

Encouraging Trustworthiness at Indian School Al Ghubra:

Indian School Al Ghubra started in 1990 as a day school for Indian expatriate children in Muscat, Oman.

The motto of the school is *Strive for the Best*.

In order to do so and get the best out of the students in the care of the school Value education is given great importance.

It was decided that in order to teach our students honesty it is necessary for us to show that we trust them.

Thus was born the idea of an unmanned bookshop.

The Bookshop is located in a part of the school which is not monitored by teachers or administration staff.

The books are kept inside the bookshop class wise and there are boxes to place the money inside. The students can pick up the book/s they require and put the money inside the box.

The book shop in charge does a weekly stocktaking and also collects the money.

Initially we had posted quotations on honesty etc inside the bookshop but we decided to take those off as per the suggestion given by the children.

There are no cameras placed inside the school except at the exit points.

We did face some losses in the first 3 months but we were soon informed by the students that these were as a result of dares amongst the children.

After the initial 3 months the excitement died down and today it is routine business at the bookshop.

The students are proud of their unmanned bookshop which speaks volumes about the student community. They orient newly admitted students about the working of the bookshop. The parents support this system too.

Buoyed by the success of the Bookshop the school management would like to introduce the same system in the school library wherein it will also become an unmanned space.

I will post details about it once it is operational!

Papri Ghosh

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