

PAK SHAMAA SCHOOL DOHA QATAR



Guide to Reopening

Why a Reopening Plan?

Dear parents and students,

I welcome you all after the summer vacation school opening phase. Here, first, accept my sincere wishes for your overall well-being. As Covid-19 suspended daily life activities in every field for a long period of time around the globe, but nations cannot stay closed forever. Keeping in view the formal education needs of students, the Ministry of Education & Higher Education has decided to open all schools in Qatar from 1st September with 30% of school's full capacity. Only students who are sick or a patient of a chronic disease or having a family member with chronic disease are exempted after showing an approved proof of their case.

Working with our community and the Ministry of Education, PSS will provide every opportunity for students to continue to learn at a distance while aiming for an appropriate reopening of in-person learning.

PSS employees, families, and students with an informed understanding of what school might look like when we return to in-person learning, continue online, or establish a blended approach. In working on this plan, every effort is made to align PSS's vision and purpose, along with the best knowledge available from the Ministries of Health and Education. Our goal is to minimize risk, while providing the best education within the city of Doha.



“What children lose by not being in school is enormous; school attendance is a life-defining experience that is critical for educational, social, and emotional development.”

**Nabila kaukab
Principal Pak Shamaa School**

COVID-19 Alignment

PSS reopening plan is aligned to our Mission, Vision, and Core Values. The current situation with the COVID-19 crisis presents both opportunities and challenges to our entire community. The purpose of the plans outlined below is to share in an open and transparent manner, how PSS strategically plans to respond and adapt to the changing nature of modern education. An authentic modern education in the 21st century will look very different from the model that has been used in the past. Currently, the PSS Administration is incorporating the most up-to-date instructional technology and methodology to ensure that our students' learning continues to be a model of excellence. We recognize that many elements of these plans will require significant support from our parent community. For this reason, we seek your continuing input on how PSS can best serve you during this time and moving forward to the future. Our goal is to stay true to what makes our school unique. Students at PSS are asked to embrace challenges and learning opportunities that often do not yet have answers. PSS will model, in practice, what our students learn each day.

PSS's Core Values align with our dedication to providing a safe and exceptional learning experience for all students.



PSS Core Values

We believe that...

- Respect cultivates positive relationships.
- Honesty and integrity build a culture of transparency and trust.
- Helping other benefits communities and leads to personal growth.
- Embracing cultural diversity develops relationships and enriches life.
- Passion and commitment motivate, inspire, and empower life-long learners.
- Quality education has the power to make a positive impact on individuals & societies.
- A school community thrives when there is open communication and collaboration.

Instructional Vision During COVID-19

Pak Shamaa School is accredited with Ministry of Education & Higher Education Qatar.

Our Mission

Our mission is to inspire students to achieve their goals and lead the world with creativity and diversity in approach.

Our Vision

Our vision is to provide an orderly academic environment where student can learn, lead and live to meet the challenges with Islamic ideology.

Learning Models

PSS understands that schools must remain flexible as we work with the Ministry of Education & Higher Education the best available data to determine what school will look like for students. As we prepare, PSS identified three models that we can alter between as needed. Although our goal is to return to face-to-face learning as soon as possible, we believe that each model will provide an exceptional educational experience for our students.

Face-to-Face Learning

This is the traditional model that PSS families are used to seeing. Students attend school from Sunday to Thursday, remaining at the building throughout the day. Our goal remains to return to this model of education as the best possible scenario. However, even in these times, we must remain vigilant by adhering to preventative hygiene practices. This model will only be possible when the risk of infection is low enough to warrant such a move. Although some families might elect to keep their children at home, at this stage we will fully open for all students to return.

Blended Learning

In blended learning, students will visit the school twice or thrice a week to attend some basic subject classes, do some practical experiments in labs, do exams and important school tests. The days when the students will stay at home, they will learn through distance learning at home.

Sports and group activities will be changed into individual activities to keep the students safe. This model is the most flexible and subject to adjustment based on the conditions and student learning needs. Class sizes will be limited to only 15 students per class. Teachers will create high quality in person and online learning experiences designed to meet our learning goals.

Group Distribution

Days	Classes	Group
Sunday	3rd→12th (IS & EM),KG1(A,B),KG2(A,B,C,D)	A
Monday	2nd→12th(IS and EM),KG1 (A,B), KG2 (A)	B
Tuesday	9th → 12th (IS & EM) ,KG1 & KG2 (All Sections) →4th(IS & EM)	A
Wednesday	2nd→12th(IS and EM),KG2 (B,C,D)	B
Thursday	5th→12th (IS & EM) ,2nd (IS & EM)	A
	kG1& KG2 (All Sections) →1st(IS & EM)	B



“Both in-person and online education have tremendous value and are very high-quality when they are appropriately designed and delivered by professionals who are prepared to do exactly that.”



Maintaining Instructional Quality

What Students Learn

PSS will guide our educators as they universally designate our essential standards for learning. This was done in the Spring as an emergency response during a time of crisis. However, this Fall, we will make these decisions with even more focus on the long-term continuity of learning - as in assuring vertical alignment within this academic year and into the future.

How Students Learn

PSS will continue to collaborate regarding online learning schedules and practices. PSS will continue to support the school's education coordinators in order to bolster their development of our educators' online fluencies and resources.

How Students Are Assessed

PSS will guide our educators to increase our expectations as the students' assessment experiences are improved. In this term all the exams will be held in the school by following the Ministry of Education & Higher Education criteria.

Throughout our engagement with all three stages of learning, PSS will collaborate to assure student learning. PSS will also collaborate to assure continuing progress with our strategic plan and accreditation.

Health and Safety

When considering a safe return to school, PSS will follow the best expertise available in order to maintain the health of our community. Below are some guidelines that provide a basic framework for such a return, either through hybrid learning or full-time face-to-face instruction. Although these steps are not exhaustive, they do provide a fundamental understanding of our commitment to health and safety regarding a return to school. When it is deemed appropriate to have a return, PSS will provide additional guidelines and procedures based on the latest information available from health experts and the Ministry of Education & Higher Education.

<p>Potential Exposure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Students and teachers that have been directly exposed to (i.e. family member) or diagnosed with COVID-19 must have clearance from a doctor in order to return to school. · Students and teachers coming from outside of the country must self-isolate for 14 days or receive a test to verify a clean bill of health before returning to school.
<p>At Home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Before the school day begins, parents should take the temperature of their children and ensure that they are healthy. · If a child is unwell with a temperature, cough, body aches, fatigue, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, or headache, they are requested to remain at home until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours. · Children should wear freshly cleaned clothes each day. · Before leaving home, children should wash their hands with soap and water.
<p>Going to School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Older adults that are higher risk should not accompany children to/from school. · Parents, guests, and adults other than staff may not enter the school building. Families are encouraged to have meetings online with teachers. · Staff and students entering the building will have their temperature checked. If the temperature is elevated, that individual will move to isolation room in the school and be sent home. · PSS will stagger drop off times so that not all students arrive/depart to school at the same time. · Visitors must have Ehteraz app installed in their phones before entering the building. · Visitors will use hand sanitizing gel before entering the building. · Buses will have individualized rules including spacing guidelines and sanitary measures.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">During the Day</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If at any time, a child shows signs of an elevated temperature, a cough, body aches, fatigue, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, or headache, he will be removed to a designated isolation room. Parents or some other adult will immediately need to pick up the child from school. • All adults and children will be required to wear masks throughout the day. Exceptions will be granted to those with medical issues. • Staff and students may not leave campus and return on the same day. • Outside deliveries or maintenance requests to the building will happen outside of the school day. • Instructional signs, posters, and materials will direct students throughout the day to find hand sanitizing stations, what to do if unwell, and how to maintain health. • Students and teachers should bring bottled water and lunch from home.
<h2 style="text-align: center;">In Class</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms will distance students apart from another to maintain best spacing practices (1.5 meters per child). • PSS will minimize the use of paper and other handled materials. Middle School and High School students are expected to use technology as much as possible to complete and submit assignments. • Students in the elementary will have their own stationary items. • Sharing is not allowed in the class. • The number of students per classroom will be limited to only 15 to ensure proper distancing.
<h2 style="text-align: center;">At Lunch</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch and snack break will occur in classrooms. Students will bring their own water bottles & lunch to eat in their classrooms during break. • Students will bring their own pocket hand sanitizers • Hand sanitizing will take place before and after lunch.
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Sanitation</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSS's classrooms, Labs, and sports complexes will be thoroughly cleaned before the students returns. • Each day, the sanitation team will provide a deep cleaning of the entire facility. • Common surfaces such as tables, door handles, handrails, and bathrooms will be cleaned each hour. • Classroom materials such as toys, books, and supplies will either be cleaned each day or kept in a plastic container for single use only.



Activities, Socialization, and Emotional Care

Activities

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing all of us to change how we live and work. PSS Group activities have not been immune to these changes. We have been forced to rethink how we can operate in this “new normal.” Since the risks from COVID-19 may not be going away anytime soon, PSS is changing our group activities to individual activities to keep our community safe and active.

Socialization



PSS believes that Social Emotional Learning might be impacted for children that are separated through distance learning. We will create opportunities for reflection and socialization so that students might better understand their own emotions and grow during this difficult time



Research shows that although children may not have the words to express their fears and frustrations, art serves as a reflective process that may use non-verbal methods to process emotions. PSS will provide engaging art endeavors this year to help children understand themselves and others through our CovArt program.



Teachers will undergo professional development on identifying and helping children that display emotional difficulties and Post Traumatic Stress symptoms of re-experiencing, avoidance and concentration issues.



Studies show that emotional well being cannot be separated from overall health. PSS will emphasize wellness this year through daily exercise, nutrition programs, and proper sleep patterns.

Emotional Care

PSS Counseling Offices aim to provide a comprehensive and developmental counseling program that addresses both students academic and social emotional needs. During the spread of the coronavirus and the school closure, the counseling staff maintained its commitment to the well being of its students through consistent contact with students, parents and teachers. This support was switched to a digital format, as a means to adapt to the new reality our community was facing. With a digital platform already available the mission of the Counseling Offices continues to be supporting our students and their families psychologically, socially and academically when school reopening, regardless of the type of instruction.



This support will take the form of:

Prioritizing continuity: Disruption often has negative side effects to a child's wellbeing, however by focusing on continuing school and its routines we will help ensure that students' time is spent in a productive and fulfilling way. This structure helps ease anxieties and provides an enriching environment for the students to participate in.

Focusing on well-being: As usual, counselors will be available to meet and support students and families who had difficulties when the pandemic hit or are dealing with any lingering effects from the lockdown period. This support can and will take many various forms as it is adapted to the necessary needs of each student and their families. This includes but is not limited to; one on one sessions with students, their parents or both, consistent check in with teachers to receive feedback on student performance and participation, class visits and observations etc.

Each department will customize and develop services, as needed, in order to meet the needs of the specific age group they work with.

The feedback of our community is always appreciated and welcomed, please feel free to email your department's counselor for any further information or to share your thoughts with us.

“When students feel safe and supported, they are truly ready and able to learn.”

Maintaining Community During COVID-19

In order to maintain the community during this global crisis, PSS dedicates itself to proactive transparency and communication with all parents. To that end, PSS will:

- Host weekly parent-teacher meetings either in person or via Zoom in order to discuss organizational procedures and direction.
- Deliver updated plans and reports regarding COVID-19 on a regular basis so that the community understands the current situation and threat level.
- Create opportunities for community feedback and extended voice.
- Provide parent feedback through a consistent, timely learning management system.
- Produce PSS events that are partially or fully online to encourage whole community participation.
- Generate opportunities for student voices in curricular outcomes, the arts, sports, and creative endeavors.



“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

