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#	Description of Changes	Rev. No	Date of Issue
1	First Issue	00	21 June 24

ICS Vision
The "School of Choice" inspiring, challenging and empowering a 21st century learning community through an ethical and innovative education system.

ICS Mission
Provide a safe, friendly learning environment where lifelong learners follow an international curriculum which promotes academic excellence and nurtures key values and competencies in our global minded, future leaders.

Introduction

The International Community School (ICS) is committed to delivering a curriculum that is broad, balanced, creative, and inclusive, promoting academic excellence and holistic development for all students. Our curriculum is designed to align with both national and international standards, including the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), ensuring that students are well-prepared for success in higher education and the global workforce. This policy is developed in accordance with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) regulations and reflects the specific needs and context of ICS.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the structure and implementation of the ICS curriculum, ensuring it provides:

- A high-quality education that supports students in becoming independent, collaborative learners who achieve their full potential.
- A curriculum that incorporates CCSS and NGSS standards, providing authentic learning experiences that meet world-class educational standards.
- A clear framework for compulsory and elective subjects, including a wide range of extracurricular activities that support students' interests, abilities, and career aspirations.
- Integration of UAE culture and national identity, equipping students with the skills and values necessary for contributing to nation-building and meeting national priorities.
- Defined roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved in curriculum implementation and management.

Definitions

Academic Plan
A comprehensive plan that outlines the academic focus of the school, including its mission, vision, core values, goals, teaching methods, instructional materials, curriculum content, timetables, policies, and accreditation or affiliation plans.

Accreditation
A quality assurance process where an external body evaluates a school to determine whether it meets rigorous educational standards.

Additional Learning Needs
Requirements for additional support or accommodations within the school setting for students with special educational needs, disabilities, or other barriers to learning.

Affiliation
A school's association with an external body that approves the school to offer specific external exams (e.g., Cambridge Education, CBSE).

Attainment
The level of academic achievement students reach on assessments, recorded as grades, scores, or levels.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
A set of academic standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy (ELA) that outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade level.

Compulsory Subjects/Courses
Mandatory subjects or courses required for the successful completion of a grade or year level.

Course
Organized units of study within a subject that meet educational requirements.

Cross-Curricular
An intentional effort to apply knowledge, skills, and concepts across multiple academic subjects simultaneously.

Curriculum
The intended, enacted, assessed, and learned academic content based on national standards, including the learning standards, objectives, and instructional materials used.

Curriculum Map
A description of the horizontal and vertical plan for a subject's educational standards, skills, and concepts taught over the academic year.

Educational Program
A teaching and learning framework organized to achieve specific learning objectives over a sustained period.

Equivalency
The process by which the UAE Ministry of Education officially endorses a secondary school certificate as equivalent to the UAE General Education Certificate (Al Thanawiya).

Examination Center
A location that provides students the opportunity to undertake board or pre-collegiate exams (e.g., ACT, AP, IB, GCSE).

Extracurricular Activities (ECA)
Organized activities that complement the school curriculum, including sports, clubs, competitions, performances, and field trips.

Learning Pathways
Specific courses, subjects, and learning experiences tailored to meet individual student interests, abilities, and aspirations.

Multilingual Learners
Students who are acquiring the language of instruction and require additional support to overcome language barriers.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
A set of research-based science standards that provide a framework for science education in the United States, focusing on core ideas, practices, and crosscutting concepts.

Progress
A student's academic improvement over time, comparing previous and current attainment levels.

Scope and Sequence
The breadth and depth of the curriculum and the order of content and skills to ensure prerequisite learning is mastered before progressing to the next level.

Subject
A specific field of study within the curriculum (e.g., Mathematics, Science, English).

UAE General Education Certificate (Shahadat Al-Thanawiya Al-Amma)
A certificate awarded upon the successful completion of UAE's general secondary education, covering grades 10, 11, and 12.

Units of Instruction
A well-defined portion of an instructional course focusing on specific learning outcomes and skills.

Yearly Overview
A curriculum map for one subject in one grade level over an academic year.

Roles and Responsibilities

School Principal
The Principal is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation, and monitoring of the curriculum. This includes ensuring that the curriculum aligns with ADEK regulations, CCSS, NGSS, and the school's mission and vision. The Principal also leads the Curriculum Committee and ensures that all instructional resources are appropriate and effective.

Curriculum Committee
The Curriculum Committee, chaired by the Principal, is responsible for reviewing and updating the curriculum to ensure it meets the educational needs of all students. The committee includes heads of departments, the CU Guidance Counselor, and teachers who collaborate to ensure curriculum coherence and alignment with standards.

Heads of Departments (HODs)
HODs are responsible for implementing the curriculum within their subject areas, ensuring alignment with CCSS, NGSS, and ADEK standards. They oversee lesson planning, assessment development, and resource selection to support effective teaching and learning.

Teachers
Teachers are responsible for delivering the curriculum in accordance with the school's academic plan. They create lesson plans that align with CCSS, NGSS, and ADEK standards, differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students, and assess student progress regularly.

CU Guidance Counselor
The CU Guidance Counselor plays a crucial role in supporting students' academic and career planning. They assist students in selecting courses that align with their career aspirations and ensure that students meet graduation and equivalency requirements.

Students
Students are expected to engage actively in their learning, complete assignments, and participate in assessments. They should take advantage of the opportunities provided by the curriculum to explore their interests and develop their skills.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to support their children's learning by staying informed about the curriculum, attending school events, and communicating regularly with teachers and school staff.

Academic Plan

The ICS Academic Plan is structured to provide a comprehensive and cohesive educational experience that aligns with CCSS, NGSS, and ADEK standards. The plan includes:

- A clear rationale for the curriculum, reflecting the school's educational philosophy and goals.
- Language of instruction primarily in English, with additional instruction in Arabic to support language proficiency and cultural understanding.
- Alignment with international standards, including CCSS for English and Mathematics, and NGSS for Science, ensuring high academic standards.
- Implementation of internal and external assessments in line with the ADEK Assessment Policy, CCSS, and NGSS standards.
- Structured progression within the curriculum, ensuring students are prepared to meet equivalency requirements, including the completion of compulsory subjects and elective courses with associated credit hours.
- Adaptations to meet the needs of students with a wide range of abilities, including those with additional learning needs and multilingual learners, in accordance with the ADEK Inclusion Policy.
- Provision of academic support, interventions, and guidance tailored to each student's needs, ensuring they achieve their full potential.

Curriculum Requirements

The ICS curriculum is designed to offer a broad range of curricular choices that cater to the diverse needs and interests of our students. This includes:

- **Approved Curriculum**: The curriculum is approved by ADEK and meets the requirements of the UAE Ministry of Education, ensuring it fulfills all national statutory requirements and standards.
- **Curricular Choices**: The curriculum offers a variety of multidisciplinary options, allowing students to explore subjects that align with their interests and career aspirations. This includes core subjects, elective courses, and specialized programs that reflect the diverse needs of the student body.
- **Curricular Pathways**: The curriculum provides clear pathways that lead to nationally and internationally recognized qualifications, ensuring students have the opportunity to pursue careers both in the UAE and abroad.

Subjects Taught

ICS offers a comprehensive range of subjects that align with CCSS, NGSS and ADEK standards. In addition, ICS offers AP and IB curriculum in high school. These subjects include:

- **Core Subjects**: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Arabic, which are compulsory for all students. The curriculum for these subjects is designed to meet the

requirements of CCSS and NGSS, ensuring that students develop the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed.

- **Elective Courses**: A wide range of elective courses is offered, including Physical Education, Arts, Music, ICT, and World Languages. These courses provide students with opportunities to explore their interests and develop additional skills.
- **UAE National Subjects**: Arabic Language, Islamic Studies, and UAE Social Studies are taught to promote a deep understanding of UAE culture and national identity, in compliance with ADEK and MoE requirements.

Curriculum Design and Implementation

The ICS curriculum is designed and implemented to provide a rigorous and coherent educational experience for all students. Key elements include:

- **Vertical and Horizontal Alignment**: The curriculum is vertically aligned across grade levels and horizontally aligned within grade levels, ensuring a seamless progression of learning outcomes.
- **Continuity and Spiral Curriculum**: The curriculum follows a spiral approach, where key concepts and skills are revisited at increasing levels of complexity, allowing students to build on their previous learning.
- **Comprehensive Subject Range**: The curriculum includes a wide range of subjects, each supported by rigorous assessments and high-quality learning resources. These subjects are designed to develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.
- **Resource Selection and Utilization**: All learning materials, including textbooks and digital resources, are carefully selected to align with the curriculum's learning outcomes. These resources are vetted in accordance with the ADEK Cultural Consideration Policy.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**: The curriculum is regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure it meets educational standards and supports student achievement. This includes annual reviews and adjustments based on student outcomes and feedback.

Integration of UAE National Priorities

ICS integrates UAE national priorities into the curriculum, ensuring that students receive a world-class education while fostering a deep respect for UAE culture and national identity. This is achieved through:

- **High-Quality Teaching**: The curriculum emphasizes high-quality teaching that is mindful of cultural values and national identity. This includes promoting the Arabic curriculum and ensuring compliance with MoE compulsory subjects.
- **Breadth and Balance**: The curriculum provides a broad and balanced learning environment, offering flexibility in learning pathways and maximum opportunities for students to engage in meaningful educational experiences.
- **Cross-Curricular Links**: The curriculum includes intentional cross-curricular links that enhance the learning experience, making connections between subjects to deepen students' understanding and application of knowledge.

Promotion of 21st Century Skills

ICS's curriculum is designed to develop the essential skills needed for success in the 21st century. This includes:

- **Character and Collaboration**: The curriculum fosters character development, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills. These skills are integrated into all aspects of the curriculum, preparing students to be effective leaders and contributors in a global society.
- **Innovation and Digital Literacy**: The curriculum incorporates opportunities for students to engage in innovative activities, including the use of digital tools and technologies. This prepares students to navigate and contribute to the rapidly evolving digital world.
- **Holistic Wellbeing**: The curriculum promotes the holistic wellbeing of students, integrating social-emotional learning, mindfulness, and healthy lifestyle practices. This is aligned with the ADEK Wellbeing Policy, ensuring students are supported in their mental, emotional, and physical health.

Sustainability and Environmental Education

ICS is dedicated to incorporating sustainability principles into the curriculum across all grade levels. This includes:

- **Sustainability Goals**: The curriculum integrates sustainability goals aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the initiatives of Abu Dhabi's Environmental Agency. Students are engaged in learning activities that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- **Practical Application**: Students participate in projects and initiatives that apply sustainability principles in real-world contexts, fostering a sense of responsibility and commitment to sustainable practices.

Extracurricular Activities and Enrichment

ICS offers a wide range of extracurricular activities that complement the formal curriculum, enhancing students' academic and personal development. This includes:

- **Diverse Enrichment Programs**: The extracurricular program includes a variety of activities, such as sports, arts, cultural clubs, and academic competitions. These activities provide students with opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills, and engage in social and cultural experiences.
- **Creativity and Innovation**: The curriculum encourages creativity and innovation through enterprise projects, social contributions, and the integration of technology. Students are motivated to think critically and creatively, applying their knowledge in innovative ways.

Adaptation for All Student Groups

ICS is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment that accommodates the educational needs of all students. This includes:

- **Support for Students with Additional Learning Needs**: The curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of students with additional learning needs, including those with disabilities and multilingual learners. This ensures that all students have access to the curriculum and can achieve their full potential.
- **Compliance with ADEK Compulsory MoE Subjects**: The school ensures that all ADEK compulsory MoE subjects are taught in accordance with the minimum instructional time requirements. No exemptions are granted, and the curriculum is adjusted to accommodate all students' needs to meet equivalency requirements.

Compliance and Legal Accountability

ICS is fully committed to adhering to all ADEK regulations related to the curriculum. This policy is effective from the Academic Year 2024/25, with full compliance required by AY 2025/26. The compliance measures include:

- **Legal Accountability**: Non-compliance with this policy will result in legal accountability and the enforcement of penalties as stipulated by ADEK. The school is prepared to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the curriculum requirements.
- **ADEK's Right to Intervene**: ADEK reserves the right to intervene if the school is found to be in violation of its obligations. This could include direct oversight or other corrective measures to ensure the school meets its curriculum obligations.

Linked Policies

This Curriculum Policy is interconnected with several other ICS and ADEK policies, which collectively ensure a comprehensive approach to student education and school operations. These linked policies include:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Licensing Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Academic Support Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Extracurricular Activities and Events Policy