

Parent Engagement and Involvement Policy

Purpose

This policy emphasises the essential role of parents/guardians in their children's education, aligning with the ADEK Parent Engagement Policy. It establishes guidelines to foster effective communication, active participation and collaboration between parents and the Creative British School (CBS).

Policy Statement

Role of Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians are integral to their children's success. Their active involvement fosters better educational outcomes and strengthens the school community. Parents/guardians are encouraged to:

1. Support their child's regular and punctual school attendance.
2. Engage in their child's learning by monitoring homework, maintaining communication with teachers and attending school events.
3. Ensure their child is equipped for school and adheres to CBS rules and policies, including behaviour, uniform and academic integrity.
4. Serve as role models in their communication and behaviour, respecting UAE cultural values.
5. Participate actively in parent councils, volunteer programs and other school activities.

School Responsibilities

CBS commits to creating a welcoming and collaborative environment for parents by:

1. Sharing a Parent Handbook annually, detailing:
 - School policies on admission, attendance, behaviour and assessment.
 - Procedures for academic performance tracking and communication.
 - Protocols for addressing student wellbeing and additional learning needs.
2. Establishing regular communication with parents through newsletters, emails, SMS and meetings.
3. Holding at least one formal parent-teacher meeting per Term.
4. Encouraging parent involvement through opportunities such as open days, workshops and Parent Council activities.
5. Providing access to student records and ensuring transparency in curriculum and assessment processes. (See appendices for change of curriculum documents)
6. Supporting parents with tailored strategies to assist students with additional needs, aligning with ADEK Inclusion Policy.

Parent-School Agreement

Parents/guardians and CBS will enter into an annual agreement to:

Parents' Responsibilities:

1. Ensure their child's compliance with attendance, punctuality and homework completion.
2. Maintain open communication with teachers and respond promptly to school requests.
3. Support the school's behaviour policies and ensure their child adheres to the Student Code of Conduct.
4. Attend all required parent-teacher conferences, workshops and feedback sessions organized by CBS.
5. Actively monitor their child's digital and home learning practices, adhering to CBS guidelines for digital safety and academic integrity.

School Responsibilities:

1. Provide a safe and nurturing learning environment.
2. Communicate regularly about student progress and school policies.
3. Recognize and address individual student needs, promoting equity and showing a commitment to inclusion.
4. Encourage parent involvement in school governance and decision-making processes.
5. Provide training sessions and workshops to empower parents to support their child's education effectively.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents are expected to:

1. Respect CBS vision, mission and values.
2. Treat all members of the school community professionally and respectfully.
3. Collaborate positively to resolve concerns or disputes.
4. Avoid creating negativity around the schools reputation through false accusations and/or sharing inaccurate information.
5. Avoid defamatory or culturally insensitive content, including on social media.
6. Participate in activities supporting their child's learning, wellbeing, and school engagement.
7. Follow the school's health and safety protocols, including reporting any potential risks to staff.
8. Encourage their children to participate in extracurricular activities and community initiatives organized by CBS.

Parent Handbook

CBS will provide a detailed handbook covering:

1. Policies on attendance, punctuality, behaviour, and academics.
2. Communication protocols and schedules for parent meetings.

3. Opportunities for parent involvement, including volunteering and council participation.
4. Information on student wellbeing initiatives and support mechanisms.
5. Guidelines for home learning and digital safety.
6. Extracurricular activity details, including schedules and parental roles.
7. Steps to address additional learning needs in collaboration with CBS staff and ADEK guidelines.

Parent Engagement Activities

To promote collaboration:

1. CBS will host regular workshops and events to inform and engage parents in their child's education.
2. The Parent Council will act as a liaison between the school and parent community.
3. Parents will have opportunities to volunteer in school programs, extracurricular activities and events.
4. CBS will maintain open channels for feedback and suggestions from parents.
5. Regular surveys will be conducted to gather parental insights on school operations and student wellbeing.
6. Information on UAE cultural values and national identity will be incorporated into activities and shared with parents to enhance community harmony.

Compliance and Review

CBS will adhere to ADEK Parent Engagement Policy, with full compliance by the 2025/26 academic year. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with regulatory updates and the school's evolving needs.

Appendix 1 – UK to UAE comparison

Category	UK National Curriculum	UAE MOE Curriculum
Assessment & Qualifications	External exams (GCSEs, A-Levels)	National assessments and continuous evaluation
Grading	9-1 (GCSE), A*-E (A-Level)	100-point scale; MoE report cards
University Pathway	A-Levels or equivalents	UAE General Secondary Certificate + EmSAT for universities
Core Subjects	English, Maths, Science	Arabic, Islamic Studies, Social Studies, Maths, Science
STEM Focus	Strong emphasis, especially in later years	Growing priority, often taught in English
Civics/Religion	Year 2 to Year 10	Compulsory Islamic Studies and Moral Education
National Content	British context	UAE-focused content: history, geography, and civic studies
Cultural & Religious Education	Mandatory Islamic Studies for Muslim students	Mandatory Islamic Studies for Muslim students
Arabic Language	Mandatory for all students	Mandatory for all students in MoE stream
Moral Education	Varies; part of PSHE	Structured Moral Education curriculum in all schools
Curriculum Control & Oversight	Department for Education (UK)	UAE Ministry of Education
Inspection	Ofsted (UK), IRTIQA for Abu Dhabi schools	MoE inspections; ADEK
Curriculum Philosophy & Goals	Focus on academic rigour, subject mastery, and skills	Emphasis on national identity, innovation, and a global outlook
Purpose	Prepare students for UK qualifications and universities	Foster national pride, Islamic values, and 21st-century skills
Cultural Emphasis	British history, literature	Strong focus on Emirati culture, Arabic language, and Islam
Language of Instruction	English	Arabic for most subjects, English for STEM
Second Language	Often a modern foreign language (e.g., French)	English/Arabic depending on school stream
Educational Stages	Key Stages (EYFS to KS5: Y1-13)	Kindergarten, Cycle 1-3, and Secondary
Progression	Specialisation from age 14+ (GCSEs, A-Levels)	Broad subjects continue to Grade 12
Flexibility	Narrowing subject choice at KS4	Keeps a broad base longer

Appendix 2 – UK to American comparison

Category	UK National Curriculum	American Common Core
Assessment & Qualifications	External exams (GCSEs, A-Levels)	Standardized tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, State Assessments)
Grading	9-1 (GCSE), A*-E (A-Level)	Letter grades (A-F), with standardized test scores for evaluation
University Pathway	A-Levels or equivalents	High School Diploma + SAT/ACT scores
Core Subjects	English, Maths, Science	English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, Social Studies
STEM Focus	Strong emphasis, especially in later years	Growing emphasis on STEM, but not as defined as in the UK
Civics/Religion	Minimal; religious education optional	Minimal; varies by state, but includes Civics/History and Social Studies
National Content	British context	US-focused content: history, geography, and civics
Cultural & Religious Education	Optional Religious Education	Optional; varies by state
Language of Instruction	English	English
Second Language	Often a modern foreign language (e.g., French)	Varies by state/school, often Spanish, French, or others
Curriculum Control & Oversight	Department for Education (UK)	State Education Departments, Common Core State Standards
Inspection	Ofsted (UK), IRTIQA for Abu Dhabi schools	State Education Department evaluations, no national body for inspection
Curriculum Philosophy & Goals	Focus on academic rigour, subject mastery, and skills	Focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and preparing for college and careers
Purpose	Prepare students for UK qualifications and universities	Prepare students for college, careers, and life skills
Cultural Emphasis	British history, literature, and secular ethos	American history, culture, and values, with variations depending on state/local standards
Language of Instruction	English	English, with possible inclusion of bilingual education depending on state or region
Educational Stages	Key Stages (EYFS to KS5: Y1-13)	Kindergarten through 12th grade
Progression	Specialisation from age 14+ (GCSEs, A-Levels)	Broad curriculum in earlier years