Labbaik

BUYER'S GUIDE · TESTED AND REVIEWED

IBEAMS, *in practice.*

A hands-on look at IBEAMS for madrasah and maktab committees choosing a system: what it does well, where it asks more of you, and the questions to ask before you sign up.

26	8	10	10
areas of the admin system inspected	teacher tasks walked through live	record types checked for exports	constructive suggestions, each with a test you can run

Reviewed 5 November 2026

IBEAMS v3.22.24

Published by Labbaik, which makes a competing product. Based on one authorised IBEAMS installation, reviewed read-only. IBEAMS has not reviewed or endorsed this guide. A newer release or different configuration may behave differently.

uselabbaik.com

01 · THE SHORT VERSION

A capable, broad system that rewards an experienced admin

IBEAMS covers almost every job a maktab office does, and its teacher portal gets staff to the register in one click. The trade-offs are in how much it asks of the person running it: a busy menu, settings that need care, exports spread across modules and a phone experience that feels older than the rest.

Where IBEAMS does well

- **Broad coverage.** Attendance, admissions, fees, messaging, homework, exams, term reports, staff logs, incidents, merits, events and more.
- **A practical teacher portal.** Today's classes on the dashboard, with Open Register one click away. Eight teacher tasks were all reached in one or two clicks.
- **Detailed attendance.** Late, left-early, authorised and notification states, with sibling grouping for family follow-up.
- **Help in context.** Exam and report screens explain what parents can and can't see at each stage.
- **Admins can see what users see.** One click opens a teacher's or parent's portal view for support.

Worth weighing before you choose

- **A learning curve.** 21 menu sections, some overlapping. New volunteers will likely need an introduction.
- **Staff permissions need checking.** IBEAMS' own notice says Can Edit and Can Delete aren't enforced in every area.
- **Exports live in many places.** No single "export everything" was found, which matters if you ever move system.
- **Phone experience.** A school code step before parents sign in, an older visual style, and an Android utility app installed outside Google Play.
- **Add-ons to budget for.** The Student Diary (progress tracking) is a paid add-on; quizzes are in beta.

OUR OVERALL TAKE

A good fit for an organised office with an admin comfortable in traditional school-management software. Volunteer-led maktabs should ask for onboarding, and see their own workflow demonstrated before committing.

IN THIS GUIDE

02 Ten questions, answered 3
03 The dashboard and teacher portal 4
04 Parents, phones and the apps 6
05 Skills needed and what's included 8
06 Getting your data out 9
07 Ten constructive suggestions 10
08 Your demo checklist 12
09 How we tested 13

02 · AT A GLANCE

Ten questions an admin would ask

Direct answers where we checked the interface ourselves, and a clear label where we didn't. Ease-of-use answers are our judgement, not timed test results.

● Strength ● Worth checking ● Room to improve ● Not tested

THE QUESTION	SHORT ANSWER	WHAT IT MEANS IN PRACTICE
Is it easy to use?	● With familiarisation	Everyday tasks use familiar forms, lists and filters. The number of sections, and some rules that need careful reading, mean new admins will benefit from an introduction.
Is the layout clear?	● Functional, dense	Consistent sidebar, headings, tables and action buttons. Several related areas sit under more than one menu heading.
Does it cover the main jobs?	● Broad coverage	Attendance, students, fees, messages, homework, exams and term reports, plus staff logs and more. Some features are paid add-ons.
Can teachers get to the register fast?	● Yes, one click	The teacher dashboard shows today's classes with an Open Register shortcut. Every teacher task we tried was one or two clicks away.
Can admin open a teacher's portal?	● Yes, tested	A Portal link on the teacher's record opens their signed-in dashboard in a new tab, with no password needed. Confirm which admin roles can do this and whether it's logged.
Can admin open a parent's portal?	● Yes, with a gate	It opens, but most family sections first ask for the student's details to be confirmed. That may be a deliberate school setting.
How technical must an admin be?	● Basic, then more	Routine work is straightforward. Setting up years, fees, registration and access rules needs more understanding; website embedding and integrations may need technical help.
Are exports easy to find?	● Partly centralised	Tools holds student and contact exports. Teachers, classes, fees, exams and the calendar each have their own download buttons elsewhere.
Can everything be exported?	● Not established	We found no single export of every year, linked record, setting and attachment together in a reusable format. Ask for a sample.
Will it work well on phones?	● Not tested	We didn't test on a device. The parent app adds a school-code step before sign-in, and its screens use an older, more decorative style (see page 7).

SHORT ON TIME?

Check these three first

1 · Permissions.
Can a restricted staff member really not edit or delete? (page 10)

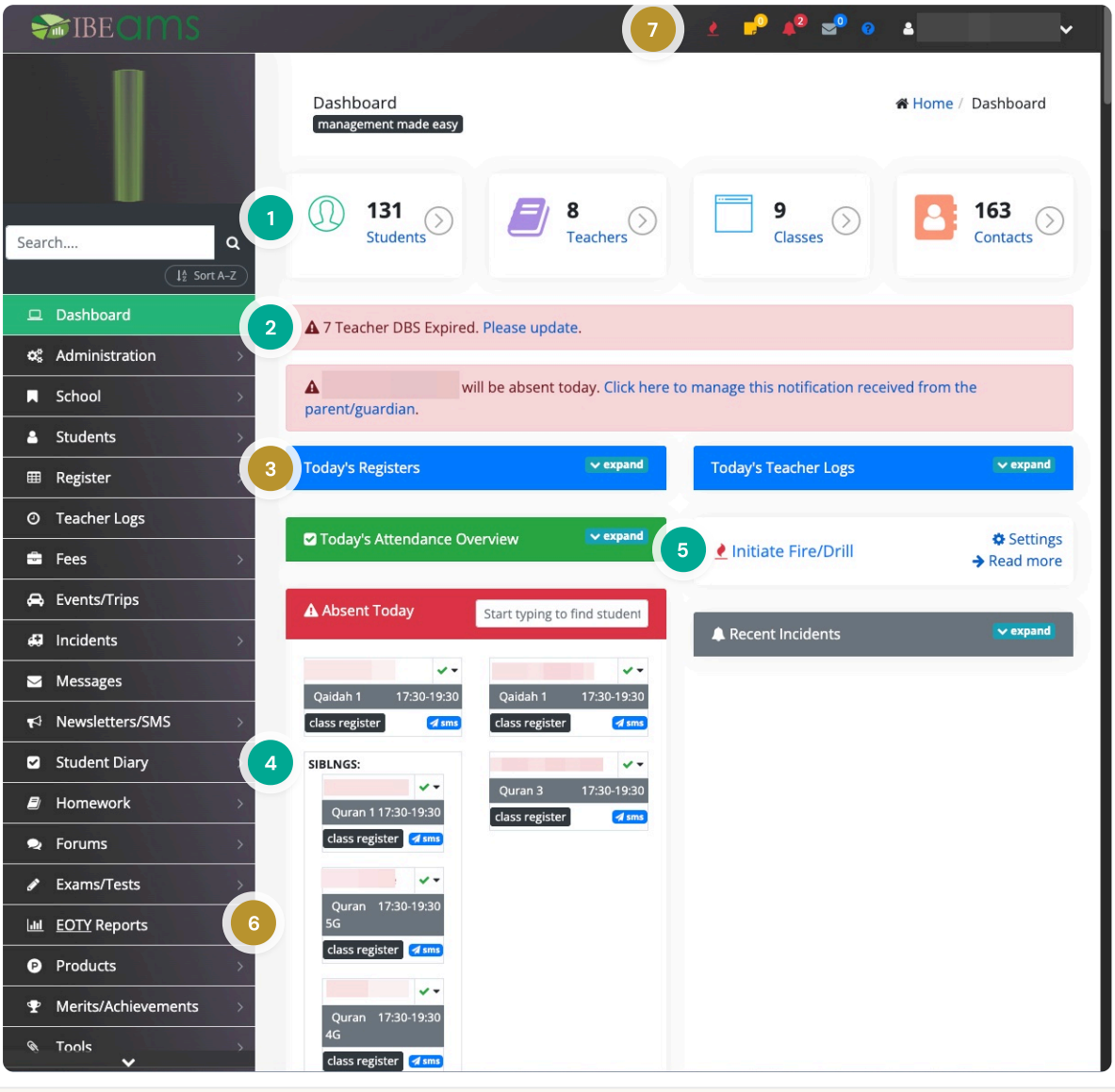
2 · Exports.
Can you get every year of records out, linked together? (page 9)

3 · Parent sign-up.
Can a parent get into the app without calling the office? (page 6)

03 · EASE OF USE AND THE TEACHER PORTAL

The admin dashboard, at a glance

This is the first screen an administrator sees. It puts a lot of useful information up front, and shows both sides of IBEAMS: thorough, but busy.



IBEAMS admin dashboard. Student, parent and staff names, the user account and the organisation's logo are redacted.

Works well

1. **Counts at a glance.** Students, teachers, classes and contacts, each one click away.
2. **Alerts up front.** Expired DBS checks and absences reported by parents appear as soon as you sign in. Good for safeguarding.
4. **Absences grouped by family.** Siblings sit together, with the class register and a one-tap SMS for each child.
5. **Fire drill on the dashboard.** Emergency roll call is one click away.

Could be better

3. **Colour everywhere.** Blue, green, red, grey and pink panels compete. When everything is coloured, the urgent things stand out less. Key panels also start collapsed behind "expand".
6. **A long menu.** 21 sections, running past the bottom of the screen.
7. **Unlabelled header icons.** Counts on icons you have to hover over to identify.
- **Small polish.** A "SIBLNGS" label typo, and a mostly empty right-hand column.

03 · EASE OF USE AND THE TEACHER PORTAL (CONTINUED)

Familiar controls, some learning

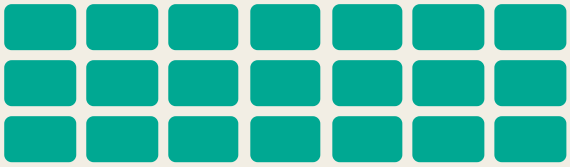
What helps

Consistent page headings, a persistent sidebar, search, filters and clearly labelled actions. The sidebar can be sorted and favourites marked. The teacher view is far more focused than the full admin menu, which makes daily teaching quick to reach.

What takes time

The admin sidebar has **21 sections** before the emergency and rating links. Student tasks appear under both School and Students; configuration is split between Administration and Settings/Preferences. Some forms carry rules users must read carefully, such as how homework recipients are chosen.

HOW BUSY IS THE ADMIN MENU?



21 main sections in the admin sidebar, plus emergency and rating links. Fine for an experienced administrator; a lot for a volunteer opening it for the first time.

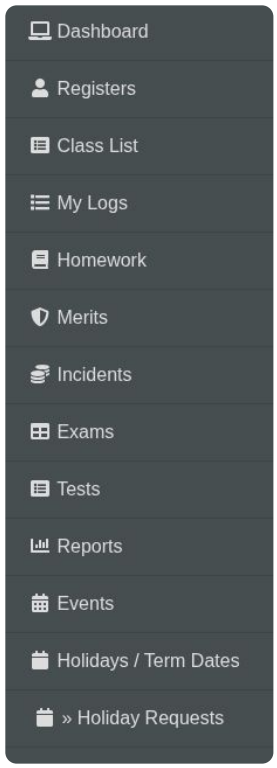
Simple test: ask a new user to find a student, open today's register, find where to message a parent and find an export. Note how long it takes and how often they ask for help.

The teacher portal, task by task

Clicks counted from inside the teacher portal to the screen where the task starts. We looked, but didn't save or submit anything.

TASK	CLICKS	WHAT WE SAW
Open today's register	● ○ 1	Present/absent, punctuality, note and left-early controls per student.
Find a class list	● ○ 1	Assigned students, with CSV and PDF downloads.
Set homework	● ● 2	Deadline, locking, attachments, submissions and a text editor.
Review my logs	● ○ 1	A dated log view with Add Log.
Incidents	● ○ 1	Incident list with Add Incident.
Official exams	● ○ 1	Class and subject filters.
Term / year reports	● ○ 1	Previous years' report lists.
Message parents	● ● 2	Class/recipient selection, subject, body and Send.

Short routes are a real strength. They don't prove a task is quick to complete: setting homework and messages still means choosing the right audience correctly.

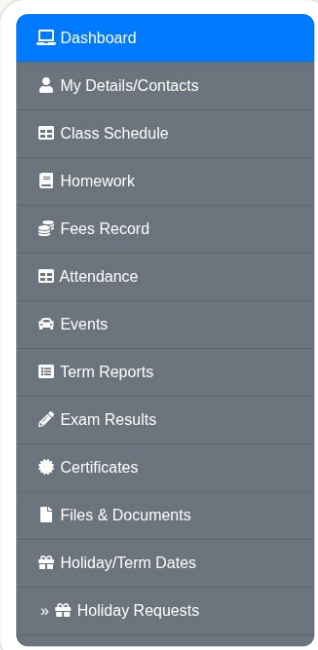


Teacher portal menu. Focused on teaching: registers, class lists, homework, logs, merits, incidents, exams and reports.

04 · PARENTS, PHONES AND THE APPS

A full parent menu, with extra steps

The parent portal's menu covers everything a family would look for: class schedule, homework, fees, attendance, events, term reports, exam results, certificates, files and holiday requests. A summary screen shows linked children with buttons to report an absence or lateness.



Parent portal menu.
Comprehensive labels for family tasks.

What happened when we opened it

ADMIN Contacts → the parent's Portal link → **PORTAL** Summary with linked student cards → **GATE** Five sections tried: each asked to Confirm Student Details first

We didn't confirm the details on a family's behalf, so we can't say how easy those sections are beyond the gate. It may be a sensible setting a school chose. Worth asking: **how often parents are asked to confirm, and what happens if they skip it.**

Getting parents into the app

IBEAMS' Google Play instructions describe a school-code step before the usual sign-in:

1 · INSTALL Madrasah Parent Portal from Google Play → **2 · GET THE CODE** Parent needs your madrasah's code from the school → **3 · ENTER IT** Typed into the app → **4 · SIGN IN** Email and password provided by the school

Every extra step is somewhere a parent can get stuck, and a missing or mistyped code becomes a call to the office. We didn't test whether the app remembers the code afterwards. **Suggestion:** a school-specific invite link or QR code would take steps 2 and 3 away.

Three different apps, worth telling apart

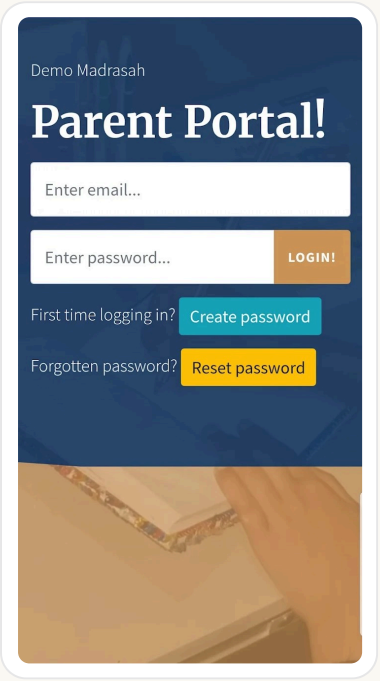
APP	WHAT IT'S FOR	HOW YOU GET IT
Madrasah Parent Portal	Parents' access to the portal. Apple App Store availability wasn't established.	● Google Play
Previous Android app	Offline registers, teacher and parent kiosks, and sending SMS from the device. IBEAMS says Google declined it because it could send SMS.	● APK download, manual updates
SMS app for admins	SMS only.	● Marked “coming soon”

Installing an APK means turning on "install unknown apps" and updating by hand, which some schools' device policies won't allow. Offline registers also need downloading beforehand and syncing later. Source: IBEAMS Android app page and Google Play listing, both checked 5 November 2026. No app was installed or tested on a device.

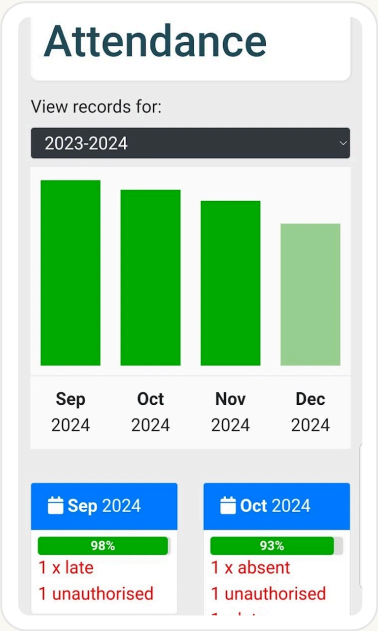
04 · PARENTS, PHONES AND THE APPS (CONTINUED)

On the phone: clear fields, an older look

Two parent-app screenshots supplied for this review. We couldn't confirm their capture date against the current release, so treat them as a guide to the design, not proof of how today's app looks.



Login. Large, easy-to-tap fields with visible Create and Reset password buttons.



Attendance. Bar chart and coloured monthly cards. Name cropped out.

Works well

- Big inputs and buttons, comfortable for thumbs.
- First-time and forgotten-password routes are right on the login screen.
- Monthly attendance percentages are easy to scan.

Could be better

- A large share of the login screen is decorative photography rather than the task.
- Oversized headings push the useful content down; monthly cards run off the screen.
- Three different button colours on one screen make it harder to see the main action.
- The overall feel is a traditional web portal rather than a modern phone app.

A fair test: on the same phone, time a parent from opening the app to finding last month's attendance, and compare it with any other system you're considering.

What parents now expect from a school app

Families compare your app with the banking and shopping apps on the same phone. Ask any provider to show you each of these on a real device.

GETTING IN

Join from a link or QR code; stay signed in; reset a password without calling the office. **Is there an iPhone app?**

STAYING INFORMED

Push notifications for absences, homework, fees and announcements, rather than relying on email or SMS.

GETTING THINGS DONE

Report an absence, pay a fee or check this month's attendance within a couple of taps, on a screen that leads with the task.

05 · SKILLS NEEDED AND WHAT'S INCLUDED

Who can run it, and what you get

The skill an admin needs depends on the job. Day-to-day work is approachable; setting the system up is where you'll want support.

EVERYDAY

Basic confidence

Searching records, class lists, reading registers, filters, portal shortcuts.

Needs: comfort with menus, tables, forms and dates.

SETTING UP

Some system knowledge

Classes and academic years, homework audiences, report visibility, registration rules, fee structures.

Needs: understanding how records, classes and parent visibility connect. Onboarding helps.

CONNECTING

Technical help

Embedding registration on your website (server-side instructions), SMS and email providers, payment gateways, API integrations.

Needs: provider accounts, credentials and someone technical.

What we found in the system

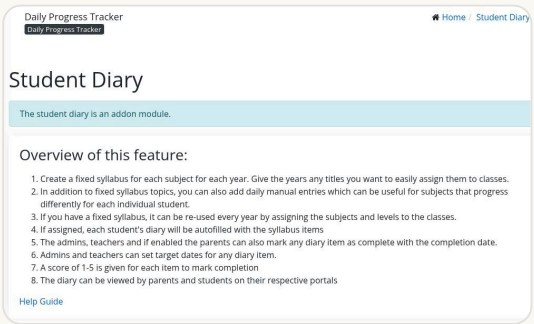
A visible menu or screen shows a feature exists. It isn't the same as testing it end to end.

Students & admissions Statuses, filters, batch actions	**Contacts & siblings** Family grouping	**Registers** Late, left early, authorised	**Fees & reminders** Dashboard, outstanding view
Messaging Recipients, attachments	**Newsletters & SMS** ClickSend, VoodooSMS, SIM	**Homework** Templates, deadlines, submissions	**Exams & tests** Open, closed, locked states
Term reports Scoring, release controls	**Teacher logs** Scheduled vs logged hours	**Incidents** Severity, multi-party	**Merits & certificates** Teams, competitions
Events & trips Price, timeslots, auto-invoice	**Products** Stock and sales	**Forums** Categories and threads	**Audit & backup** Action log, nightly backups
Student Diary Progress tracking · paid add-on	**Quizzes** Marked beta	**Public registration** Embeddable forms	**Developer API** Catalogue available

Check the package you'd actually buy

Syllabus and Hifz progress tracking sits in the **Student Diary, a paid add-on**, not the core plan. For most maktabs that's a central feature, so price it in from the start.

IBEAMS' pricing page lists Basic £15, Standard £30 and Enterprise £60 a month by student numbers, with optional add-ons including the Student Diary (£10/month), phone and Telegram support (£10/month) and ad removal (£5/month). Prices as published on ibeuk.org at the time of writing; confirm your total in writing.



Student Diary. "The student diary is an addon module."

06 · GETTING YOUR DATA OUT

Plenty of exports, spread out

Your records are years of a community's history. The Tools page is a good starting point for students and contacts, but most other record types have their own download controls elsewhere, and a full archive means visiting each one.

TOOLS
Students
CSV PDF
Choose fields, filters and order

TOOLS
Contacts / parents
CSV
All or primary contacts only

SCHOOL → TEACHERS
Teachers
CSV PDF

SCHOOL → CLASSES
Classes
PDF
CSV not found

REGISTER + TOOLS
Attendance
PDF
Split across two areas

FEES
Fees
CSV
Annual report and outstanding view

EXAMS / TESTS
Exams
PDF Marks CSV?

EOTY REPORTS
Term reports
Format unverified

ADMINISTRATION
Academic years
Print
No data export

ADMINISTRATION
Calendar & backup
PDF
Backup contents?

CSV reusable data · PDF printable only · gold not found or not verified · Turquoise boxes are the central Tools page.

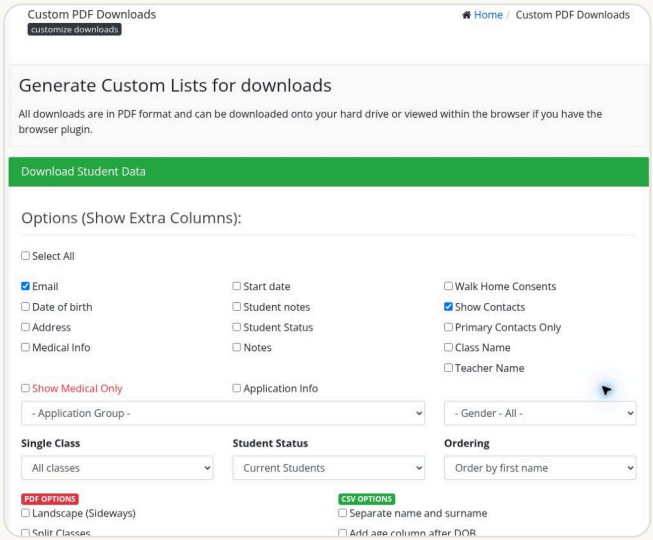
Can you export everything?

Not that we could find. There was no single export covering every student, teacher, class, academic year, attendance, fee, progress record, family link and attachment together. A printable PDF isn't reusable data, and a nightly backup isn't the same as a file you can open or move to another system.

Before you sign up, ask for

- A sample export covering **two academic years**, with siblings, class moves, attendance, fees and an attachment.
- Confirmation of what a backup contains, and whether you can download it yourself.
- Written confirmation of how you'd get your data if you left.

Suggestion for IBEAMS: one export index that links every output by record type, its format and years covered, and what it includes.



The central export page. Good field and filter choices for students. It says "All downloads are in PDF format", though CSV options appear lower down.

07 · CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS

Ten things we'd improve

Each note separates what we saw from what we'd suggest, with a simple test you can run in a demo. None of these were tested to failure; they're questions worth asking.

01 Staff permissions aren't enforced everywhere

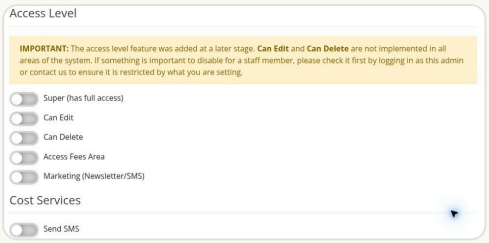
● Room to improve

WHAT WE SAW

The staff form warns that "Can Edit and Can Delete are not implemented in all areas of the system" and suggests logging in as that admin to check.

SUGGESTION

List exactly what each permission covers in this release, and close the gaps. For safeguarding and fees data, restrictions need to be dependable.



HOW TO CHECK

Set up a restricted test role, list what it shouldn't be able to do, and try each one.

02 Backup restore: the screen and the help text disagree

● Room to improve

WHAT WE SAW

The backup page lists nightly backups with Restore links, but its guidance says restoring isn't available in the interface and to contact support.

SUGGESTION

Make the controls match the guidance, and explain who can authorise a restore and how long it takes.

HOW TO CHECK

Ask IBEAMS to restore a sample backup to a test area and show which records and attachments come back.

03 Homework: who actually receives it?

● Worth checking

WHAT WE SAW

Picking individual students overrides the class choice, and a fixed list affects whether students who join later see the task. The rule is explained in text on the form.

SUGGESTION

Separate "whole class" and "selected students" modes, and preview the recipients before saving.

HOW TO CHECK

Set one whole-class task and one individual task, then add a student to the class and see who gets what.

04 Admissions form starts on contradictory values

● Worth checking

WHAT WE SAW

A blank Add Student form opens with class "No Class (Waiting List)" but status "Current". Dates show as mm/dd/yyyy in our browser.

SUGGESTION

Default to a consistent pair, or explain how admission status and class relate.

HOW TO CHECK

Add one waiting-list student and one straight into a class, and confirm both end up with the right status.

05 Dashboard figures that don't quite match

● Worth checking

WHAT WE SAW

The parent-portal adoption chart and the sentence beside it gave percentages one point apart for the same count.

SUGGESTION

Use one rounding rule throughout, and define "portal activity" (ever logged in, or recently active?).

HOW TO CHECK

Compare the percentage shown with the actual numbers behind it.

07 · CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS (CONTINUED)

06 Student logins follow a guessable pattern

● Room to improve

WHAT WE SAW

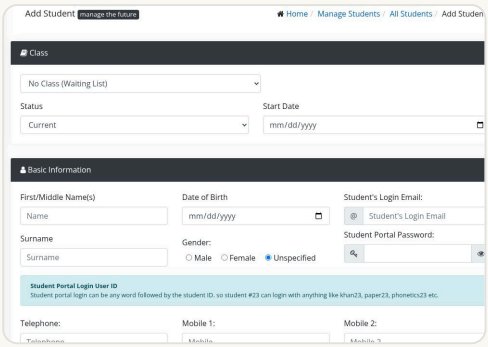
The admissions form explains that a student's login ID "can be any word followed by the student ID", so student #23 could sign in as khan23 or paper23.

SUGGESTION

Usernames built from sequential IDs are easy to guess. Pair them with strong password rules, sign-in limits and, ideally, invite links.

HOW TO ASK

What password rules apply to student accounts, and what happens after repeated wrong attempts? We didn't test this.



07 One-click access to any user's portal

● Worth checking

WHAT WE SAW

Admins can open a teacher's or parent's signed-in portal without a password. Handy for support, but powerful.

SUGGESTION

Show which roles can do this, record each use in the audit log, and make it visible to the user.

HOW TO CHECK

Open a test account from admin, then look for the entry in the system audit table.

08 A busy menu with overlapping routes

● Worth checking

WHAT WE SAW

21 main sections, with some tasks listed under more than one heading. Search and sorting help.

SUGGESTION

Run task tests with real users to regroup labels and add shortcuts, keeping routes existing users rely on.

HOW TO CHECK

Five new users each find the register, a student, the parent-message screen and the outstanding fees view.

09 "Don't paste from Word"

● Worth checking

WHAT WE SAW

The homework editor warns users not to paste directly from Microsoft Word. Most teachers draft in Word or Google Docs.

SUGGESTION

Clean up pasted formatting automatically, and make sure Arabic text and lists survive.

HOW TO CHECK

Paste a sample with paragraphs, a list, a link and Arabic text, then view the saved task as a parent.

10 Apps and add-ons need clearer guidance

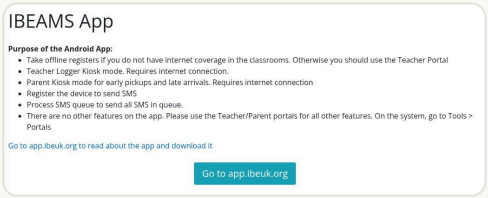
● Worth checking

WHAT WE SAW

The in-product app page and IBEAMS' app website describe different apps. Which features need an add-on or a specific device isn't always clear.

SUGGESTION

Publish one table: each task, which role does it, on which device, and whether it needs an add-on or works offline.



IF WE WERE ON THE IBEAMS TEAM

Where we'd start

● 3 room to improve

● 7 worth checking

- **Make permissions dependable everywhere.** It's the foundation for safeguarding, fees and personal data, and the current notice puts the checking on the school.
- **One place to export everything.** Schools trust a system more when they know they can leave it with their history intact.
- **A lighter, phone-first parent journey.** An invite link instead of a school code, and screens that lead with the task rather than decoration.

08 · YOUR DEMO CHECKLIST

Take this into any demo

Use it for IBEAMS, for Labbaik, and for anyone else. Ask each provider to show your own workflow with the same tasks, then compare what worked and how much help it took.

- [ ] **Daily use**
  Can your own admin find a student, take a register and message a parent without help?
- [ ] **Teachers and parents**
  Show the normal sign-in for each, not just the admin shortcut, then the tasks they'll do every week. How does a parent first get in?
- [ ] **Your teaching**
  Enter a real Qa'idah, Qur'an or Hifz lesson and the next homework, then show what the family sees. Is progress tracking included or an add-on?
- [ ] **Fees**
  Show your payment methods, sibling discounts, partial payments, adjustments and receipts. What happens when a card payment fails, and who chases it?
- [ ] **Phones**
  Hand a parent a phone. How long until they're signed in and looking at attendance? Is there an iPhone app?
- [ ] **New academic year**
  What happens to classes, attendance, progress and balances at rollover?
- [ ] **Exports and leaving**
  Get sample exports across two years, with family links. How would you get everything out if you moved on?
- [ ] **Access and recovery**
  Who can view, edit and export what? Do permissions hold everywhere? How is a deleted record recovered, and how fast?
- [ ] **Total cost**
  Subscription, add-ons, SMS and payment charges, onboarding, support and ad removal. Get it in writing.

NOTES

09 · HOW WE TESTED, AND WHERE LABBAIK FITS

A fair test, openly done

What we did

Using an authorised admin account on one IBEAMS installation (v3.22.24, 5 November 2026), we mapped every main sidebar section, read on-screen help, opened blank forms and view-only records across 26 areas, and walked through the teacher and parent portals using IBEAMS' own admin shortcuts.

Nothing was saved, sent, paid, restored or triggered. No personal data was downloaded. Names, logos and identifiers are removed from every screenshot.

What we didn't

Security testing, normal password sign-in, testing on phones, timed tasks with new users, support response times, or completing payments and messages. Empty lists and local settings aren't treated as missing features.

Spotted something out of date, or using a newer release that works differently? Tell us at **uselabbaik.com/contact** and we'll update this guide with the date and what changed.

WHERE LABBAIK TAKES A DIFFERENT APPROACH

EXPORTS AND LEAVING

Your records, coming with you

Hijrah by Labbaik reads IBEAMS exports and moves students, families, classes and payment history across, linked together. Nothing is imported until you approve it. It's free.

PARENTS AND PHONES

A phone-first parent app

Installs to the home screen, with push notifications, light and dark mode, and one tap to report an absence.

FEES

Fees that collect themselves

Stripe connects in a few clicks with no API keys. Failed cards are retried automatically, and parents hear about every step on WhatsApp.

COST

Free to start, no student cap

£0 a month on the Safar plan. A platform fee applies only to card payments you collect, from 1.5%. No ads, on any plan.

Run the checklist on Labbaik too. The side-by-side comparison is at **uselabbaik.com/compare/labbaik-vs-ibeuk**

Compare Labbaik →

Published by Labbaik, which makes a competing product. IBEAMS has not reviewed or endorsed this guide. Ease-of-use and design descriptions are reviewer judgements, not measured results. Sources include IBEAMS' Android app page and the Madrasah Parent Portal Google Play listing (both checked 5 November 2026) and ibeuk.org/pricing. Proposed checks draw on W3C accessibility guidance, NCSC guidance on access management and backups, and ICO advice for small organisations; this guide doesn't certify legal, security or accessibility compliance.

© 2026 Labbaik · uselabbaik.com