



ABU DHABI INDIAN SCHOOL, BRANCH 1

NATIONAL IDENTITY & CULTURAL POLICY

Name of Policy : **National Identity and Cultural Policy**

Purpose of Policy : **To nurture an inclusive and culturally sensitive environment for out students, staff and community.**

Approval for this Policy given by : **Principal**

Responsibility for its update : **Principal**

Policy applies to : **To all the parents of Abu Dhabi Indian School, Al Wathba**

Date of Approval : **09-Jan-2024**

Proposed Date of Review : **07-Jan-2026**

Principal's Name : **Dr. Alpana Sawhney**

Principal's Signature :





ABUDHABI INDIAN SCHOOL, AL WATHBA BRANCH 1

NATIONAL IDENTITY AND CULTURAL POLICY

Rationale

ABUDHABI INDIAN SCHOOL, AL WATHBA – Branch1, acknowledges and celebrates the vibrant heritage and varied culture of the United Arab Emirates. Our school's policy on National Identity and Culture is crafted to instill a profound appreciation for the UAE's history, traditions, values, and language within our students. Our goal is to cultivate individuals who not only have a strong sense of national identity and heritage but also possess a deep understanding of their cultural origins. Through fostering these values, we aim to develop well-rounded individuals who uphold principles of respect, compassion, and tolerance. We encourage active contributions to society through engagement in volunteering and sustainability projects, emphasizing the importance of making a positive impact on the community.

Cultural Consideration framework

Our school's vision is to cultivate "inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect". Central to the school's philosophy is the concept of national-mindedness, which envisions individuals perceiving themselves as integral parts of the global community and assuming responsibility toward its members. It involves an understanding of the interconnectedness of nations and people, recognizing the intricate nature of these connections.

At Abu Dhabi Indian School, we acknowledge that the benefits of our comprehensive program, which celebrates the history and heritage of the UAE, extend beyond just our Emirati students. Our expatriate community also gains from this initiative, developing an appreciation for the local culture and embracing the values and ideals of the UAE. This approach fosters a broader sense of interconnectedness and a shared responsibility.

CULTURE:

Arabic Language: We firmly believe that proficiency in the Arabic language is crucial for fostering a strong national identity and enabling effective communication in the diverse society of the UAE. In accordance with the Ministry of Education and ADEK requirements, we provide comprehensive Arabic language programs that address both spoken and written. Recognizing the significant role of Islam in the cultural and historical fabric of the UAE, we adhere to MOE and ADEK guidelines by integrating Islamic education into our curriculum. Our objective is to

instill a deep understanding and appreciation of Islamic values, ethics, and teachings, promoting principles of tolerance and respect for various religious beliefs

Understanding UAE history: Our curriculum, covering the MSCS and UAE SS and Civics programs, Desert School in Early Years, Individuals & Societies units in MYP, and the Units of Inquiry in PYP, places a considerable emphasis on UAE history. We ensure that students develop a comprehensive understanding of the nation's past, heritage, and the notable achievements of its people. Through interactive and engaging lessons, we encourage exploration and appreciation of the UAE's evolution from its origins to its present status.

Heritage: We actively celebrate and endorse the diverse cultural traditions and practices that contribute to the distinctive identity of the UAE. Through cultural events, celebrations, trips, and activities, we provide students with opportunities to actively engage in and experience the rich tapestry of Emirati and other cultures present in the UAE. Prominent annual events include our Flag Day ceremony, National Day celebration, Community Iftar, and Eid Al Adha festivity. Additionally, we are strengthening our connections with the National Archive and Library to enhance our extracurricular experiences, including visits to the Heritage Museum, Louvre, and Sheikh Zayed Mosque. We are also expanding our partnerships with Jubail Mangroves to enrich their Education Programme on UAE Marine Biology.

Values:

Respect: Within our school, we actively promote a culture of respect towards oneself, others, and the environment. This involves implementing a behavior policy, placing emphasis on the development of the IB Learner Profile attributes, integrating the ECP program, and providing robust pastoral care. Through these measures, we inspire students to embrace diversity, consider various perspectives, and be mindful of cultural sensitivities. We anticipate that every member of our school community will demonstrate respectful behavior, thereby fostering an inclusive and harmonious learning environment.

Compassion: Fostering a sense of compassion and empathy is a central focus in our educational approach. Students participate in service-oriented activities, such as Action in PYP, Service as Action in MYP, and Creativity, Activity, Service in DP. We underscore the significance of assisting those in need and actively collaborate with community organizations to offer students opportunities to contribute to initiatives promoting compassion and the well-being of others.

Global companionship: We are dedicated to cultivating an atmosphere of tolerance, where differences are not only acknowledged but celebrated. Students are guided to appreciate and embrace diversity, nurturing a spirit of tolerance that extends beyond the school's boundaries. This dedication contributes to the development of open-minded individuals who value and respect the richness of perspectives and backgrounds within our global community.

Global Citizenship

Belonging: The school takes deliberate steps to strengthen the sense of belonging within the community through a variety of engaging activities. By actively collaborating with the local community, we provide students with unique opportunities to establish a profound connection with the deep-rooted culture and rich heritage of the country.

Through these collaborative efforts, students not only participate in community activities but also gain firsthand experiences that deepen their understanding of the cultural fabric of the country. Whether through cultural events, partnerships with local organizations, or involvement in community projects, the school ensures that students actively engage with the traditions, values, and heritage that define the community they are a part of

Volunteering: We actively promote and endorse students' involvement in volunteering initiatives. With support from the school through the CAS program and POS@Raha, students collaborate with local organizations, engaging in meaningful community service projects. This not only enhances their sense of civic responsibility but also empowers them to make positive contributions to society.

Conservation: Conservation, Sustainability and environmental stewardship are prioritized in our school policies and practices. Through educational programs, practical initiatives, and awareness campaigns, we instill in our students a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Simultaneously, we emphasize the conservation of rich cultural traditions, encouraging students to propose and implement sustainable projects that also celebrate and respect cultural diversity within the school and the broader community. Additionally, we have established connections with external organizations, tapping into their expertise and resources to further our sustainability and cultural conservation efforts.

Champion of Emirati Culture:

We have established a pivotal position dedicated to fostering the culture of the UAE across all school departments and sections by introducing the role of the Emirati Culture Champion. The Emirati Culture Champion collaborates with leaders throughout the school to enhance opportunities within the curriculum and beyond, ensuring that students take pride in their UAE heritage.

Approved By



Dr. Alpana Sawhney
Principal