



Deutsche Internationale Schule Abu Dhabi
المدرسة الألمانية الدولية
German International School Abu Dhabi

PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

German International School in Abu Dhabi

Effective from Academic Year 2024/25

Full Compliance by Academic Year 2025/26



1 Purpose

The German International School Abu Dhabi (GISAD) recognizes that effective parent engagement is fundamental to student success, school improvement, and a positive, inclusive school culture. This policy aims to establish a structured, transparent, and sustainable framework for engaging parents and guardians as active partners in education.



2 Parent-School Agreement

Parents are required to sign the Parent-School Agreement annually, which outlines mutual responsibilities and includes the parent code of conduct. Part of the agreement is the Code of Conduct which includes the following expectations:

- Parents engage respectfully and constructively with school staff, leadership, and the wider community, supporting a positive and inclusive school culture.
- They commit to shared responsibilities such as open communication, cultural sensitivity, and active participation in school life, including events, feedback processes, and governance structures.

For the parent code of conduct and the parent-school agreement see the annex.



3 Parent Handbook

A Parent Handbook is published annually on the school website. In addition to the handbook:

Teachers and support staff are accessible to parents, and the school communicates expected response times and emergency contacts.

A mass notification system is in place to communicate with parents in case of emergencies (SMS, PA system, apps).

Parents are informed of health initiatives, mental health strategies, and safety procedures including school bag regulations and immunization programs.



4 Guiding Principles

This policy is built on the following core principles:

Partnership

Education is a shared responsibility among school staff, students, and families.

Respect & Inclusion

All parents are valued and respected, regardless of background or language.

Transparency

Open communication and information sharing are key to building trust.

Shared Responsibility

Families are encouraged to contribute to the school's academic and extracurricular life.

Continuous Improvement

Parent feedback is actively sought and used to improve school services.



5 Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to foster meaningful collaboration between parents and the school community, encourage active parental participation in school activities and governance, ensure parents are informed and involved in their children's educational progress, and build a welcoming school environment that reflects the diverse cultural backgrounds of the school community.

6 Areas of Engagement

6.1 Communication

- Multichannel Approach: Use of email, school apps, newsletters, parent portals, and social media for regular updates.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: Held at least twice a year; additional meetings on request.
- Translation & Accessibility: Communications are available in German and English; Arabic support is offered when necessary.
- Annual Parent Survey: Collect feedback on satisfaction, teaching quality, and school environment.
- Using the GISAD channels of communication as described in the annex.

6.2 Participation in School Life

Parent Council (Elternbeirat): Elected body that represents parent interests, works closely with school leadership, and advises on school development.

Parents are invited to contribute to class activities, library support, field trips, cultural events, and sustainability projects (Volunteering). Parents are encouraged to attend and participate in school festivals, assemblies, and performances, e.g. Lantern festival, Winter market, Iftar Dinner, Flea market, Prom night (Abiball).

6.3 Educational Support

Parent workshops are organized on topics like curriculum understanding, digital safety, exam preparation, and bilingual education (e.g. at the regular coffee morning)

There is learning support collaboration. Engagement of parents in the development of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or Support Action Plans where applicable.

Guidance is provided to parents on how to support their child's independent learning routines.

6.4 Decision-Making & Governance

- Representation in Committees: Parents may be involved in advisory or strategic committees (e.g., finance, diversity & inclusion, strategic planning).



- Annual General Meeting (AGM): The school association presents reports and invites parental input on strategic directions.
- Active participation, e.g. in the prevention group

6.5 Parent Representation and Cooperation with School Governance

At German schools abroad, including GISAD, the organization of parents plays a formal and structured role. This includes the Parent Representative System (Elternvertretung), the Parent Council (Elternbeirat), and the Parent Council Regulations (Elternbeiratsordnung), which form the legal and procedural basis for parental involvement in school life.

The school-parent relationship is reciprocal: parents advise and support the school leadership, the school association board (Vorstand), and the members' association (Mitgliederverein). In turn, the school leadership and board participate in Parent Council meetings, offering regular updates, engaging in discussion, and seeking consultation. These interactions ensure transparent governance and inclusive school development, grounded in mutual trust and shared responsibility.



7 Special Considerations for the UAE and MENA Context

GISAD respects the cultural and religious values of the UAE and fosters interfaith and intercultural understanding. As many families may come from different school systems (German, IB, UK, US), GISAD provides orientation information for new parents to explain expectations, grading systems, and school philosophy. Engagement practices follow ADEK regulations and safeguarding policies.



8 Monitoring & Evaluation

This policy is reviewed annually by the school leadership and Parent Council.

Channels are maintained for ongoing feedback from parents (e.g., dynamic forums, surveys, open-door policies). Parent engagement is monitored through indicators like attendance at events where tickets are sold (Iftar Dinner, Abiball), volunteerism rates, and parent satisfaction.



9 Conclusion

At GISAD, we believe that strong parent-school partnerships empower students to thrive. Through this policy, we commit to fostering a culture of openness, collaboration, and mutual respect that honors our school's German heritage and international outlook.



10 References

This policy is aligned with the following legal and regulatory frameworks:

- Federal Decree Law No. (3) of 2016 Concerning Child Rights (Wadeema)
- Federal Law No. (29) of 2006 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties
- ADEK School Parent Engagement Policy (Version 1.1, 2024)
- ADEK School Inclusion Policy
- ADEK School Student Protection Policy
- ADEK School Digital Policy
- ADEK School Governance Policy
- ADEK School Records Policy
- ADEK School Wellbeing Policy
- ADEK School Health and Safety Policy
- ADEK School Extracurricular Activities and Events Policy
- Parent Council Regulations for German Schools Abroad (Elternbeiratsordnung) as recognized by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK)

Last editing of the document	
by	Deborah Cornelsen
on	03 October 2025



11 Annex

11.1 Annex I: Parent Code of Conduct

Schools and parents work in partnership to support children's learning. As part of fostering a positive and respectful environment, parents agree to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

1. Parents shall respect the vision, mission, and values of the school and support its learning environment.
2. Parents shall treat all members of the school community, including students, staff (e.g., security guards, cleaners), and other parents, with professionalism and respect.
3. Parents acknowledge that the education and wellbeing of each child is a shared responsibility between the school and parents. They commit to ensuring their children receive adequate rest, proper nutrition, and active engagement in learning activities.
4. Parents agree to model appropriate behavior and speech, addressing concerns in a professional manner. They will avoid raising their voices, using offensive language, or leveraging social status to intimidate others.
5. Parents will refrain from posting culturally insensitive or defamatory content about the school community on social media, in line with the ADEK School Cultural Consideration Policy.
6. Parents will work collaboratively with the school to clarify and resolve disputes peacefully.
7. Parents will guide their children's behavior to ensure it does not disrupt learning, lead to conflicts, or pose safety concerns.
8. Parents will adhere to the school's general policies and behave in a manner consistent with UAE cultural values while on school premises.
9. Parents will ensure regular attendance and punctuality of their children, avoid vacations during term time, and respect drop-off and pick-up timings.
10. Parents will support the school's academic honesty policies by ensuring their children's work reflects their own abilities and refraining from providing false information to the school.
11. Parents will respond promptly to teacher invitations for meetings and maintain constructive communication to support their children's progress.
12. Parents will cooperate with recommendations for additional learning support when it is necessary for their child's development.
13. Parents understand that non-adherence to these principles may result in restricted access to school premises.



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The code of conduct is aligned with the ADEK School Values and Ethics Policy, ADEK School Digital Policy, ADEK School Student Behavior Policy, ADEK School Inclusion Policy, ADEK School Cultural Consideration Policy, and ADEK School Student Administrative Affairs Policy.



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11.2 Annex II: Parent-School Agreement

The German International School Abu Dhabi (GISAD) has established a comprehensive set of policies to ensure a structured and supportive educational environment. Parents acknowledge and accept the full set of policies. The following policies are of particular importance:

- **Code of Conduct for Parents** when interacting with the school community, and
- the **Student Code of Conduct** (see Student Behaviour Policy) ensuring that their child adheres to it.
- All student and parent relevant policies, which include:
 1. **School Fees Regulations:** These outline the financial obligations of parents, including details on registration fees, tuition, payment schedules, and procedures for withdrawal.
 2. **Child Protection Policy:** GISAD is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all students. This policy details the measures in place to protect children from harm and ensure a safe learning environment.
 3. **Parent Communication and Complaint Procedures:** To foster transparent and effective communication between the school and families, this policy outlines the channels available for parents to express concerns or provide feedback.
 4. **Inclusion Concept:** GISAD embraces diversity and inclusivity, ensuring that all students, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities, have access to quality education tailored to their individual needs.
 5. **House Rules:** These guidelines establish the expected behaviour and conduct within the school premises, promoting a respectful and orderly environment for all members of the school community.
 6. **Coeducational Policy.**

For a comprehensive view of all policies, including those related to the Board of Trustees, parent representation, and more, please visit the ADEK and the GISAD Website. Parents are aware that non-commitment can lead to the termination of the contract or non-reenrolment of the student.

Date and signature parents

11.3 Annex III: Process Description Communication Channels

“Talking with each other about questions and concerns” Process Description Communication Channels

In line with our motto, we kindly ask you to proceed in the following order:

