



Virginia International Private School

ENGAGE INSPIRE INNOVATE

CREATING A BETTER WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

Sustainability Policy (2025-2026)



☎ 02 555 4383 ✉ info@virginiashool.ae
🌐 www.virginiashool.ae



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Rationale

At Virginia International Private School (VIPS), sustainability is a core value that supports our mission to develop responsible global citizens. This policy ensures a clear, focused strategy to embed sustainable practices across all aspects of school life.

We are committed to raising awareness of our sustainability efforts within the entire school community and promoting active participation from students, staff, and families. By integrating sustainability into our curriculum and daily practices, we equip students and staff with the knowledge and skills to use resources wisely and care for the planet.

VIPS will regularly monitor and evaluate progress to ensure the effective implementation of our sustainability strategy. We are also dedicated to continuous improvement, seeking new ways to enhance our environmental performance and promote long-term wellbeing.

This policy reflects our responsibility to model and lead sustainable change—within our school and beyond.

1. Aims

1.1 Vision and Goals: VIPS is committed to a sustainability strategy that:

- Aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 of SDG, promoting environmental responsibility through education.
- Complies with the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC) standards, and Abu Dhabi Guideline for Green Schools.
- Defines Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as our school-wide commitment to responsible resource use, environmental care, and community service.
- At Virginia International Private School, our sustainability vision is grounded in our core REACH values of Respect, Excellence, Aspiration, Courage, and Honesty. We believe that educating students for a sustainable future is not only a responsibility, but a reflection of our values in action.
- We promote Respect for the environment, each other, and future generations by embedding sustainability into daily school life.
- We pursue Excellence by aligning our practices with international standards such as ISO 14000 and ADEK's sustainability framework.
- We foster Aspiration by encouraging students to become innovative global citizens and leaders of environmental change.

- We cultivate Courage by empowering the school community to take bold, responsible action toward environmental improvement.
- We uphold Honesty through transparency, reflection, and accountability in all our sustainability initiatives.

This vision shapes our commitment to building a school culture where sustainability is integrated into every aspect of teaching, learning, leadership, and community engagement. (Hajar)

1.2 Policy Framework

Our sustainability strategy includes:

- Clear guidelines on waste reduction, energy conservation, sustainable procurement, and eco-friendly school operations.
- Inclusive action plans addressing the needs of students of determination, aligned with the ADEK School Inclusion Policy.

Inclusive action plans that address the needs of **students of determination** and those with additional learning needs, in alignment with the **ADEK School Inclusion Policy**.

- Student-led initiatives promoting community engagement and environmental awareness.
Student-led initiatives that promote community engagement, environmental awareness, and real-world learning experiences.
- Leadership commitment to **ISO 14000 Environmental Management Standards**.
- Mechanisms to monitor, evaluate, and revise our strategy using data-driven methods.

Mechanisms to **monitor, evaluate**, and revise the strategy using data-driven tools **and annual reviews**.

1.3 Community Engagement

VIPS will partner with families, local entities, and environmental organizations to promote awareness and support active participation in sustainability programs. These partnerships will support resource access, volunteer opportunities, and shared initiatives that reinforce environmental wellbeing.

2. Sustainability Governance

VIPS has established a **Sustainability Committee**, led by a designated Sustainability Lead, with the following responsibilities:

- Oversee implementation, evaluation, and refinement of the sustainability strategy and its associated initiatives.

- Conduct annual reviews, track milestones, and develop responsive action plans in response to evaluation outcomes
- Ensure all sustainability efforts consider students with additional learning needs.
- Ensure alignment with ADEK wellbeing and inclusion policies, particularly those linked to inclusion, student mental health, healthy eating, and safeguarding.

3. Integration of Sustainability and Environmental Wellbeing

3.1 Curriculum and Learning

Sustainability principles are integrated across subjects and activities through:

- Projects on energy conservation, recycling, gardening, and responsible resource use.
- Student-led environmental clubs and campaigns and participation in external eco-challenges.
- Use of school grounds and local community spaces for outdoor and experiential environmental learning.

3.2 School Environment

- Implementation of Estidama standards and green building practices in alignment with the ADEK School Buildings and Facilities Policy.
- Initiatives such as second-hand uniform programs, reuse of learning resources, and reuse or sustainable disposal of lost-and-found items.
- Promotion of sustainable food consumption, responsible procurement, and green technologies.

3.3 Sustainable Transportation and Events

- Encourage carpooling, walking, and use of low-emission transport options.
- Promote zero-waste school events by minimizing food waste and using recyclable materials.

4. Awareness and Engagement

- VIPS will actively promote sustainability awareness to students, staff, and parents through assemblies, campaigns, newsletters, cross-curricular learning, competitions, and digital platforms.
- A reward and recognition program will celebrate meaningful contributions from the school community in advancing sustainability.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- The school will monitor and evaluate progress using ISO 14000-aligned performance indicators.
Sustainability and environmental wellbeing will be included in the annual wellbeing survey.
- Feedback and survey results will inform annual updates to the strategy.
- ADEK-mandated evaluations will be conducted as required.

6. Compliance

- This policy is effective starting **Academic Year 2024/25**.
- Full compliance is required by **Academic Year 2025/26**.

Policy Review

ANNUAL REVIEW FORM

Virginia International Private School and all schools will review Sustainability Policy annually.

Approved by: The Principal