



**THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

Sustainability Policy

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Mission, Vision and Values

Empowering & enriching lives for future success.

Our mission is to create world class learning experiences that recognise and nurture empathetic, resilient and talented individuals.

All of this remains underpinned by our values of **kindness, respect** and **honesty**.

Purpose

This policy outlines BISAD's commitment to sustainability in line with ADEK's requirements. It defines our school-wide approach to environmental stewardship, sustainable practices, and embedding sustainability education across the curriculum and culture of the school. The policy supports the UAE's national vision for sustainability and integrates global best practices, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on **SDG 4 – Quality Education** and **SDG 13 – Climate Action**.

Definitions

The following phrases have very specific meanings in relation to Sustainability and Ethical Consumption and their definitions for use in school are:

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Carbon Footprint: The total amount of greenhouse gas emissions caused directly or indirectly by an activity.

Circular Economy: A model of production and consumption that encourages reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling to extend the life cycle of products.

SDGs: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations to promote peace, prosperity, and environmental protection.

1. Whole School Sustainability Practices

1.1 Sustainable Infrastructure

- BISAD, as part of the Nord Anglia Education group, is committed to decarbonisation and reducing emissions through building designs and operations.
- Any new architecture or refurbishment projects are developed with a focus on energy efficiency, natural lighting, insulation, and low-impact materials.

1.2 Waste Management and Resource Use

- Waste reduction is implemented through:
 - Paper reduction across classrooms and offices
 - Recycling stations around the campus
 - Encouraging digital over paper communications
- Reuse practices include:
 - Uniform recycling, swaps, and donations advertised in the school newsletter
 - Classroom resource exchange, such as textbooks, revision guides, and art supplies
 - Lost and found processes led by PTA and student volunteers to return unclaimed items and reduce waste

- Replacement of Resources, Furniture, and Equipment:
 - Wherever possible, replacement items are sourced from local suppliers, supporting the local economy and reducing the environmental impact of transportation.
 - Resources and furniture are selected based on their sustainability credentials, prioritising materials that are environmentally friendly and aligned with BISAD's ongoing commitment to sustainable development.

2. Curriculum Integration and Student Engagement

2.1 SDG 4 – Quality Education for Sustainability

- Sustainability is embedded in the formal curriculum through subjects such as but not limited to:
 - Science, Humanities, and Ministry of Education subjects (Social Studies and Islamic)
- Students learn about climate change, environmental stewardship, biodiversity, and global responsibility.

2.2 Global Awareness and Key Events

- The school hosts and participates in UNICEF related events as part of our working relationship with UNICEF and the UN as part of the Nord Anglia Organisation:
 - Earth Day
 - World Children's Day
 - World Mental Health Day
 - Union Day
 - Global Campus sustainability projects
 - Activities linked to the UN SDGs through inquiry-led learning

The school actively promotes sustainability through the curriculum, whole school events and regular campaigns to encourage active participate and awareness to reduce overconsumption and promote sustainability through actions.

2.3 BISAD Diploma – Agents of Change

- The BISAD Diploma actively encourages students to demonstrate leadership in environmental action as part of their service-learning portfolio. This enables students to consider their own global emissions footprint as well as actively reflecting on being a global citizen.
- Students take part in:
 - Beach clean-ups
 - Ramadan Service Fridays
 - Eco-projects and awareness campaigns around school
 - NAE Summit on Sustainability that takes place in Houston, Texas annually.

3. Partnerships and Community Involvement

3.1 Teaching Alliance of Sustainable Schools and Nord Anglia

- BISAD is an active member of the Teaching Alliance of Sustainable Schools. Through this partnership:
 - Students are elected as Sustainability Ambassadors
 - Current focus areas include:
 - Uniform (recycling and sustainable sourcing)
 - Transport (encouraging carpooling, reducing emissions)
 - Food (plant-based options, reducing packaging)
 - Consumption (responsible use of resources and materials)
- Sustainability is built into Nord Anglia Education's strategy and, as a global family of educators, we are responsible and committed to being a force for good. This has 5 main elements:
 - Protecting the environment by decarbonising our schools and conserving resources
 - Equipping our students to be the changemakers of the future through skills and enhancing voice, leadership and agency
 - Nurturing global citizenship through service and impact delivery in local and global communities
 - Operating as a responsible business
 - Caring above and beyond for every student.

3.2 Sustainable Schools Initiative

- BIS Abu Dhabi is an active participant in the Sustainable Schools Initiative, working in partnership with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi to promote environmental awareness and responsibility.
 - Students are engaged in a range of environmentally focused Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) that encourage practical learning and action..
 - Student leaders play a key role in driving sustainability efforts within the school, taking ownership of initiatives and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship..
- Current focus areas include:
- Recycling – Separation and recycling of plastic and paper waste in classrooms to reduce landfill impact..
 - Energy Conservation- Promoting mindful energy use by ensuring classroom lights are switched off when rooms are unoccupied and encouraging the use of natural light whenever possible.

4. Student Wellbeing and Sustainable Spaces

4.1 Outdoor and Wellness Learning Environments

- Primary students benefit from access to a Sustainable Garden, promoting:
 - Outdoor learning
 - Connection with nature
 - Understanding of food origins and ecosystems
- Wellness spaces across the school promote a calm, reflective environment and a connection to sustainability values.

5. Communication and Engagement

5.1 Parent and Community Involvement

- The school shares sustainability updates through:
 - Monthly newsletters
 - Community circulars
 - Parent workshops
- Parents are encouraged to participate in:
 - Uniform donations
 - Clean-up events
 - Resource exchanges

5.2 Student Leadership

- Students lead and organise initiatives supported by staff mentors for whole school events including One People, One Planet, Earth Day, World Children's Day and other sustainable initiatives that occur within curriculum opportunities.
- The PTA and student groups collaborate on Lost and Found campaigns, where items are identified, returned, or repurposed.