

**RAHA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
GARDENS CAMPUS**

POLICIES

Policy title	National Identity and Culture Policy
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Approving Committee	Name	Signature
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Rationale

At Raha International School, we recognise and embrace the rich heritage and diverse culture of the United Arab Emirates. Our school's National Identity and Culture policy is designed to foster a deep appreciation for the UAE's history, traditions, values, and language among our students. By promoting a strong sense of national identity and heritage, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals who possess a profound understanding of their cultural roots, uphold the values of respect, compassion, and tolerance, and actively contribute to the betterment of society through volunteering and sustainability projects.

Note: this policy should be read in conjunction with the Moral Social and Cultural Studies policy.

Theoretical framework

The mission statement of the IB is to develop “inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect” (International Baccalaureate Organization, 2022, n.p.) International-mindedness, a fundamental concept within the IB, is a view of the world in which people see themselves connected to the global community and assume a sense of responsibility towards its members. It is an awareness of the interrelatedness of all nations and people, and is a recognition of the complexity of these. Raha International School recognises that our Emirati students are not the only beneficiaries of a comprehensive programme that celebrates the history and heritage of the UAE, but also our expatriate community, who develop an appreciation of the local culture and embrace the values and ideals of the UAE.

The appointment in December 2022 of an Emirati Parent Champion will support the monitoring and promotion of the points in this policy.

Heritage:

Arabic Language: We believe that proficiency in the Arabic language is crucial for fostering a strong national identity and promoting effective communication within the UAE's multicultural society. Therefore, we adhere to the requirements of the Ministry of Education and ADEK in our offering comprehensive Arabic language programs that emphasise both spoken and written Arabic skills.

Islamic Education: Recognising the significant role of Islam in the UAE's culture and history, we follow the MOE and ADEK guidelines to provide Islamic education as an integral part of

our curriculum. Our aim is to instill a deep understanding and appreciation of Islamic values, ethics, and teachings, fostering the principles of tolerance and respect for diverse religious beliefs.

Understanding of UAE History: Our curriculum (the MSCS and UAE SS and Civics programmes, Desert School in Early Years, Individuals & Societies units in MYP and the Units of Inquiry in PYP) includes a focus on UAE history, ensuring that students develop a comprehensive understanding of the country's past, heritage, and the remarkable achievements of its people. Through interactive and engaging lessons, we encourage students to explore and appreciate the evolution of the UAE from its origins to its present status.

Cultural Traditions and Practices: We celebrate and promote the diverse cultural traditions and practices that contribute to the UAE's unique identity. By organising cultural events, celebrations, trips and activities, we provide students with opportunities to actively participate in and experience the rich tapestry of Emirati and other cultures present in the UAE. Some examples of annual events include our Flag Day ceremony, our National Day celebration, our annual Community Iftar, and Eid Al Adha festivity. We are also working towards developing strong links with the National Archive and Library, to enhance and complement our already broad extra-curricular experiences to the Heritage Museum, Louvre, and Sheikh Zayed Mosque. Additionally, we are further developing our partnerships with Jubail Mangroves as part of enhancing their Education Programme on UAE Marine Biology.

Values:

Respect: We actively promote respect for oneself, others, and the environment. Through our behaviour policy, emphasis on developing the IB Learner Profile attributes, ECP programme, and strong pastoral care, we encourage students to respect diversity, different perspectives, and cultural sensitivities. Respectful behavior is expected from all members of our school community, fostering an inclusive and harmonious learning environment.

Compassion: We cultivate a sense of compassion and empathy within our students by engaging in service-oriented activities (Action in PYP, Service as Action in MYP, Creativity-Activity-Service in DP) and emphasising the importance of helping those in need. Through partnerships with community organisations, students actively participate in initiatives that promote compassion and the well-being of others.

Tolerance: We firmly believe in fostering an environment of tolerance, where differences are respected and celebrated. Students learn to appreciate and embrace diversity, nurturing a

spirit of tolerance that extends beyond the boundaries of the school.

Global Citizenship:

Volunteering: We actively encourage and support students' participation in volunteering initiatives. Through support from the school via the CAS programme and POS@Raha, students collaborate with local organisations and have the opportunity to engage in meaningful community service projects, enhancing their sense of civic responsibility and enabling them to contribute positively to society.

Sustainability: We prioritise sustainability and environmental stewardship 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. Students are encouraged to propose and implement sustainable projects within the school and wider community, and the school has a burgeoning group of organisations outside of school whose expertise and resources we are able to use.

Leadership and Collaboration: We foster leadership skills and teamwork through volunteering and sustainability projects as mentioned previously. Students are encouraged to take on leadership roles, collaborate with their peers, and develop innovative solutions to address societal and environmental challenges, fostering their personal growth and enhancing their sense of empowerment.

Emirati Champion

We have invested in a key role to embrace the culture of the UAE in all departments and sections of the school through creating an Emirati Champion role. The Emirati Champion is responsible for working with leaders across the school to further increase opportunities within the curriculum and beyond for students to be proud of their UAE heritage.

Revision Log

Date	Changes	Reviewed By
12/01/2023	New policy	Carol Pratt
19/8/2024	Full Policy Review	Carol Pratt