

# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## Introduction

At Al Adhwa Private School, we are committed to sustainability by ensuring our actions today do not harm future generations. We aim to create a culture that cares for the environment and teaches students to be responsible global citizens. Through this policy, we will promote sustainability awareness, help students understand their environmental impact, and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## 1. Sustainability Strategy

### a. Sustainability Goals and Vision

The school is committed to creating a sustainable future by contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our sustainability strategy is aligned with the goals of the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), the Abu Dhabi Quality Conformity Council (QCC), and other relevant entities. We will focus on:

- Meeting the SDGs through practical actions.
- Aligning with the Abu Dhabi Green School Guidelines and e-Green Training standards.
- Defining our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) vision and commitment to environmental care.

### b. Sustainability Policies

We will develop policies that support our sustainability strategy, ensuring alignment with ADEK's wellbeing policies and integrating the needs of students with additional learning needs in line with the ADEK Inclusion Policy.

### c. Key Initiatives and Actions

Our school will implement key sustainability initiatives that empower students to become change agents, including community service projects focused on environmental wellbeing. These initiatives will accommodate the diverse needs of all students.

### d. Leadership Commitment and Standards

The school leadership is committed to adhering to ISO 14000 standards to ensure effective environmental management.

### e. Monitoring and Evaluation

We will regularly measure and monitor the effectiveness of our sustainability strategy. This includes setting clear targets, reviewing progress, and making adjustments based on insights from evaluations.

**f. Resources and Community Engagement**

Our sustainability strategy will require the active engagement of local community members and partners to ensure its successful implementation.

**g. Sustainability Governance**

A Sustainability Committee will be appointed to oversee the development and implementation of the sustainability strategy and associated policies. The committee will:

- Monitor the progress of sustainability goals and ensure adherence to relevant targets.
- Regularly review and update the sustainability strategy based on insights from monitoring and evaluations.
- Ensure that the sustainability strategy is inclusive and considers the needs of students with additional learning needs.
- Ensure compliance with all ADEK wellbeing policies.

**2. Integration of Sustainability and Environmental Wellbeing**

**a. Curriculum Integration**

The school integrates sustainability principles into the curriculum across all grades through various subjects. This includes promoting environmental awareness, conservation, and sustainable practices through educational programs, projects, and extracurricular activities. We aim to minimize the use of nonrenewable and environmentally harmful resources. Practical learning experiences like switching off lights, gardening, rainwater harvesting, waste management, recycling, and energy conservation are implemented on school grounds as real-world teaching opportunities.

**b. Psychological Environment**

We have designated wellness spaces within the school that promote calmness and a connection to the natural environment. These spaces are designed to ensure good air quality, access to outdoor spaces, natural light, and biophilic design, in line with the ADEK Student Mental Health Policy.

**c. Physical Space**

Sustainability principles are integrated into our building design and construction, ensuring that we promote energy efficiency and environmental wellbeing in every aspect of the physical space.

**d. Energy Efficiency**

Our school follows building design requirements that prioritize energy-saving measures (Estidama), in compliance with the ADEK Buildings and Facilities Policy.

**e. Reuse of Uniforms**

Old uniforms that are still valid for the upcoming academic year are donated for second-hand use. These uniforms are sanitized and made available to parents through discounted resale or temporary loans.

**f. Reuse of Physical Resources**

We promote the reuse of physical resources, including books, learning materials, and devices. Used resources, if still valid for the next academic year, can be donated to the school for second-hand use. A plan for the reuse of resources will be in place within 5 years of the ADEK Sustainability Policy's effective date.

**g. Lost and Found Items**

At the end of each academic year, we develop a plan for the sustainable disposal of lost and found items. This includes donating items to charity, second-hand resale (following sanitization), or reuse within the school for projects or temporary needs.

**h. Responsible Food Consumption**

We encourage sustainable eating and sourcing practices, aligned with the ADEK Healthy Eating and Food Safety Policy.

**i. Sustainable Procurement**

Our procurement and contract processes are designed to promote sustainable practices, ensuring that we minimize our environmental impact.

**j. Safe Sustainable Transportation**

We raise awareness about the environmental impact of transportation and encourage sustainable options such as carpooling, walking, cycling, and the use of low-emission vehicles, where appropriate.

**k. Advocacy for “Zero Waste” at School Events**

We promote sustainable practices at school events by reducing food waste, encouraging recyclable packaging, and considering bulk purchases with compostable or recyclable wrapping.

**l. Sustainable Technologies**

We prioritize digital resources over printed materials when appropriate, and where applicable, we purchase refurbished electronic equipment to reduce energy consumption and the carbon footprint.

**m. Environmental Wellbeing Policies**

We develop additional policies, with feedback from the school community, to enforce environmental wellbeing. These policies align with our sustainability strategy and may include measures such as banning single-use plastics, promoting zero-waste lunches, and collecting recycled goods for school projects.

**3. Awareness of Sustainability Strategy and Policies**

**a. Awareness Promotion**

The school raises awareness of its sustainability strategy and policies among students, staff, and parents through events, newsletters, and programs, ensuring everyone is informed and engaged.

**b. Reward and Recognition**

The school will recognize and reward contributions to sustainability efforts to encourage a positive and motivating culture around sustainability within the community.

**4. Monitoring and Reviewing**

The Sustainability Policy at APS will be monitored by the dedicated Sustainability Committee.

**Ms. Amira Gafer Goraish**  
Al Adhwa Private School

