INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MOROCCO

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Approach to strengthening pupil engagement and motivation

We set our standards for achievement high, continuously challenging pupils to achieve their full potential at both the academic and personal level. We value creativity and self-expression as essential elements in the intellectual development of every child. We create a secure and nurturing learning environment where children are inspired to explore, inquire and experiment. We guide our pupils to be enthusiastic participants in their own learning, fuelled by the intrinsic inquisitive nature of childhood. Our pupils are independent learners. They are creative and confident problem solvers, risk-takers and life-long learners.
(From the ISM statement of philosophy)

We take an active and systematic approach to developing and maintaining high levels of pupil engagement and motivation through deliberate behaviours, initiatives and pedagogy that address the following areas:

- **Learning relationships**

We support strong teacher pupil relationships in which teachers take the time and make the effort to know and understand each pupil on an individual basis. **All teachers are facilitators of pupil learning.** By understanding each pupil's learning needs, teachers are expected to provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of each pupil. This includes an understanding of each child's emotional, cognitive and behavioural strengths as well as weaknesses. All ISM teachers take an interest in their pupils as individuals, get to know them by name and talk to them not only in the classroom but also during other activities such as lunch, recess and community events.

- **Classroom environment**

The school wide and classroom environments are designed so as to provide pupils with welcoming, comfortable and engaging learning spaces for both work and play. Classrooms should be flexible learning environments that provide a variety of seating and working options, space for movement, and opportunities for pupils to collaborate. Bright colours, plenty of sunlight, attractive displays and samples of pupil work create an atmosphere that is friendly and stimulating.

- **Celebrations of learning**

In addition to the positive reinforcement, praise for jobs well done and focus on pupils' strengths that take place throughout each day, we also have scheduled events to highlight and celebrate pupil learning. All members of the ISM community are invited to our regular school assemblies, when pupils may perform a song, play, poem, presentation or other displays of what they have been learning. Pupils also participate in the creation of a regular school newsletter. Each term we have a "focus week" highlighting important global themes such as multilingualism, literacy, multicultural heritages and environmental awareness.

- **Character education**

Character education is an important aspect of the ISM curriculum and is an integral part of daily instruction and school life. The ISM character traits are attributes and behaviours for achieving in school and into adulthood as good citizens of positive, well-rounded character. These traits

are deliberately taught, modelled and reinforced throughout the ISM curriculum and by all ISM administration, teaching staff and staff.
Members of the ISM community are: reflective, inquisitive, principled, creative, adventurous and compassionate

- **Family foundations**

A healthy home-school partnership and open communication can also have a strong impact on a child's level of engagement and motivation in school. Parents should clearly understand the school's expectations for their child and should feel confident in their ability to support these expectations in the home environment. In addition to providing mother tongue support and participation in parent-teacher conferences, parents are invited to attend a minimum of three parent workshops (when offered) throughout the year, each addressing a particular area of the curriculum and ways in which families can support their child's development in this area at home. Parent workshops focus on literacy and language, inquiry and exploration in maths and science, and social growth and learner traits.
All parents are automatically members of our parent organization known as ISM Ensemble. ISM Ensemble helps to organize community events such as World Fest and Family Fun Day. ISM Ensemble members also participate in arranging enrichment activities to enhance the curriculum, celebrate the diversity of the ISM family, further strengthen the relationship between home and school or promote open communication and cooperation between all members of the ISM community.

- **Learner habits**

ISM teachers guide their pupils in developing the routines and procedures to be implemented both in and out of the classroom that enable pupils to work, play and transition independently and responsibly. These habits also include the ways that pupils learn to gather and organize their materials or workspace. Effective implementation of these habits can help to ensure that instructional time is used appropriately and keep pupil distractions to a minimum.

- **Trans disciplinary skills**

All ISM teachers across the curriculum teach and reinforce the skills needed to actively participate in class and complete assignments. These include skills in reading, comprehension, participation in discussions, technology and cooperative learning. Regular collaborative meetings with specialist teachers and classroom teachers ensure that strong connections where possible are made within subject areas.

- **Enquiry based instruction**

Our curricular units are driven by pupil inquiry. Relevant and rigorous inquiry-based instruction motivates pupils to invest more of themselves, work harder and learn better because the topic is interesting to them and connected to something they already know.

- **Differentiated instruction**

One size does not fit all in the classroom, as any group of pupils will be comprised of a variety of learners. Differentiated instruction and individualized learning targets allow ISM teachers to address the needs of every pupil. A variety of instructional strategies also add interest and increase engagement. Cooperative learning strategies and peer teaching allow pupils to achieve and explore at different levels of expertise.