



## Cultural Consideration Policy

**Approved by:**

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Chairwoman

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17/11/2025

### Revision History

Revision Date	Version Number	Revised By	Signature
10/05/2025	02	Eva Sanchez Castillo Principal	



## 1. Introduction:

The Spanish School of Abu Dhabi (SSAD) commits to nurturing a community that honors cultural sensitivity and diversity as keystones of educational excellence. Our approach is to intertwine the rich heritage and values of Spain and the United Arab Emirates, fostering a learning environment that respects and celebrates this unique blend.

Embracing the UAE's national identity is integral to our mission, reflecting a shared sense of belonging and commitment to the nation's values, traditions, and future. Through education, we aim to deepen our students' understanding of these cultural pillars, ensuring they emerge as respectful, informed citizens ready to engage with the global community.

## 2. Rationale:

SSAD acknowledges the rich cultural mosaic of the United Arab Emirates, an integral component of our educational ethos. Our National Identity and Culture policy is crafted to deepen the appreciation for the UAE's historical legacy and cultural wealth among our students. In alignment with the Spanish curriculum, we strive to cultivate individuals who are deeply rooted in their cultural identities, embodying respect, compassion, and tolerance.

## 3. Objective

The objective of the Spanish School of Abu Dhabi (SSAD) is to create a framework wherein every member of our community not only recognizes and celebrates cultural diversity but also actively participates in preserving the rich cultural identity of the UAE.

## 4. Scope of the Policy

This policy is applicable to the entire Spanish School of Abu Dhabi (SSAD) community, including staff, students, their families, and all stakeholders. It is comprehensive, covering every facet of school life from the curriculum and co-curricular activities to staff training programs, student participation, communication, and community engagement. Our aim is to foster a vibrant educational environment that upholds and celebrates the cultural identity of the UAE, while simultaneously honoring our Spanish heritage, ensuring that every aspect of SSAD's operations is aligned with this inclusive cultural ethos.

## 5. Staff Development and Cultural Alignment:

Our school staff are vital in embodying cultural sensitivity and upholding the UAE's national identity and cultural values. Our commitment to staff development in this area includes:

- Regular updates and training in cultural sensitivity to align with the evolving cultural norms and legal framework of the UAE.
- Ensuring all school resources are carefully reviewed to reflect the values of the UAE, with a focus on creating an inclusive and respectful learning environment.



- Active participation and oversight by staff in the application and monitoring of the school's cultural practices, ensuring effective communication and interaction within our school community.

## 6. Cultural Compliance and Curriculum Oversight:

The role of the Resources Revision Committee is to ensure that our educational content meets the cultural and academic expectations of the UAE. Their key duties include:

- Thorough review and adjustment of educational content to be in line with UAE cultural values.
- Managing the resource revision process in accordance with the guidelines set by our management.
- Regularly assessing and reporting on the school's compliance with cultural standards and recommending enhancements as needed.

## 7. Policy Statements and Implementation

Language and Communication:

Mastery of Arabic, Spanish, and English is pivotal at SSAD, serving not only academic pursuits but also as key to cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, promoting a community fluent in the language of diversity.

Curriculum Integration

At SSAD, we seamlessly blend Arabic language proficiency, Islamic values, Moral Education, and the rich history of the UAE into our curriculum. This curriculum is designed to not only meet the educational standards set forth by the Ministry of Education and ADEK but also to nurture a deep sense of national identity and cultural understanding in our students.

Heritage and Language:

SSAD values the Arabic language as a cornerstone of UAE's national identity and effective communication within our multicultural society. Adhering to the Ministry of Education and ADEK guidelines, we offer a comprehensive Arabic program to enhance both spoken and written Arabic proficiency.

Islamic Education:

Recognizing Islam's role in UAE's culture and history, our curriculum includes Islamic education in accordance with MOE and ADEK standards, fostering an appreciation of Islamic values, ethics, and teachings.

UAE History and Cultural Traditions:

A thorough understanding of UAE history is integral to our curriculum, as is the celebration of Emirati cultural traditions through various events and activities. This encourages students to actively engage with and appreciate the UAE's heritage and achievements.

Co-curricular and Community Engagement

Our commitment extends beyond the classroom through a series of cultural events and traditions, such as Prophet Mohamed's Birthday, National Day, Flag Day, Emirati Children's Day celebrations, which serve as conduits for cultural exchange and appreciation. Students are also



involved in community-led initiatives that promote social responsibility in partnership with the National Archive, Abu Dhabi Children's Library and Emirates Red Crescent and we raise environmental consciousness, in line with our Eco-School project and various sustainability campaigns.

#### Values Education for Holistic Development:

Our Values Education Program, essential across all levels, is designed to instill respect, compassion, and tolerance. By integrating this program with our core curriculum, we focus on nurturing the social and emotional growth of our students. Structured activities and constructive dialogue are key methods we use to cultivate students' social skills and emotional intelligence. The program also includes a proactive coexistence strategy that addresses behavioral challenges, ensuring a safe and supportive atmosphere that allows for emotional and social development.

#### Global Citizenship and Sustainability:

We are committed to global citizenship, encouraging students to participate in volunteering and sustainability initiatives through our Eco-School project. Our school policies promote environmental stewardship and responsibility.

#### Student Leadership

Leadership and initiative are highly encouraged among our students, prompting them to engage in and sometimes lead activities that celebrate cultural diversity. Through these roles, students learn the importance of cultural sensitivity, environmental stewardship, and the social skills necessary to navigate and contribute to a diverse world.

#### Staff Development

Staff at SSAD receive continuous training and professional development to deepen their understanding of the cultural dynamics within our school. This training ensures that all staff members are not only aware of but also actively participating in the cultural practices of the UAE, allowing them to serve as role models of cultural sensitivity to our students.

#### Parental Involvement

Understanding that a child's education flourishes through partnership, we actively involve parents in our cultural and value-driven educational journey. Through workshops that address critical topics such as Bullying Prevention, the cultivation of Healthy Lifestyle Habits, establishing effective Home Routines, and enhancing Parent-Child Communication, we empower parents to be an extension of our educational ethos. Their engagement is crucial not only for reinforcing the principles taught at school but also for maintaining the thread of cultural education in the home environment, ensuring a consistent and supportive learning experience for every student.

## **8. Policy Evaluation and Impact Assessment:**

Our Cultural Sensitivity Policy is rigorously evaluated based on clear indicators. We consistently assess the awareness of cultural sensitivity among staff and students, ensuring our educational environment supports cultural understanding. Monitoring of students' academic and behavioral development helps us determine the policy's effectiveness on their growth. Additionally, the level of community engagement reflects the policy's broader impact.



Parental feedback is essential to this evaluation process, as it indicates the policy's extension into student home life. We seek input from all school stakeholders to assess the policy's success and make necessary adjustments. This process ensures that our Cultural Sensitivity Policy remains aligned with our commitment to heritage and values while being responsive to our community's changing needs.

## 9. Conclusion

At the Spanish School of Abu Dhabi, we uphold cultural sensitivity as a core practice integral to our educational mission and community engagement. This policy is a commitment to fostering diversity, inclusion, tolerance, respect, and global citizenship within a multicultural setting. Our school actively promotes sustainability and draws upon the rich Arab heritage and Spanish traditions that underpin our values. By adhering to this policy, we affirm our role as a community leader in cultural understanding and mutual respect in Abu Dhabi.