Approved by: Principal	Date: 30 January 2026

Last reviewed on:	Date: 26 January 2026

Next review due:	Date: 22 June 2026

#	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

Sustainability at ICS is a key element of collective wellbeing, ensuring that we "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (United Nations, 1987). Our commitment is to foster a culture that prioritizes collective care for the environment while developing students into responsible global citizens, equipped to contribute positively to the world and aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This policy outlines ICS's dedication to promoting and fostering sustainability awareness throughout our school community, empowering students to play an active role in ensuring a sustainable future.

Purpose

- Ensure that ICS has a clear, focused strategy to promote sustainability.
- Engage our community in understanding and supporting ICS's sustainability policies.
- Equip ICS students and staff with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage resources wisely and understand their role in safeguarding the future of our planet.
- Establish a system for ICS to monitor and improve the effectiveness of our sustainability initiatives continually.
- Encourage continuous improvement in environmental wellbeing across all facets of ICS operations.

Definitions

Wellbeing: A positive state experienced by individuals and societies that includes the ability to contribute to the world with meaning and purpose. At ICS, wellbeing refers to an individual's capacity to function well, cope with stress, work productively, and contribute positively to the school and community.

Biophilic Design: The use of design strategies at ICS to connect students and staff with nature. This includes features such as natural light, plants, and materials that enhance both wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

Additional Learning Needs: Refers to individual students who require additional support, accommodations, or modifications due to specific needs. This can include students with special educational needs or disabilities, ensuring they can fully access and benefit from ICS's sustainability initiatives.

Wellness Space: A designated area at ICS focused on the promotion of calmness and mental health. These spaces are intended to provide students with opportunities to relax and recuperate, in alignment with ICS's commitment to emotional wellbeing.

Sustainability: At ICS, sustainability means managing the resources of the school to ensure that present needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations. This includes practices that protect the environment, promote social responsibility, and develop student awareness of global ecological challenges.

ICS Sustainability Strategy

As part of our overall wellbeing strategy, ICS will develop a sustainability strategy that includes:

- A clear statement of ICS's sustainability goals and vision, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Abu Dhabi's local environmental guidelines, and promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) within the ICS community with a focus on long-term sustainable practices.
    - Aligned to QCC, ADG, -Green Schools

- Sustainability policies that support this strategy, ensuring they are in line with ICS values and ADEK guidelines.
- Initiatives and action plans that include students of all learning abilities and ensure the integration of sustainability with ICS's inclusive environment.
- Empowering ICS students to be agents of change, focusing on service learning and community involvement in sustainability efforts.
- Commitment to ISO 14000 standards to maintain high environmental performance.
- A framework for measuring and monitoring sustainability efforts, with regular evaluations and updates to our strategies.
- Engagement of local community members and partners to deliver the sustainability strategy.

ICS Sustainability Governance

ICS will appoint a Sustainability Committee or Lead to oversee the school's sustainability strategy. Their responsibilities will include:

- Overseeing the development and implementation of the school's sustainability strategy, including associated policies and initiatives.
- Conducting an annual review of the sustainability strategy and its implementation, which includes:
    - Monitoring progress against the goals, targets, and milestones outlined in the strategy.
    - Overseeing the design, delivery, and analysis of sustainability monitoring and evaluation measures.
    - Developing action plans based on insights from monitoring and evaluation.
    - Updating the sustainability strategy and/or policies based on evaluation findings.
- Ensuring that the sustainability strategy and associated wellbeing policies consider the abilities, needs, and engagement of students with additional learning needs, in line with the ADEK Inclusion Policy.
- Ensuring compliance with relevant ADEK wellbeing policies.

Integration of Sustainability and Environmental Wellbeing

Curriculum Integration

ICS will integrate sustainability into the curriculum from Kindergarten through Grade 12, incorporating environmental awareness and conservation into all subjects. Students will engage in projects such as recycling, energy conservation, and waste management, using the school as a learning laboratory for sustainability.

Integration of Sustainability and Environmental Wellbeing

- **Curriculum Integration**:
    - ICS will integrate sustainability principles across all grades and subjects.
    - Promote environmental awareness, conservation, and sustainable practices through educational programs, projects, and extracurricular activities to minimize the use of non-renewable and environmentally unfriendly resources.

  - Engage students in practical learning experiences such as switching off lights, gardening, rainwater harvesting, waste management, recycling, and energy conservation using the school grounds as learning opportunities.
- **Psychological Environment**:
  - Identify and establish wellness spaces within the school that promote calmness, wellness, and a connection to nature through strategies that encourage good air quality, access to outdoor spaces, natural light, and biophilic design, in alignment with the ADEK Student Mental Health Policy.
- **Physical Space**:
  - Promote sustainability principles in building design and construction phases at ICS.
- **Energy Efficiency**:
  - Abide by building design requirements that mandate effective energy-saving measures (Estidama), in alignment with the ADEK Buildings and Facilities Policy.
- **Reuse of Uniforms**:
  - Allow for old uniforms, still valid for the upcoming academic year, to be donated for second-hand use through discounted resale or temporary loans.
  - Ensure uniforms are washed and sanitized prior to resale or loan and provide information to parents on how to acquire them.
- **Reuse of Physical Resources**:
  - Promote the donation of used physical resources (books, learning materials, devices) if still valid for the upcoming academic year for second-hand use through discounted resale or temporary loans.
  - For MoE-issued books and resources, adhere to MoE requirements.
  - Schools with procurement restrictions are exempt, but they shall develop a plan for reusing second-hand resources within five years as part of their sustainability strategy.
- **Lost and Found Items**:
  - Develop a plan for sustainable disposal of lost and found items at the end of every academic year, including donations to charities, second-hand resale (after sanitization), or reuse within the school (e.g., maker space projects, costumes, temporary loans for forgotten PE kits).
- **Responsible Food Consumption**:
  - Encourage sustainable eating and sourcing practices in line with the ADEK Healthy Eating and Food Safety Policy.
- **Sustainable Procurement**:
  - Promote sustainable practices in procurement and contract processes.
- **Safe Sustainable Transportation**:
  - Raise awareness of the environmental impact of transportation and encourage sustainable transportation options such as low-emission vehicles, carpooling, walking, and cycling, as appropriate for the school's location.
- **Advocacy for "Zero Waste" at School Events**:
  - Encourage the school community (students, parents, staff) to reduce waste at school events by monitoring food amounts, reducing food waste, encouraging recyclable packaging, and considering bulk purchases with compostable or recyclable wrapping for reuse.

- **Sustainable Technologies**:
    - Encourage a green digital footprint by prioritizing digital over printed resources when appropriate and promoting the purchase of refurbished electronic equipment (e.g., computers, printers, laptops), reducing energy consumption and carbon footprints.
- **Environmental Wellbeing Policies**:
    - Develop, with feedback from the school community, additional policies that promote environmental wellbeing, aligned with the school's sustainability strategy (e.g., banning single-use plastics, zero-waste lunches and snacks, collecting recycled goods for projects, etc.).

Awareness of Sustainability Strategy and Policies

- **Awareness Promotion**
    - ICS will actively promote awareness of our sustainability strategy through regular communications with students, staff, parents, and the broader school community, ensuring transparency and encouraging engagement.
- **Reward and Recognition**
    - ICS will develop a reward and recognition program to honor contributions to sustainability efforts, fostering a culture of accountability and environmental responsibility within the ICS community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring Sustainability**
    - ICS will monitor and evaluate the progress of its sustainability efforts regularly. This includes incorporating sustainability feedback into the school's annual wellbeing survey and updating our strategy as needed.
- **Annual Evaluation**
    - ICS will participate in any ADEK-mandated evaluations and continually align our practices with ISO 14000 standards for environmental management.

Compliance

Effective Date

This policy is effective at the start of the 2024/25 academic year. ICS aims for full compliance by the 2025/26 academic year.

Legal Accountability

Failure to comply with this policy will result in accountability measures as per ADEK regulations.

Linked Policies

- Health and Safety Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Student Mental Health Policy
- Wellbeing Policy
- Healthy Eating and Food Safety Policy
- Physical Education and School Sports Policy
- Student Behavior Policy
- Student Protection Policy
- Staff Wellbeing Policy