

Approved:24 June 2024

Introduction

The Canadian International School Abu Dhabi (CIS) celebrates cultural diversity and aims to create an inclusive environment that reflects the global perspectives of its students and staff. In recognition of the international community it serves, this policy emphasizes the importance of cultural consideration when ensuring our expectations align with the values and cultural sensibilities of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Purpose

- Guidance on Cultural Consideration: Provide guidance on culturally appropriate topics and practices in the UAE.
- Adherence to UAE Legislation: Define expected practices to ensure compliance with current UAE legislation.
- Alignment with Cultural Sensibilities: Identify specific requirements to ensure teaching and learning resources align with the UAE's cultural sensibilities.

Definitions

Cultural Consideration:	Knowledge, awareness, and understanding of appropriate topics and practices of a culture.
Culture:	The set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual, and emotional features of society or a social group.

Implementation:

- the Head of School, in collaboration with relevant administrative bodies, shall review and monitor all teaching and learning resources to ensure alignment with cultural considerations outlined in the legal provisions
- all CIS staff are expected to incorporate culturally sensitive content and practices in their teaching methods, respecting the Islamic and Arab principles, public morals, and national identity
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- all CIS staff are responsible for actively participating in cultural consideration training and incorporating cultural practices into daily school activities
- any instances of non-compliance or concerns regarding cultural considerations should be promptly reported to the Head of School for appropriate action

Community Conduct:

All members of the CIS community are expected to uphold standards of behavior that demonstrate mindfulness and respect for cultural considerations of the UAE. The following guidelines outline the expected conduct:

- respecting UAE Cultural and Social Norms - All CIS community members shall respect the cultural and social norms, values, and traditions of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- avoiding promotion of inappropriate stereotypes - All CIS community members shall refrain from directly or indirectly promoting inappropriate stereotypes, preconceptions, and assumptions about the UAE and the region
- refraining from culturally inconsiderate behavior - All CIS community members shall abstain from encouraging behavior, practices, or displays that are culturally inconsiderate, including but not limited to drug and alcohol use, smoking, violence, promotion of alternative gender identity and sexual orientation, and indoctrination
- avoiding symbols and imagery associated with culturally inconsiderate movements - All CIS community members shall refrain from using symbols, colors, or imagery associated with any movement/beliefs related to political, social, or extremist religious groups that are culturally inconsiderate
- prohibition of activities promoting extremism, racism, and discrimination - All CIS community members shall refrain from engaging in activities and/or using content that leads to the indoctrination and promotion of religious/political extremism, racism, bullying, and all other forms of discrimination
- restriction on rallies, demonstrations, and protests - All CIS community members shall refrain from holding rallies, demonstrations, and protests on school premises or during school

resources to be ordered in advance. The resource request must be signed by the divisional Head of School prior to final approval from the Head of School.

Once the resource is received, the committee will review it, and the parameters outlined above, for current resources, will apply.

Topics in the Approved Curriculum:

Canadian International School (CIS) acknowledges the importance of handling potentially controversial topics with sensitivity and cultural consideration. The following guidelines outline the approach to be taken when addressing such topics within the approved curriculum:

Topics relating to biological reproduction, human evolution, or sex education:

Schools shall limit the use of figurative explanation and scientific images/photos required to address relevant learning outcomes in a respectful and culturally considerate way.

Parents shall be informed in advance of the lesson, including the topics to be covered (a)8 (l)](p)6 (

Roles and Responsibilities

Librarians:

- Review, vet, and give final approval of resources for compliance
- Submit resource lists to the Resource Selection Committee
- Monitor digital and nondigital resources for compliance with all regulations, policies, guidelines, and circulars issued by ADEK
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