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POLICY TITLE:	Educational Risk Policy
DEPARTMENT:	Academics

Policy Contact: Health & Safety Officer	Issue Date: 24/03/2024
School: Al Ain Juniors School	Revision Date: 28/06/2027
Reference No: AJS_CCP_2026-2027	Version No: 2.1

Purpose:

The purpose of this Educational Risk Policy is to provide a structured framework for identifying, assessing, and mitigating educational risks within Al Ain Juniors School. This policy is based on the **School Policy on Educational Risk** issued by the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK). As a K-12 / FS2-Year 13 institution affiliated with both the CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) and Cambridge International Examination systems, Al Ain Juniors School is committed to ensuring that educational risks are proactively managed to safeguard the well-being of students, staff, and the broader school community.

Scope:

This policy applies to all staff, students, and stakeholders of Al Ain Juniors School. It encompasses academic, operational, safety, technological, and reputational risks associated with the educational environment, including both curricular and extracurricular activities.

Definition of Educational Risk:

Educational risk refers to any situation, event, or process that could potentially affect the ability of the school to provide quality education, compromise student safety, hinder academic performance, or negatively impact the school's reputation or operations. This includes risks related to academic delivery, staff competency, student well-being, infrastructure, and external factors such as compliance with regulatory requirements.

Categories of Educational Risks:

- **Academic Risks**: Risks related to the delivery of the curriculum, assessment integrity, and academic performance. This includes issues such as inadequate teaching methods, misalignment with CBSE or Cambridge curriculum requirements, poor student outcomes, and challenges in assessment practices.
- **Operational Risks**: Risks related to the day-to-day functioning of the school. This includes financial risks, staffing shortages, infrastructure failures, and logistical challenges.
- **Health and Safety Risks**: Risks related to the physical and emotional well-being of students and staff. This includes risks from accidents, health emergencies, unsafe facilities, and non-compliance with health regulations.
- **Technological Risks**: Risks associated with the use of technology in teaching, learning, and administrative operations. This includes data security breaches, inappropriate use of technology, and insufficient infrastructure to support digital learning.
- **Compliance and Regulatory Risks**: Risks arising from non-compliance with regulations set forth by ADEK, CBSE, Cambridge, and local authorities. This includes failure to meet curriculum standards, licensing requirements, or other legal obligations.

- **Reputational Risks**: Risks that could harm the public perception of the school, such as complaints from parents or students, poor academic results, or incidents of misconduct.

Risk Identification and Assessment:

Risk Identification
The school will employ a proactive approach to identifying potential risks. This will be done through regular risk assessments, consultations with staff, students, and parents, and ongoing evaluation of the school's activities. Risk identification will include both internal and external factors that may impact the school's ability to provide quality education.

Risk Assessment
Once identified, risks will be assessed based on their likelihood and potential impact on the school. Risks will be classified into three categories: High, Medium, and Low. The likelihood will be evaluated using a scale from unlikely to likely, and the impact will be evaluated in terms of how it may affect the school's operations, reputation, or student outcomes.

Regular Monitoring
Educational risks will be continuously monitored and reviewed, particularly during key times such as the start of the academic year, after significant school events, and during regulatory assessments.

Risk Mitigation and Management:

Academic Risk Mitigation
The school will:

- Ensure that the curriculum is aligned with CBSE and Cambridge requirements and is regularly reviewed for relevancy and quality.
- Provide continuous professional development (CPD) for teachers to enhance pedagogical skills and stay updated on best practices.
- Implement robust assessment strategies that align with both formative and summative assessment standards.
- Monitor student performance and provide remedial support where necessary.

Operational Risk Mitigation
The school will:

Develop and maintain an operational plan that includes contingency strategies for financial, staffing, and logistical challenges.

Conduct regular health and safety audits to ensure the school's infrastructure is safe and well-maintained.

Ensure appropriate staffing levels to maintain educational standards and prevent burnout or gaps in teaching.

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Health and Safety Risk Mitigation
The school will:

- Maintain a safe and healthy learning environment, adhering to local health and safety regulations.
- Train staff in first aid, emergency response, and child protection procedures.
- Ensure that students and staff have access to mental health support and counseling services.
- Develop and regularly review emergency evacuation procedures, fire drills, and disaster preparedness plans.

Technological Risk Mitigation
The school will:

- Invest in secure and reliable technology infrastructure to support digital learning and administrative functions.
- Implement cybersecurity measures, including regular data backups, antivirus software, and access controls.
- Provide training for students and staff on responsible digital usage, online safety, and data privacy.

Compliance and Regulatory Risk Mitigation
The school will:

- Regularly review and ensure compliance with ADEK, CBSE, Cambridge, and UAE regulatory requirements.
- Keep abreast of any changes in regulations and adapt policies and practices accordingly.
- Collaborate with external auditors and regulators to ensure transparency and compliance.

Reputational Risk Mitigation
The school will:

- Foster positive relationships with students, parents, staff, and the wider community.
- Respond promptly and professionally to complaints or concerns raised by any stakeholders.
- Ensure effective communication strategies are in place to highlight the school's achievements and address any issues proactively.

Roles and Responsibilities:

School Leadership Team
The school leadership team, including the Principal, Vice-Principals, and Heads of Departments, will be responsible for overseeing the risk management process, ensuring that risks are identified, assessed, and mitigated in a timely and effective manner.

Risk Management Committee
A Risk Management Committee will be established to ensure that risks are regularly reviewed and that appropriate risk management strategies are implemented. The committee will include members from various departments (academic, administrative, health and safety, IT, etc.) to provide a holistic approach to risk management.

Teachers and Staff
All staff members will be responsible for adhering to the risk mitigation measures set out by the school and reporting any potential risks they encounter. Teachers will be trained to identify academic risks and provide support to students facing challenges.

Students and Parents
Students and parents will be encouraged to report any concerns related to educational risks, including safety or well-being issues, to the relevant staff members. Parents will also be informed about the school's risk management processes and how they can assist in mitigating risks.

Reporting and Documentation:

Incident Reporting
All incidents, accidents, or breaches in school policy must be reported promptly to the relevant authorities within the school. A detailed report will be made and reviewed to determine if any risks were triggered or if there are any improvements needed.

Regular Reporting to Stakeholders
The school leadership will report on the status of risk management efforts to parents and the wider community through newsletters, parent meetings, and other communication channels. This ensures transparency and demonstrates the school's commitment to providing a safe and high-quality learning environment.

Review and Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Any changes in the educational landscape, ADEK guidelines, or the needs of the school community will be considered during the review. The school will assess the effectiveness of risk mitigation strategies through feedback from staff, students, and parents, as well as internal audits and assessments.

Version no.	Description of change	Owner	Date of Issue
1.0	Adoption of Policy	Principal	24.3.2024
2.0	Significant changes to align more closely ADEK School Policy On Cultural Consideration	Principal	24.6.2024
3.0	Review	H & S Officer	8.3.2025