AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF ABU DHABI

NATIONAL IDENTITY POLICY

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1. SCHOOL VISION

Australian School of Abu Dhabi (ASAD) fosters globally minded graduates through inclusive education, nurturing a sense of belonging, understanding, and respect. We empower students with skills, empathy, and awareness to contribute locally and globally.

2. SCHOOL MISSION

Australian School of Abu Dhabi (ASAD) provides a diverse curriculum with global perspectives to all students. We foster inclusion, embrace diversity, promote understanding, and empower students to excel academically and socially. Our commitment to inclusivity ensures every student feels valued and supported.

3. INTRODUCTION

Australian School of Abu Dhabi (ASAD) is committed to promoting and strengthening UAE National Identity through an inclusive, values-based educational environment that fosters respect for Emirati culture, heritage, traditions and the Arabic language.

In alignment with ADEK's National Identity Policy, ASAD will embed UAE National Identity across all subjects, including mandatory UAE Ministry of Education (MoE) subjects and its International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP), as well as daily school practices, celebrations and community engagement.

ASAD's approach is guided by ADEK's National Identity Mark, which assesses schools across three domains: Culture, encompassing history, heritage and Arabic language; Values, encompassing respect, compassion and global understanding; and Citizenship, encompassing belonging, volunteering and conservation.

Through this whole-school approach, ASAD will promote UAE National Identity alongside the IB philosophy of international-mindedness, inquiry-based learning and responsible action, fostering students' sense of belonging, cultural awareness, mutual respect and appreciation of the UAE's national values and identity.

4. PURPOSE

The purpose of this National Identity Policy (**Policy**) is to establish a consistent, whole-school approach to promoting UAE National Identity across ASAD's educational programmes and school community by:

- Embedding Emirati culture, heritage, traditions, the Arabic language and national values into all MoE and non-MoE subjects, teaching, learning and daily school practices.
- Promoting the domains of Culture, Values and Citizenship in alignment with ADEK's National Identity Mark and ASAD's IB educational philosophy.
- Fostering students' sense of belonging, cultural awareness, mutual respect and appreciation of the UAE.
- Strengthening National Identity through school celebrations, cultural experiences, student leadership, volunteering and community engagement.
- Establishing clear responsibilities for implementing, monitoring and evaluating National Identity initiatives in accordance with ADEK requirements.

5. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all students, staff, school leadership, parents and relevant external partners involved in ASAD's educational programmes and school activities.

It covers the integration and promotion of UAE National Identity across all mandatory UAE Ministry of Education (MoE) subjects and ASAD's International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP), including teaching and learning, daily school practices, national celebrations, cultural experiences, student leadership, volunteering and community engagement.

All relevant members of the school community will support the implementation of this policy in accordance with ADEK's National Identity Policy and applicable National Identity Mark assessment requirements.

6. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Behaviour	A clear, observable action that reflects a value being actively demonstrated in practice, not simply understood in principle.
Culturally Responsive Teaching	Using students' customs, characteristics, experience, and perspectives as tools for better classroom instruction (Will & Najaro, 2022).
Habit	A school practice performed regularly with intention and reflection, that shapes student character and supports positive learning, behavior, and participation in school life.
National Identity	The Emirati national identity encompasses key characteristics that make our society unique. It is rooted in noble Islamic morals and values of tolerance, upholding the spirit of unity and national belonging. It is further anchored in the rich heritage of the Arabic language and the local dialect as well as our nation, its ancient history, as well as the customs and traditions that are passed on through generations, ensuring the preservation of the authentic Emirati spirit (UAE Ministry of Culture).
National Identity School Strategy	A school-wide framework, in line with the National Identity Policy, promoting values, culture, heritage, and citizenship through planned initiatives, curriculum integration, and community engagement.
Student Ambassador	A UAE National student role model who promotes UAE values, culture, heritage, and citizenship while supporting students and staff to practice and celebrate National Identity.
Values	A deeply held principle that shapes how a student understands themselves, interacts with others, and contributes positively to their community.

7. POLICY

ASAD will promote and strengthen UAE National Identity through a whole-school approach that integrates Emirati culture, values and citizenship into teaching, learning, daily practices and community engagement, in accordance with ADEK's National Identity Policy and National Identity Mark requirements.

7.1 National Identity Governance

7.1.1 National Identity Strategy

ASAD will develop, implement and regularly review a comprehensive National Identity Strategy that reflects UAE National Identity in its educational approach, mission, values and daily school practices by:

- Aligning the strategy with ADEK's National Identity Policy and National Identity Mark, including the domains of Culture, Values and Citizenship.
- Integrating National Identity across all MoE and non-MoE subjects, ASAD's IB programmes and wider school activities.
- Establishing clear objectives, responsibilities, implementation timelines and measurable indicators within the National Identity Strategy.
- Monitoring progress and evaluating outcomes through the National Identity Committee, school leadership and relevant ADEK assessment findings.

7.1.2 National Identity Committee

ASAD will establish and maintain a National Identity Committee, where required under ADEK's fee-band and UAE National student enrolment criteria, by:

- Establishing and communicating transparent membership selection criteria and eligibility requirements.
- Supporting National Identity activities and classroom engagement across all subjects.
- Planning, organising and coordinating National Identity initiatives and celebrations in collaboration with appointed National Identity Student Ambassadors.
- Acting as a liaison between parents and the school, supporting the implementation and continuous improvement of ASAD's National Identity Strategy.

7.1.3 ADEK Mandated Initiatives

ASAD will implement ADEK-mandated National Identity initiatives in accordance with applicable requirements by:

- Implementing the Nabati Poetry Programme, where required under ADEK's fee-band and UAE National student enrolment criteria, in accordance with the ADEK Nabati Poetry Guide.
- Integrating the study, appreciation and composition of Emirati Nabati poetry into the UAE National student experience, where the programme is mandatory.
- Implementing all other ADEK-mandated National Identity initiatives in accordance with relevant circulars and guidance.

7.2 Celebrating National Identity

7.2.1 UAE Flag and Official Portraits

ASAD will ensure the respectful display of the UAE flag and official portraits by:

- Raising the UAE flag and displaying official portraits in accordance with the *Positions of Their Highness Pictures and Placements and Uses of Flags Manual.*
- Ensuring that the UAE flag is the only flag raised on school premises and is displayed prominently at all times.

7.2.2 National Anthem and Daily Assembly

ASAD will promote respect for the UAE National Anthem and flag by:

- Conducting an orderly daily student line-up for the singing of the UAE National Anthem and raising of the UAE flag.
- Organising assemblies by class, section, grade/year or cycle, as appropriate.

7.2.3 National Celebrations

ASAD will celebrate UAE national occasions and strengthen school-community engagement by:

- Organising school-wide celebrations for Eid Al Etihad and Flag Day.
- Inviting parents to participate in these celebrations.

7.2.4 Public Holidays and National Initiatives

ASAD will observe official UAE public holidays and participate in government-endorsed National Identity initiatives by:

- Observing official UAE public holidays in accordance with ADEK's Calendar and Public Holidays Policy.
- Participating in all government-endorsed National Identity initiatives announced through ADEK circulars.
- Not scheduling school working days on official UAE public holidays without prior ADEK approval.

7.3 Practicing National Identity Values

7.3.1 Values Based Daily Habits

ASAD will promote positive daily habits aligned with the ADEK Values Framework and the IB learner profile by:

- Encouraging students to maintain clean and orderly learning spaces, fulfil assigned responsibilities and reflect on their actions daily.
- Integrating values-based habits into school routines to develop students' moral, social and performance character.
- Using positive reinforcement to encourage participation, without imposing disciplinary measures on students who do not participate.

7.3.2 Traditional Open Majlis

ASAD will establish and maintain a traditional open Majlis to promote dialogue, cultural understanding and a sense of belonging by:

- Providing a welcoming space for student dialogue, discussion and exchange.
- Encouraging appreciation of Emirati heritage, mutual respect and belonging within the school community.

7.3.3 National Identity Visual Design

ASAD will integrate UAE National Identity throughout the school environment by:

- Incorporating appropriate Emirati cultural, heritage and National Identity elements into classrooms, corridors and shared spaces.
- Ensuring visual displays and design elements promote understanding and appreciation of UAE culture, traditions and national values.

7.3.4 Break Timing and Prayer Opportunities

ASAD will provide students with reasonable opportunities to pray during the school day by:

- Aligning and adjusting school break times, as appropriate, to accommodate prayer opportunities.

7.4 Curriculum and Learning

7.4.1 Curriculum Integration

ASAD will embed UAE National Identity and culturally responsive teaching across all subjects, including mandatory UAE Ministry of Education (MoE) subjects and its International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes, by:

- Integrating Emirati culture, history, heritage, national values and local perspectives into all aspects of teaching, learning and curriculum planning.
- Actively promoting the Arabic language throughout the school environment and learning experiences.
- Incorporating project-based and inquiry-based teaching practices aligned with applicable MoE requirements and ASAD's IB educational philosophy.
- Ensuring curriculum integration complies with ADEK's KG MoE Subjects Policy, Curriculum Policy, Staff Eligibility Policy and National Identity Curriculum Integration Requirements.

7.4.2 Arabic Literacy Assessment and Support

ASAD will support Arabic language proficiency and literacy among Arab National students by:

- Conducting periodic Arabic literacy evaluations for all Arab National students to assess their proficiency and knowledge of the Arabic language.
- Identifying students requiring additional support and implementing appropriate interventions.
- Monitoring student progress in accordance with ADEK's Foundational Literacy Policy and Assessment Policy.

7.4.3 Library and Learning Resources

ASAD will maintain and promote appropriate learning resources that support UAE National Identity by:

- Providing an adequate and age-appropriate collection of books, digital media and other learning resources in accordance with the ADEK National Identity Libraries and Resources Guide.
- Actively encouraging students to engage with books and digital resources relating to UAE National Identity.
- Ensuring teachers integrate relevant resources into subject curricula, classroom instruction and learning activities.

7.4.4 Experiential Learning

ASAD will provide immersive educational experiences that strengthen students' understanding and appreciation of UAE National Identity by:

- Ensuring every student completes at least one immersive educational trip per cycle, subject to ADEK approval.
- Collaborating with local organisations, cultural institutions and government entities to provide meaningful educational experiences.
- Linking educational trips to relevant curriculum objectives and IB inquiry-based learning experiences.
- Planning and conducting educational trips in accordance with ADEK's Extracurricular Activities and Events Policy.

7.4.5 Zayed National Museum Visit

ASAD will ensure every student visits the Zayed National Museum with the school at least once before graduation by:

- Incorporating the museum visit into its National Identity educational programme.
- Ensuring the requirement applies to all students, including those transferring to ASAD.
- Maintaining appropriate records to verify that each student has completed the visit, recognising that only one visit is required during their lifetime as a student, regardless of school transfers.

7.5 Staffing and Student Leadership

7.5.1 Staff Training

ASAD will ensure staff receive appropriate National Identity training in accordance with ADEK requirements by:

- Ensuring all staff complete mandatory National Identity training where required under ADEK's fee-band and UAE National student enrolment criteria.
- Supporting staff in understanding and promoting UAE culture, heritage, national values and identity across teaching, learning and daily school practices.
- Maintaining records of mandatory training completion for monitoring and compliance purposes.

7.5.2 UAE Socal Studies Staffing Requirements

ASAD will comply with ADEK's Emiratization requirements for UAE Social Studies teachers by:

- Achieving 100% Emiratization by Academic Year 2032/33 for teachers delivering UAE Social Studies as a standalone subject to students studying Arabic Language Stream A.
- Monitoring staffing arrangements and recruitment to ensure compliance within ADEK's specified timeframe.

7.5.3 MoE Subjects Staffing requirements

ASAD will ensure teachers delivering mandatory UAE Ministry of Education (MoE) subjects meet ADEK's staffing requirements by:

- Screening all teachers delivering mandatory MoE subjects against ADEK-defined standards.

- Verifying relevant Arabic language proficiency and alignment with core values in accordance with the ADEK Values Framework.
- Maintaining appropriate recruitment and screening records to demonstrate compliance.

7.5.4 National Identity Student Ambassadors

ASAD will appoint National Identity Student Ambassadors, where required under ADEK's fee-band and UAE National student enrolment criteria, by:

- Conducting a transparent annual selection process.
- Appointing at least **two** (**2**) UAE National students per cycle, where the requirement applies.
- Supporting Student Ambassadors in serving as role models and promoting UAE National Identity principles, culture and values among their peers.
- Involving Student Ambassadors in National Identity initiatives and celebrations in collaboration with the National Identity Committee.

7.6 Parents and Community Engagement

7.6.1 Parent Engagement

ASAD will engage parents in supporting their children's understanding and appreciation of UAE National Identity by:

- Developing initiatives that encourage parental involvement in learning about Emirati culture, heritage, traditions and national values.
- Encouraging parents to support Arabic language learning and literacy development at home.
- Providing opportunities for parents to participate in National Identity activities, cultural experiences and school-community initiatives.

7.6.2 Volunteering and Community Service

ASAD will promote volunteering and community service in alignment with ADEK requirements and the IB philosophy of responsible action by:

- Ensuring students complete a minimum of 5 volunteering hours annually in KG and Cycle 1, and 10 volunteering hours annually in Cycles 2 and 3.
- Integrating appropriate volunteering and community service opportunities with the MYP Service as Action and DP Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) components, ensuring activities contribute to ADEK's volunteering requirements where applicable.
- Organising volunteering opportunities in partnership with community organisations, cultural institutions and government bodies.
- Facilitating at least one annual community service initiative linked to UAE National Identity, subject to ADEK approval, involving students, staff and parents.
- Ensuring students participating in school-organised volunteering activities are adequately supervised by qualified staff or designated volunteers at all times.
- Safeguarding student wellbeing, managing risks and responding promptly to incidents in accordance with ADEK's Wellbeing Policy and Safeguarding Policy.
- Obtaining parental consent at the start of the academic year, as part of registration, for volunteering activities conducted outside school premises or after school hours.
- Maintaining records of student volunteering hours and participation to support monitoring and compliance.

7.7 Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

ASAD will monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of its National Identity Policy and Strategy in alignment with ADEK requirements and the National Identity Mark by:

- Assigning overall accountability to school leadership, with the National Identity Committee supporting implementation, coordination and review.
- Maintaining a National Identity Strategy and annual action plan identifying priorities, responsibilities, timelines and measurable indicators.
- Monitoring the integration of National Identity across MoE and non-MoE subjects, IB programmes, daily school practices and the wider school environment.
- Maintaining appropriate evidence of National Identity initiatives, student participation, educational visits, volunteering hours, staff training and community engagement.
- Evaluating students' sense of belonging, pride and connection to the UAE, participation in volunteering initiatives and adoption of positive values-based daily habits.
- Reviewing feedback, internal monitoring findings, ADEK inspection outcomes and National Identity Mark assessments to identify areas for improvement.
- Implementing and monitoring appropriate improvement actions to strengthen the effectiveness of National Identity provision.

8. COMPLIANCE

ASAD will ensure compliance with ADEK's National Identity Policy and all applicable regulatory requirements by:

- Achieving full compliance with the policy by the Fall term of Academic Year 2027/28, in accordance with ADEK's implementation timeline.
- Ensuring school leadership, staff and relevant stakeholders fulfil their responsibilities under this policy.
- Monitoring compliance through regular reviews, internal evaluations and appropriate corrective actions where required.
- Cooperating with ADEK inspections, assessments and regulatory interventions.

Failure to comply may result in legal accountability, regulatory intervention and penalties in accordance with applicable ADEK regulations, Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 and its amendments, and other relevant UAE legislation.

9. REFERENCES

- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). (2026). *National Identity Policy* (July 2026 Draft), including Appendices A–E.
- United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education. (2015). *United Arab Emirates School Inspection Framework 2015–2016*, Standard 4.2, Element 4.2.3.
- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). (n.d.). *National Identity Mark Framework*.
- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). (n.d.). *School Cultural Consideration Policy*.
- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). (n.d.). *School Curriculum Policy*.
- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). (n.d.). *School KG MoE Subjects Policy*
- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). (n.d.). *School Staff Eligibility Policy*

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- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). (n.d.). *School Safeguarding Policy*
- United Arab Emirates Government. (n.d.). *Positions of Their Highness Pictures and Placements and Uses of Flags Manual*
- United Arab Emirates Government. (2021). *Federal Decree-Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law*, as amended.

10. RATIFICATION AND REVISION HISTORY

Document Title	National Identity Policy
Version	v.1
Ratification Date	5th November 2026
Next Review Date	November 2028
Ratified By	Director: Mr. Adel Salman