

MoEHE - Circular No 12 – August 2021

Private Schools and Kindergartens' Hours for Academic Year 2021-2022

Gentlemen and Ladies, Private Schools, and Kindergartens, respected Principals

May the Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

The Private Education sector in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education offers you our best greetings, and we thank you very much for your efforts in ensuring the continuity of our children's learning during the previous academic year 2020/2021.

As we gather at the start of a new academic year, we will continue to cooperate with all to ensure the continuity of the learning and education process for our students and children.

In compliance with precautionary measures, announced by the State to maintain the health and safety of citizens and residents, and to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus, we inform you that it has been decided to adopt the integrated education system at the beginning of the academic year 2021/2022, with 50% of the specified capacity in the school building, as follows:

1. Administrative and Educational Staff:

- Full commitment of all members of the administrative and teaching staff in the school building is required, according to the working hours specified by the school administration, taking care to follow all precautionary measures to prevent the pandemic and to ensure everyone's safety.
- Staff are obliged to wear masks while they are in the building, with the application and documentation of sanctions on any member of staff who contravenes this requirement.
- Weekly rapid testing for Coronavirus, approved by the Ministry of Public Health, for all those who have not received or completed both (Covid-19) vaccine doses. Those who have completed both doses of (Covid-19) vaccine and who are recovered from the disease are exempt from the test.

2. Students:

- Schools apply rotational weekly hours by dividing students into two groups, the first group receives their education in the first week at school, and the second group receives distance education, and so on and so forth.
- Students from first grade to grade 12 must wear face masks while they are inside the school building.
- Parents must be aware of the rotational study hours for their children in sufficient time.
- Schools must reinforce the application of the 50% capacity limit on school buses.
- Schools must be aware of the actual student and staff attendance within the school building determined by the school or kindergarten (ensuring that it does not exceed the prescribed percentage) Schools must work to balance school and remote attendance.

- It is left to the school to determine the daily school hours for integrated education, provided it is not less than three hours for kindergarten, and five hours for other school stages.
- Schools must apply the attendance and absence policy to comply with the need for daily monitoring on the NSIS system, as was the case in the previous year.
- Schools must commit to the 'bubble' system within the classrooms and distribute students to classrooms so that any one class includes a maximum of 15 students, and at least 1.5 metres between the student and his immediate colleague.
- Schools must organize the students' entry and exit to prevent crowding and to ensure social distancing.
- Students with diseases which prevent them from receiving education at school are excluded from attendance, as determined by the Ministry of Public Health. They will continue to attend distance education, and those excluded from attendance must submit a recent medical certificate proving this and approved by the Ministry of Public Health.
- It is forbidden to go out at breaktime, and students must eat meals inside the classroom.
- Schools must refrain from the morning line up or group activities, such as trips, camps and celebrations. These can be done virtually.
- Students will perform all End of Semester and Mid Semester exams inside the school building with the application of all precautionary measures to ensure students' safety.

We also emphasize to all Private Schools and Kindergartens the importance of:

- Commitment to apply all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of students and staff in the school building.
- The daily presence of nursing staff in the school building.
- Educating all new students and parents about the general requirements and instructions of the school's policy in dealing with and preventing Covid-19.
- Not allowing visitors or staff to enter the school building without checking the Ehteraz application and a temperature test.
- Notifying the Ministry of Health and informing the Department of Private Schools Affairs of the discovery of any cases of Corona disease.
- In the case of a high incidence in school or kindergarten, learning will move to distance learning 100%, after notifying the Ministry of Health and informing the Department of Private Schools Affairs.
- Commitment to the circulars issued by the Ministry's Department of Health and Safety.

Finally, the Private Education sector and its relevant department are ready to provide the required advice and support to ensure that the educational process is working well, and the relevant departments in the Private Education sector will follow up on the schools. We would also like to emphasize the need for full commitment of the contents of this circular. It is the responsibility of the administration to follow up and ensure implementation.

Please accept our respect and esteem