

SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED BANGLADESH ISLAMIA SCHOOL

ABU DHABI EDUCATION COUNCIL
(Licence No. 109/1 Dated 1/10/1980)

P. O. Box : 8174, ABU DHABI, UAE
Tel. : 02-4446904, Fax : 02-4446899
Email : bdschool80@yahoo.com



مدرسة الشيخ خالفة بن زايد البنغلاديشية الإسلامية

مجلس ابوظبي للتعليم

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Cultural Consideration Policy 2026

Purpose and Scope

This policy is designed to foster a culturally sensitive and inclusive environment at Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Bangladesh Islamia School, aligned with the UAE's principles of tolerance and respect. Given the diverse background of the school's community, it aims to guide respectful and nationally appropriate interactions among students, staff, and the broader school community.

Objectives

- Promote understanding and respect for cultural diversity within the school.
- Encourage awareness of culturally and nationally appropriate behaviors and discussions.
- Support the UAE's National Tolerance Program by ensuring a respectful, inclusive educational environment.

Purpose

- **Guidance for Cultural Awareness:** Offers schools guidance to foster understanding of culturally appropriate topics and practices within the UAE.
- **Alignment with UAE Legislation:** Establishes expected practices to ensure school activities adhere to UAE laws.
- **Culturally Aligned Resources:** Specifies requirements for teaching and learning materials to reflect UAE cultural values.

Adherence to UAE Legislation:

1. **Policy Compliance:** Schools must ensure the entire school community understands and follows this policy, the UAE Code of Conduct for Education Professionals, and all related Ministry of Education (MoE) directives to uphold national identity and a safe school environment.
2. **Principal's Role:** The principal is accountable for aligning school practices and educational materials with UAE cultural and legal standards, emphasizing:

3. **Respect for Laws and Public Order:** All residents must adhere to the UAE Constitution, respect public order, and uphold public morals.
4. **Islamic and Arab Values:** Schools must protect Islamic and Arab principles, public morals, and local traditions per Federal Decree Law No. (18) of 2020.
5. **National Identity and Sovereignty:** Respect for national identity and sovereignty is mandatory under Federal law.
6. **Prohibited Materials:** Penalties apply for creating, distributing, or possessing materials that violate public morals under the Crimes and Penalties Law (2021).

Addressing Cultural Consideration:

- **School Requirements:** Schools must implement these elements to promote cultural consideration:
 1. **Induction and Training:** Conduct cultural awareness training for new staff, parents, and students, with annual refreshers for returning members.
 2. **Resource Vetting:** Develop procedures to review and select teaching materials per policy guidelines to ensure cultural appropriateness.
 3. **Cultural Practices:** Uphold UAE cultural practices, including the daily singing of the national anthem, observing national holidays, and displaying only UAE flags and official portraits of UAE leaders.
 4. **Communication Monitoring:** Regularly review school communications (e.g., newsletters, social media) to ensure compliance with cultural guidelines.
 5. **Non-Compliance Response:** Establish procedures for reporting and addressing any violations of this policy within the school.

Community Conduct Policy:

Members of the school community are expected to act with cultural awareness and respect by following these guidelines:

1. **Respect UAE Norms:** Observe local cultural and social norms, values, and traditions.
2. **Promote Positive Perspectives:** Avoid promoting any assumptions or misconceptions about the UAE and the region.
3. **Discourage Inappropriate Behaviors:** Do not support behaviors deemed culturally insensitive, such as drug/alcohol use, smoking, violence, or promotion of alternative gender identities and sexual orientations.

4. Use Respectful Imagery: Avoid symbols or images linked to political or extremist groups, violence, sexual content, or pride movements.
5. Prevent Extremism and Discrimination: Avoid activities or content that promote extremism, racism, bullying, or any form of discrimination.
6. No Protests on Premises: Do not organize protests, rallies, or demonstrations on school grounds or during school-related events.
7. Follow Appearance Guidelines: Ensure appearance aligns with cultural standards, such as covering tattoos, adhering to the dress code, and managing piercings.
8. Event Cultural Appropriateness: Ensure school events align with UAE cultural values.
9. Follow UAE Laws: Conduct oneself in accordance with UAE laws and regulations.

Learning Resources and Activities Policy:

Schools must establish a Resource Selection Committee to ensure all teaching and learning materials meet cultural standards. Key requirements include:

1. **Age and Cultural Appropriateness:** Resources must be age-appropriate and culturally respectful, avoiding topics such as drug use, violence, gambling, alternative gender identity, and other sensitive content inappropriate to UAE culture and values.
2. **Political Content:** Ensure political topics align with the UAE Social Studies curriculum.
3. **Vetting Process:** All resources undergo a documented review, finalized with approval from the head librarian, the Resource Selection Committee, and the Principal.

Guidelines for Controversial Topics in the Curriculum:

1. **Biological and Social Topics:** For subjects like reproduction, evolution, or sex education, use only essential images and explanations. Inform parents in advance and allow them to exempt their child if desired.
2. **Conflict-Related Topics:** For content on war or violence, present topics in an objective and educational context, limiting explicit images to what is necessary.
3. **High-Stakes Exams:** Obtain ADEK approval before teaching sensitive topics required for major exams.

4. **Current Events:** When high-profile events raise controversial topics, follow UAE government guidance and any directives from UAE authorities.

Roles and Responsibilities:

To ensure adherence to UAE cultural and legal standards, specific roles are assigned as follows:

1. Teachers:

1. Develop lessons using resources approved by the school's vetting process.
2. Screen all materials, including online resources, for cultural appropriateness.
3. Avoid indoctrination when covering political or cultural topics.
4. Report non-compliant content to senior leaders and protect data confidentiality on public forums.

2. Senior Leaders:

1. Review and approve teacher lesson plans and resources.
2. Supervise and monitor resource use to ensure policy adherence.
3. Regularly check approved digital resources for compliance and report issues to the Principal.

3. Head Librarians:

1. Vet and approve all resources, ensuring cultural and age-appropriateness.
2. Maintain a list of acceptable resources for review by the Resource Selection Committee.
3. Monitor all resources, reporting any non-compliant content to the Principal and removing it from circulation.

4. Principals:

1. Form a Resource Selection Committee to review and approve resources.
2. Oversee the documentation and communication of the vetting process.

3. Ensure all resources meet cultural standards, implement cultural awareness training, and communicate internet safety responsibilities to parents.
4. Report non-compliant content to ADEK and engage parents to oversee internet use at home, encouraging caution on social media.

Reviewed Date: 5th Jan 2027

Shaweeena



Principal