

**School Vision**

Become an institution of innovative education for a society of knowledge and global pioneering.

**School Mission**

To equip its graduates with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and a high awareness of themselves, their community and the world. It works to ensure they have the ability to make the right decisions, are actively responsible and have essential world-class skills that allow them to pursue their academic and professional goals.



مدرسة رويال الامريكية  
ROYAL AMERICAN SCHOOL

# Curriculum Policy 2025-2026

This policy will form part of all new staff induction

And appear on the school website

Review date August 2025

This policy has been read and adopted by the Royal American School Board of Governors and Principal:

#### School Vision

Become an institution of innovative education for a society of knowledge and global pioneering.

#### School Mission

To equip its graduates with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and a high awareness of themselves, their community and the world. It works to ensure they have the ability to make the right decisions, are actively responsible and have essential world-class skills that allow them to pursue their academic and professional goals.

## PURPOSE

- The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear framework for the design, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of the curriculum at Royal American School. The policy ensures alignment with the UAE National Agenda priorities, ADEK requirements, and Cognia Performance Standards, while supporting students' holistic growth and preparing them for success in higher education and global citizenship. To ensure curriculum coverage and delivery is consistent, challenging, and culturally responsive.

## Scope

This policy applies to:

- All academic and non-academic programs (KG–Grade 12).
- All teaching and learning activities, assessments, and co-curricular programs. All staff, faculty, and administrators are responsible for curriculum planning and delivery.

## Definitions

- **Curriculum:** The total planned learning experiences including academic subjects, enrichment, extracurricular programs, and character education.
- **Cognia Standards:** A set of performance standards that focus on leadership, learning, and resources to ensure continuous school improvement.
- **UAE National Agenda:** The strategic framework guiding schools toward excellence in student achievement, innovation, identity, and wellbeing.

## Alignment with ADEK Requirements

RAS's curriculum is explicitly designed to meet and exceed ADEK's inspection framework standards, particularly in the following domains

| Domain 1                                                                               | Domain 2                                                                                | Domain 3                                                                                             | Domain 4                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Students' Achievement                                                                  | Students' Personal and Social Development                                               | Teaching and Assessment                                                                              | Curriculum                                                                               |
| Curriculum ensures progression and challenges all students to achieve their potential. | Curriculum actively promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, environmental awareness, and | Curriculum provides the basis for effective teaching strategies and a variety of assessment methods. | The curriculum itself is broad, balanced, relevant, and adapted to meet students' needs. |

#### School Vision

Become an institution of innovative education for a society of knowledge and global pioneering.

#### School Mission

To equip its graduates with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and a high awareness of themselves, their community and the world. It works to ensure they have the ability to make the right decisions, are actively responsible and have essential world-class skills that allow them to pursue their academic and professional goals.

moral education,  
including UAE values.

## Curriculum Design

- At Royal American School, we offer an adaptive, rigorous, and cohesive curriculum that is rooted in a clear rationale, aligning with our identity as an American International School and the UAE's National Vision.
- Our comprehensive curriculum is broad and balanced, addressing the diverse needs of each child. It is innovative, relevant, and tailored to meet the individual needs of all learners through varied experiences that enhance their knowledge, understanding, and skills across subject areas.
- The culturally responsive curriculum is designed to nurture critical thinking, communication, social, research, and self-management skills, fostering lifelong independent learners.
- We emphasize conceptual and cross-curricular connections, ensuring the practical application of knowledge in real-world scenarios and promoting deeper understanding across disciplines.
- Our curriculum prepares students for success in the next grade level and beyond, with regular horizontal and vertical reviews to support their continuous progress, while also aligning with local and national priorities.

## Curriculum Design

**1. Core Instructional Model:** RAS delivers an American curriculum based on:

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for science.
- AERO Standards (American Education Reaches Out) for Social Studies and other subjects, where applicable.
- A standards-based scope and sequence for all other subjects.

**2. Mandatory ADEK Subjects :** in full compliance with ADEK regulations, the following subjects are mandatory for all eligible students:

- Arabic Language: Provided for all students (Arabic speakers and non-Arabic speakers) as per the prescribed time allocation and MOE/ADEK guidelines.
- Islamic Studies: Provided for all Muslim students as per the prescribed time allocation and MOE/ADEK guidelines.
- UAE Social Studies / Moral Education: Integrated into the curriculum for all grade levels to foster an understanding and appreciation of UAE heritage, culture, values, and national identity.

**3. Curriculum Breadth:** The curriculum at RAS includes:

#### School Vision

Become an institution of innovative education for a society of knowledge and global pioneering.

#### School Mission

To equip its graduates with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and a high awareness of themselves, their community and the world. It works to ensure they have the ability to make the right decisions, are actively responsible and have essential world-class skills that allow them to pursue their academic and professional goals.

- Core Subjects: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies.
- Specialist Subjects: Arabic Language, Islamic Studies, Physical Education, Art, Music, Technology, and Library Skills.
- Cross-Curricular Priorities:
  - STEM/STEAM Education: Integrated projects that combine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.
  - Environmental Sustainability: Education for sustainable development is woven into relevant subjects.
  - Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.
  - Digital Literacy: Responsible and effective use of technology for learning.
  - Wellbeing: Programs that support students' social and emotional health

## CURRICULUM ADAPTATION

- The Royal American School curriculum is thoughtfully designed and continuously adapted to engage and challenge students based on their academic abilities, goals, and interests.
- Tailored modifications ensure that all students are provided with stimulating learning opportunities to help them achieve their personal and academic objectives. Our curriculum empowers teachers to be innovative, flexible, and creative in meeting the diverse needs of students through engaging, varied, and collaborative lessons both in and outside the classroom.
- Students are offered multiple learning approaches, whether independently, in pairs, or in groups, and are encouraged to showcase their learning in a variety of ways. Additionally, a wide range of extracurricular activities enhances and extends learning in different contexts, sparking curiosity, enjoyment, and active participation within a broader community
- RAS is committed to inclusion. Our curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including:
  - Students of Determination (Students with Special Educational Needs): Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and accommodations.
  - Gifted and Talented Students: Differentiation and enrichment opportunities.

## Curriculum Justification

### Early Years: KG1 & KG2

Our holistic, hands-on, and individualized curriculum is based on common core CCSS and NGCC Standards. Curriculum is modified to include links to UAE culture and heritage. The curriculum is designed to build children's confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills through hands-on, project-based investigations. The units and lessons promote discovery and inquiry with opportunities for children to develop their academic and social-emotional skills with rich, interactive investigations of relevant and interesting topics both in the classroom and beyond. Teachers utilize student interests and questions to modify the curriculum to support high levels of student engagement and support students in meeting their own personal and academic goals. The curriculum is enhanced by special events, trips, and activities.

### Elementary - Grades 1-5

**School Vision**

Become an institution of innovative education for a society of knowledge and global pioneering.

**School Mission**

To equip its graduates with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and a high awareness of themselves, their community and the world. It works to ensure they have the ability to make the right decisions, are actively responsible and have essential world-class skills that allow them to pursue their academic and professional goals.

Our transdisciplinary, inquiry-based, and conceptual curriculum is based on common core , NGSS and MoE Standards. Curriculum is modified to include links to UAE culture and heritage. The curriculum provides broad and balanced lessons across subject areas and is designed to develop the foundational skills of reading, writing, and math while teaching students how to apply these skills to access knowledge across the curriculum. The student-centered approach takes into consideration students' prior learning, needs, interests, and wonderings in order to deliver engaging and challenging lessons for all students. Students are expected to become more independent learners, taking responsibility for their own learning through the development of thinking, communication, social, research, and self-management skills. Our curriculum provides opportunities for learning through creative, physical, and practical experiences that develop students' knowledge, skills, and understandings. There are also opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom through special events, trips, and activities.

## **Middle School - Grades 6-8**

Our comprehensive, inclusive, and well-rounded curriculum is grounded in the common core , NGSS and MoE Standards, while also incorporating connections to UAE culture and heritage. In Middle School, students are introduced to a wide range of subjects designed to help them discover their strengths, interests, and aspirations, while also preparing them for various high school pathways. Teachers consider the unique needs, interests, and goals of each student, tailoring the curriculum to ensure it is both engaging and challenging for all learners. The curriculum offers opportunities for hands-on, creative, and physical learning experiences that enhance students' knowledge, skills, and understanding. Throughout the program, students participate in cross-curricular and conceptual learning within meaningful and engaging contexts. A key focus is on fostering independent learning, emphasizing the development of critical thinking, communication, social, research, and self-management skills. Additionally, students have the chance to expand their learning beyond the classroom through special events, field trips, lectures, and activities

## **High School - Grades 9-12**

- Our broad, balanced, and rigorous American curriculum is based on common core, NGSS Standards, with modifications to incorporate connections to UAE culture and heritage. The curriculum is designed to offer students choice and flexibility, supporting their academic and personal goals for high school, university, and beyond. Course development and recommended pathways ensure smooth progression of learning throughout the high school years. The curriculum includes a variety of creative, physical, and practical experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, aimed at strengthening students' knowledge, skills, and understanding. Throughout the program, students engage in cross-curricular learning within meaningful and engaging contexts, while developing independent learning through the enhancement of critical thinking, communication, social, research, and self-management skills.
- Royal American School's Earth & Space Science program is designed to align with the UAE National Space Program and Vision 2031, building students' knowledge in astronomy, planetary science, satellites, and climate science. It emphasizes critical thinking, hands-on experiments, and space-related projects, while encouraging careers in aerospace, engineering, and science. The curriculum covers Earth systems and sustainability, space exploration, UAE space missions, satellite and aerospace technology, and student-led research and innovation projects, including participation in competitions and global science fairs.
- To provide additional challenge and rigor to students within the American High School Track, Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available to students. AP courses enable willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. They are modeled after comparable introductory level university courses and culminate in a standardized college-level assessment or AP Exam. The successful completion of AP classes provides students with improved prospects for college admission and success. The school offers four subjects in AP (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics AB & BC , Physics)

## Curriculum review cycle and development

The ongoing and systematic review of the curriculum is crucial for student success. Throughout the year, teachers engage in reflective practices to assess the effectiveness and alignment of our curriculum both vertically and horizontally. Additionally, we are committed to conducting a thorough and detailed review of each subject area's curriculum on a regular basis to ensure that our students receive the highest quality education. All members of the teaching and leadership teams should be actively involved in the review, development, implementation, refinement, and evaluation of the curriculum. The stages of the RAS Curriculum Review Cycle are as follows:

### 1. Review Cycle

The curriculum undergoes a formal review on an annual basis led by the Academic Leadership Team and department heads. This review considers:

- Student achievement data.
- Teacher feedback.
- Updates to ADEK and home country standards.
- Emerging educational research and best practices.

### 2. Professional Development

Ongoing professional development is provided to ensure all teaching staff are effectively implementing the curriculum and are trained in relevant pedagogical approaches and ADEK expectations.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- School Principal / Head of Academics: Overall responsibility for curriculum implementation and compliance.
- Heads of Department / Curriculum Coordinators: Lead the development, mapping, and review of their subject areas.
- Teachers: Responsible for the daily implementation of the curriculum, lesson planning, and assessment.

## Parental and Community Involvement

RAS believes in a strong partnership with parents and the community. We communicate our curriculum through:

- Parent orientation sessions.
- School website and handbook.
- Curriculum newsletters and workshops.
- Inviting community members to share expertise related to UAE culture and other learning areas.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy and the curriculum it governs is monitored through:

- ADEK Inspection Reports.
- Internal school performance data.
- Annual parent and student satisfaction surveys.

**This policy has been developed in full alignment with the guidelines and framework provided by the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK).**