

Up to 90% off at DSF’s 12-hour mega sale

DUBAI
BY ASHFAQ AHMED
Senior Assistant Editor

Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) marks its 30th anniversary this year with a 12-hour mega sale, offering discounts of up to 90 per cent across more than 100 luxury, international, and home-grown brands.

Taking place on Thursday from 10am to 10pm, the sale will be hosted across Majid Al Futtaim malls, including Mall of the Emirates, City Centre Mirdif, City Centre Deira, City Centre Me’aisem, City Centre Al Shindagha, and My City Centre Al Barsha.

It kicks off the highly anticipated DSF season, a city-wide shopping celebration running till February 2, 2025. During this time, shoppers can enjoy up to 75 per cent off at Dubai’s leading shopping malls and districts.

Organised by the Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment, the sale promises an unparalleled shopping experience.

In addition to the discounts, shoppers who spend Dh300 or more will have the chance to win instant prizes through the interactive Play & Win activation at Mall of the Emirates, City Centre Mirdif, and City Centre Deira. By downloading the Share app, participants can enter the Play & Win zone and stand a chance to win exciting rewards.

How Abu Dhabi schools will spot struggling students early

ADEK OFFERS 10 INDICATORS THAT SCHOOLS MUST REGULARLY CHECK FOR

ABU DHABI
BY ABDULLA RASHEED
Abu Dhabi Editor

Schools in Abu Dhabi are now required to regularly check on students to see if they are struggling in a new push to identify those at risk of educational challenges early on.

In its latest policy, the Abu Dhabi Department of Education (ADEK) has outlined 10 key indicators for early detection of signs that a student might need extra help.

They range from student well-being and academic performance to parental engagement.

Mistreatment and privacy

The education regulator said if a student is confirmed to be at risk due to mistreatment, schools must follow the Student Protection Policy confidentially to safeguard the student’s privacy and mental health.


The goal is to help students stay in school, progress through grades, graduate, and explore further education or career paths.

Meeting student needs

The new policy emphasises the need for schools to adopt a tiered model to support the needs of students at educational risk. The plan focuses on finding the reasons why a student is struggling and making sure they get the right kind of

TIERED APPROACH

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE



Abu Dhabi’s new policy requires schools to adopt a tiered approach to support at-risk students.

1 Tier 1: This starts with inclusive, evidence-based teaching for all students, focusing on positive relationships and a supportive environment, with regular progress checks.

2 Tier 2: Students who do not respond to interventions at the above level are moved to this tier, which provides targeted, additional teaching to help them meet academic and behavioural goals.

3 Tier 3: This level provides ‘intensive support’, focusing on specialised, individualised instructions, tailored to the student’s needs. This may include support from external specialists, with the student’s progress monitored consistently.

The plan focuses on finding why a student is struggling and making sure they get help, underlining the principle that every student is capable of learning.

help. It underlines the principle that every student is capable of learning and achieving their potential.

Timely intervention

ADEK said the intervention programmes should be based on research, culturally and linguistically relevant, and include adaptive teaching strategies to foster inclusion. It also emphasised the importance of collaboration between the school and the home.

ADEK said schools should employ problem-solving techniques to develop individualised learning plans and apply positive, research-backed behavioural approaches in classrooms and schools to enhance academic achievement and social-emotional learning.

Penalties

Non-compliance with this policy will result in legal accountability and penalties as per its regulations and policies.

This does not preclude additional penalties under Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021 or any other relevant law.

Support teams

ADEK said schools will create teams to help teachers support struggling students. These teams should include relevant stakeholders and the student at risk and their teachers should be involved in the planning process for any individual interventions whenever possible.

Court rules in favour of husband in assault case

RAS AL KHAIMAH
BY AGHADDIR ALI
Senior Reporter

Ras Al Khaimah court has acquitted a father of eight of allegations of assault and breach of privacy made by his wife of 17 years.

The 40-year-old man was accused of strangling his 35-year-old wife and filming her without her consent. However, the defence presented medical reports the refuted the allegations of bodily harm.

On the day of the alleged incident, the wife reportedly left for work, leaving their children unattended, and returned late at night.

The couple’s three-year-old daughter was put to bed by her father. When the wife returned, she insisted on taking the child despite the father’s request to let her continue sleeping. She later returned to the room and took the child against his wishes. The husband stated that he began filming the incident to document her actions.

The court noted that the husband filmed the incident to protect himself amid ongoing disputes between the couple. The defence also revealed that the wife allegedly misappropriated Dh43,000 of the husband’s funds, a lawsuit for which is still in court. Divorce proceedings initiated by the husband are also pending.



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UAE Lottery moves to protect gamers from rash behaviour

AI-powered mental well-being platform to provide support to individuals at risk

ABU DHABI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

Operators of the Dh100 million The UAE Lottery are seeking to ensure responsible gaming behaviour among participants.

The Game LLC, the licensed operator of the lottery, appointed by the General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority (GCGRA), announced yesterday that it had tied up with Takalam, an AI-powered mental well-being platform, to support individuals at risk of developing unhealthy gaming behaviours. A dedicated mini-site ([getsupport.takalamhere.com](https://support.takalamhere.com)) offers resources such as videos, articles, and online counselling and coaching, the operator said.

Defence mechanism

On December 12, *Gulf News* reported on how people keep buying lottery tickets despite slim chances of winning.

Clinical psychologist Anamika Vajpeyi had said, “Buying lotteries might become a defence mechanism against the stress and anxiety of day-to-day life. In certain cases, it might give the lottery buyers an illusion of control; which might make them interpret lottery purchase as an investment — a calculated risk.”

She had also cautioned that, “In some cases, the urge to keep buying tickets can become harder to control, even though



■ Game LLC, the lottery operator, has taken measures like self-exclusion programmes to promote responsible gaming.

● **Takalam will provide participants with comprehensive tools and personalised support for responsible gaming, without the fear of compromising privacy or confidentiality.**

ing privacy or confidentiality. James Boyles, Group Director for Responsible Gaming, said: “We are proud to collaborate with Takalam to further our commitment to players’ well-being and responsible gaming. This partnership underscores our dedication to ... fostering a safe, supportive lottery environment for all.”

Preventive measures

The Game has implemented a series of preventive measures to identify at-risk individuals early and provide necessary interventions before gaming behaviour becomes problematic. These include age restrictions, self-exclusion programmes, awareness campaigns and geofencing.

Khawla Hammad, Founder and CEO of Takalam, said, “This initiative underscores the importance of recognising when gaming begins to negatively impact mental well-being and offers support to help individuals regain balance.”