

GEMS Founders School Al Barsha

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Grown from a record-breaking 2016 launch into the UAE's largest National Curriculum for England school, now rated Very Good by the KHDA.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	66/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	62/100
Alumni network	56/100
Facilities	77/100
Transparency	70/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

GEMS Founders School Al Barsha occupies a clear position in Dubai's crowded British-school market: scale, access and proven demand. It opened in **2016** and grew fast into the UAE's largest National Curriculum for England school, which tells you two things at once. First, parents bought into the proposition in serious numbers. Second, this is not a boutique school trading on intimacy or scarcity. It is a large, full-through day school for ages 3-18, taught in English, with a British curriculum and BSO accreditation. The KHDA's **Very Good** rating for **2023/24** matters here. In Dubai, once a school

reaches this size, consistency becomes the test. A Very Good judgement signals that the school has kept standards in line while operating at volume.

What is special about it is not rarity; it is execution at scale. This school gives families a British education in Dubai without the inflated mystique that clings to parts of the premium market. That makes it a serious shortlist school for parents who want breadth of provision, a settled regulatory record and the institutional muscle of the GEMS network, but do not need a school built around exclusivity. There is a **hard-headed value story** here, paired with the reassurance of an established operator. The attraction is **practical ambition**: a school large enough to offer range, old enough to have moved past launch-stage volatility, and regulated strongly enough to carry credibility. For many families, that is more useful than glossy claims about being “transformational”.

The trade-off sits in plain view. A school of this scale will not suit children who need a **small-school cocoon**, quiet corridors or close-knit informality. It suits students who can navigate a busy environment, take advantage of a broad peer group and thrive in a school with momentum. Confident, adaptable children do well here; so do academically serious pupils whose parents want a British pathway without paying for theatre. Families looking for **status signalling** or a highly rarefied campus culture can shop elsewhere. Families looking for **substance over polish**, credible oversight and a school with **real operational heft** should keep GEMS Founders School Al Barsha firmly on the list.

STRENGTHS

- British curriculum, KHDA-attested
- English-medium teaching throughout
- Covers ages 3 to 18 in one all-through campus
- BSO-accredited
- Outstanding sports, dance and visual-arts co-curricular provision

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only, with no boarding provision
- KHDA Very good sits below the city’s Outstanding schools
- We could not independently verify recent published exam outcomes

ADMISSIONS

Families should assume availability is cohort-dependent, with more pressure on the standard joining years.

We could not independently verify the school's assessment format — whether that means age-appropriate screening, prior school reports, interviews, or subject testing for older applicants. Parents should contact the school for more information.

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_5c347ad65f.