



PARENT INFORMATION: UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING CULTURAL CONSIDERATION IN SCHOOLS

Dear Parents,

Greetings from International Indian School – Abu Dhabi.

The UAE's population has rapidly grown in recent decades, driven by non-nationals contributing to the country's economic and cultural growth. As parents and residents, we play a vital role in preserving UAE culture.

Today, private schools in Abu Dhabi reflect this diversity, with many students and staff from various backgrounds, enriching the educational experience. While this fosters tolerance, as promoted by the National Tolerance Program, it's essential to ensure the school community is aware of culturally and nationally appropriate practices in education.

Here are some important policies to note to preserve our culture.

PURPOSE

Understand UAE's diverse cultural framework, and how schools promote respect and awareness of cultural norms and values.

Why it Matters:

Schools operate within the UAE's cultural, social, and legal framework, emphasizing tolerance and respect for national identity. Your role as parents is vital in reinforcing these principles at home and in your interactions with the school.

Core Values for Parents

- **Respect UAE Culture:** Familiarize yourself with and honor the traditions, social norms, and legal boundaries.
- **Promote Tolerance:** Encourage inclusivity and harmony in all interactions with the school and other parents.
- **Support School Policies:** Actively participate in implementing policies on cultural awareness in both school events and at home.

Cultural Sensitivities in Day-to-Day Interaction

- Dress appropriately during school visits or events, adhering to the UAE cultural norms.
- Ensure children follow the school's dress code and avoid any attire that may be culturally insensitive.
- Communicate respectfully with other parents, students, and staff from diverse backgrounds.





Appropriate Resources

- Familiarize yourself with school-provided teaching and learning materials.
- Avoid providing your children with content that may include:
 - Culturally inappropriate language, images, or stereotypes.
 - Topics like violence, drug use, or any content conflicting with UAE values.

Monitoring School Activities

- Support the UAE National Identity framework by:
 - Encouraging children to participate in the daily singing of the UAE National Anthem and other national celebrations.
 - Educating children on the importance of symbols like the UAE flag and respecting public holidays.

Building Awareness of Legal Considerations

- Parents must help children understand that all members of the school community must respect UAE laws.
 - **Example:** Public decency laws, anti-bullying policies, and respect for diverse beliefs within the community.
- Support the school's response mechanisms for handling breaches in cultural respect by reinforcing accountability at home.

Promoting Positive School-Home Collaboration

- Attend induction programs on cultural awareness organized by the school.
- Participate in annual refresher workshops and other events aimed at strengthening cultural sensitivity.
- Offer constructive feedback on the school's initiatives to maintain cultural consideration.

Family Role in Cultural Awareness

- Foster family conversations about respecting UAE's values while embracing diversity.
- Encourage your child to approach school discussions on sensitive topics like evolution or reproduction with maturity and respect.
- Partner with the school in activities promoting UAE's cultural richness, such as National Day celebrations or tolerance events.

Guidelines for Parent Conduct

- **Digital Communication:** Avoid sharing content on school-related social media platforms that may breach cultural guidelines or be misinterpreted as offensive.
- **Collaboration with Teachers:** Review and understand curriculum content flagged as sensitive and follow school-led directives.
- **Event Participation:** Ensure family members adhere to cultural expectations during school-organized events and trips.

Reporting and Resolving Issues

- If you notice any cultural insensitivity in the school environment, report it through the designated school channels. Support the school's commitment to resolving issues respectfully and swiftly.

