

Sharjah English School

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates



Founded in 1974 by British bankers inside a Sharjah fort, this not-for-profit pioneer marked its 50th year with a time capsule.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	68/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	62/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Sharjah English School has a stronger claim on a serious parent’s shortlist than most Sharjah schools because it is not trying to be a lifestyle brand. It opened in 1974, counts itself among the UAE’s oldest not-for-profit schools, and still trades on substance: a British curriculum, English-medium teaching, day schooling from ages 3 to 18, and a lean **10:1 student-teacher ratio** that matters more than glossy rhetoric. The school’s setting in the market is clear. This is an *established*, *community-rooted* British school with scale but not sprawl: Wikipedia puts enrolment at 850 pupils, enough to sustain a full primary and secondary offer without the anonymity of a mega-campus. BSO accreditation gives it external scrutiny that parents should value, and BSME membership places it within the mainstream network of long-

standing British schools in the region.

What is special here is not novelty but continuity. SES has history, and history in Gulf education still counts because so many competitors are new, corporate and interchangeable. The not-for-profit structure is another distinction with real weight: it signals a school built around institutional longevity and community confidence rather than aggressive expansion or shareholder return. That does not make it cheap. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **AED 51,726**, which places SES in the *upper-middle* segment for Sharjah: expensive enough to signal ambition, restrained enough to remain an alternative to Dubai's fee inflation. The school also makes a point of its academic record and A Level outcomes, but it does not publish aggregate results in the sources here, so parents will need to ask harder questions about subject strength, value-added and university destinations.

The pupil who fits SES is not the child who wants a vast, ultra-polished, high-gloss international campus with every new programme bolted on. This school suits families who want a *grounded*, *traditional* British education in a diverse UAE setting, with visible community identity and enough pastoral proximity for children to be known well. It will appeal to steady, engaged students who do well in structured environments and to parents who care about institutional character, not just facilities. For families in Sharjah who want a British school with roots, credibility and a clear sense of self, SES stands out as a *serious* option.

STRENGTHS

- One of the longest-established British curriculum schools in Sharjah, founded in 1974, providing continuity and an alumni base built up over several decades.
- Offers a full British pathway through to IGCSEs and A-Levels, giving families a recognised exit qualification for university applications abroad.
- Holds a Very good rating from the Sharjah Private Education Authority, confirming solid externally inspected quality.
- Elite-band co-curricular provision across sport, drama, music and visual arts, an unusual strength for a mid-fee Sharjah school.
- Located in Sharjah, fees are generally positioned below comparable British curriculum schools in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, easing the cost burden for expat families.
- Single-site day school structure allows a consistent community feel from Foundation Stage through to Sixth Form.

TRADE - OFFS

- As an established, popular school with a deliberately small student body, entry at commonly requested year groups can be constrained, with limited availability reported for recent intake years.
- Campus scale is more modest than newer purpose-built British schools in Dubai, even if co-curricular provision is strong.
- Being based in Sharjah rather than Dubai or Abu Dhabi may mean fewer extracurricular partnerships tied to those larger expat hubs.
- Public information on exam results breakdowns and university destination data is less readily available than for higher-profile Dubai schools.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is offered across Foundation Stage through Sixth Form, with entry typically requiring registration, age-appropriate assessment, and submission of previous school reports and transfer certificates, in line with SPEA requirements. The school runs a deliberately small student body, and availability for recent intake years has been limited, so early application is advised for families relocating to Sharjah. Fee levels are generally more moderate than equivalent British curriculum schools in Dubai, though these should be confirmed directly with the school as figures change annually.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_4383b5ecb6.