for either one of the Indian languages or a foreign language for which the school makes provision. This includes French, German, Spanish or any other language approved by the Council.

It should be made very clear that only students with foreign passports will be allowed to take a foreign language as a Second Language. All other students will have to take Hindi.

Regarding IGCSE, students can either opt for French, or Hindi as a Second Language.

Regional language and Sanskrit is not an option as a Second Language in this Board.

WHAT ARE THE MEDICAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS?

There is a certified nurse in the School First Aid room at all times. In case of emergency the school vehicle will be used to take children to the hospital. There is a doctor on call as well to ensure student health.

HOW IS A STUDENT WHO IS WEAK IN A PARTICULAR SUBJECT OR SUBJECTS MONITORED?

Gundecha Education Academy believes that with a little extra individual attention, every student is capable of improving his or her performance. Gundecha Education Academy supports differentiated learning. Students who are not performing at grade level in any area or subject (as evidenced by performances in class and on formative assessments) are given extra attention to bring them up to the required level.

The teachers work one-on-one with a student in a non-classroom environment to help him or her catch up and improve in his or her understanding of fundamental concepts.

The Learning Lab also provides support where necessary.

Time Table

Gundecha Education Academy (IGCSE) has developed a weekly time table that repeats every week. Typically a day has 7 periods and a week 35 periods. Children attend school from Monday to Friday, while teachers attend on alternate Saturdays for trainings and staff meetings.

In the Middle School about 15 periods are provided for activities like Physical Education, Art, Craft, Music, Dance, Library and 25 periods for Maths, Science, EVS, languages, and computers. Every child at Gundecha goes for one period of Physical Education every day as children today don't have avenues for physical exercise and it is an important developmental need.

Daily School Timings

The school starts at 8.30 am with a brief assembly every day and a special assembly every Friday presented by children. The school finishes at 3.00 pm for classes 6 and above.

Academic Year

The academic year starts in mid June and ends in mid April. Our new academic year starts in June after the summer unlike a few schools that start in March.



