

GEMS Modern Academy

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Where the CISCE curriculum and the IB Diploma share one campus, and the only Indian-curriculum school in Dubai rated Outstanding by KHDA.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	62/100
Facilities	77/100
Transparency	73/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

GEMS Modern Academy matters in Dubai because it does something few schools manage cleanly: it keeps a serious Indian academic spine while offering an IB route on the same campus. The regulator attests the school as Indian/IB, not one or the other, and that distinction counts. Children in KG to Grade 5 follow the IB Primary Years Programme, the school has offered the IB Diploma since 2014, and it gained MYP candidacy in 2021. For parents who want academic continuity without locking a child into a single system too early, that dual structure is the school’s **defining advantage**. Add the KHDA’s Outstanding rating for 2023/24 and GEMS Modern’s case for a shortlist writes itself.

This is also a long-established school with operational heft. It opened in 1986, runs as a day school for ages 3 to 18, teaches in English and Arabic, and posts a **10:1** student-teacher ratio. That ratio points to real classroom access, not crowd management. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **AED 51,345**, which places the school in an **assertive middle-to-upper segment** of the Dubai market: expensive, but not at the stratospheric end. Accreditation by CISCE and the IBO gives the academic offer formal backbone. The key point for parents is simple: this is not an Indian school trying on an international gloss; it is a **properly structured dual-pathway school** with regulatory credibility.

The child who will thrive here is academically purposeful, comfortable with pace, and well served by a school where ambition is built into the architecture. Families who value measurable standards and want an Indian-curriculum environment without closing off the IB Diploma will find a **rare piece of market positioning**. Families hunting for a loose, progressive, low-pressure education should look elsewhere. GEMS Modern Academy suits pupils who want clear academic direction, parents who care about inspection outcomes, and households that want flexibility later on without sacrificing rigour at the start. In Dubai, that is a **powerful combination**.

STRENGTHS

- GEMS Modern Academy has held KHDA's top Outstanding rating continuously since 2011, and WSA reports it is the only Indian-curriculum school in Dubai to hold that rating.
- The school offers a genuine dual pathway from Grade 6, letting families choose between the IB (MYP/DP) and the Indian CISCE track (ICSE/ISC) on one campus.
- Examination results are published and competitive: the 2025 IB Diploma cohort averaged 34.2 points with a 97% pass rate and two perfect 45s, and the 2026 ISC cohort averaged 92.5% (school website/WSA).
- It is CISCE-affiliated and IB-authorized across the PYP, MYP and DP.
- Co-curricular provision is a genuine strength, with world-class sport and music and elite dance, drama and visual arts on the WTS scoring bands.
- The school publicly documents its campus and facilities as a world-class range designed to support all-round development.

TRADE - OFFS

- It is a very large, all-through school on a single campus, which can mean less individual attention than at smaller sites despite the reported 10:1 ratio.
- Fees sit in the premium bracket for the Indian-curriculum segment, with WSA reporting annual fees of AED 30,983 to AED 73,876 depending on grade and pathway, plus mandatory extras.
- Demand regularly outstrips supply: the school notes it often receives more applicants than places and cannot guarantee a seat, so waiting lists are common at popular entry points.
- The Grade 6 choice between CISCE and IB pathways is a structural commitment that families at single-curriculum schools do not face.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is available from Pre-KG (age 3) through to senior grades, with standard cut-off ages set each March. Applications go through an online enquiry followed by an interview or age-appropriate entrance test, plus submission of passports, visas, Emirates IDs, birth certificate and prior school reports. The school states it often has more applicants than places and encourages early application; unsuccessful families are kept on a waiting list. Entry to Grade 6 requires choosing between the CISCE and IB MYP pathways, an additional decision point not seen at single-curriculum schools.

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_851a44e89c.