

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### Introduction

Grace Valley Indian School (GVIS) recognizes that sustainability is a vital element of collective wellbeing that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Implementing sustainable practices is crucial in creating a culture that prioritizes collective care for the wellbeing of the school's physical environment. This policy outlines GVIS's commitment to preparing students as global citizens who understand their impact on environmental concerns and their role in contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Purpose

- Strategic Focus: Establish a focused strategy dedicated to promoting sustainability across the school community.
- Skill Development: Prepare students and staff with the knowledge and skills to manage resources wisely and recognize their role in tending to the planet's future.
- Continuous Improvement: Monitor progress and actively work to continuously improve the school's sustainability and environmental wellbeing.

### Definitions

Sustainability	Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (United Nations, 1987). The use of
Biophilic Design	building design to increase occupants' connectivity to nature, through direct exposure (light, plants) or indirect exposure (natural materials), intended to deliver wellbeing benefits. A positive state experienced by individuals and
Wellbeing	societies encompassing quality of life and the ability to contribute to the world with a sense of meaning and purpose (WHO, 2021). An area in the school that is accessible to all students and is designated for the purpose of recuperation
Wellness Space	and the promotion of calmness and mental and emotional health. A set of standards created to help companies and organizations reduce their negative impact on the environment.
ISO 14000	

## Policy

### 1. Sustainability Strategy and Governance

1.1 Strategic Alignment: GVIS has developed a results-driven sustainability strategy as part of our overall wellbeing framework. This strategy:

1. Aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. Adheres to the goals of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Abu Dhabi Quality Conformity Council (QCC) standards.
3. Defines our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) vision regarding environmental stewardship.
4. Commits to alignment with ISO 14000 standards for environmental management.

1.2 Governance: The school has appointed a Sustainability Committee/Lead responsible for overseeing the development, implementation, and annual review of the sustainability strategy.

### 2. Integration of Sustainability and Environmental Wellbeing

#### 2.1 Curriculum Integration:

GVIS integrates sustainability principles into the curriculum across all grades.

1. Educational Programs: We promote conservation and sustainable practices through projects and extracurricular activities to minimize the use of non-renewable resources.
2. Practical Learning: Students engage in hands-on experiences such as energy conservation, recycling, and waste management, utilizing the school grounds as a learning resource.

#### 2.2 Psychological and Physical Environment:

1. Wellness Spaces: We ensure designated spaces that promote calmness and connection to nature, utilizing biophilic design strategies (e.g., natural light, plants) in line with the ADEK Student Mental Health Policy.
2. Energy Efficiency: We adhere to building design requirements that mandate effective energy-saving measures (Estidama).

#### 2.3 Resource Management:

1. Uniform Reuse: GVIS facilitates the donation of valid, used uniforms for second-hand use through discounted resale or temporary loans. All items are sanitized prior to reuse.
2. Physical Resources: We ensure that valid used books and learning materials can be donated for reuse. For mass-ordered resources, the school maintains a plan to allow for second-hand reuse within 5 years.

3. Lost and Found: A plan is in place for the sustainable disposal of lost items at the end of the academic year, including donation to charity or reuse within school projects.
4. Sustainable Technologies: We prioritize digital resources over printed ones where appropriate and opt for refurbished electronic equipment to reduce our carbon footprint.

#### 2.4 Operational Sustainability:

1. Zero Waste Events: GVIS advocates for "zero waste" at school events by monitoring food quantities, reducing waste, and encouraging recyclable packaging.
2. Transportation: We actively encourage sustainable transportation options for the school community, such as carpooling and the use of low-emission vehicles.
3. Procurement: We promote sustainable practices in our procurement and contract processes.

#### 3.1 The Principal is:

1. Maintaining an appointed Sustainability Committee or Lead to oversee the strategy.
2. Aligning the school's sustainability goals with UN SDGs and EAD policies.
3. Promoting awareness of the sustainability strategy to staff, students, and parents (all stakeholders).
4. Establishing a reward and recognition policy to value community contributions toward sustainability.
5. Overseeing the annual review of the strategy and ensuring compliance with ADEK regulations.

#### 3.2 The Sustainability Lead/Committee is:

1. Monitoring progress against goals set out in the sustainability strategy.
2. Designing and analyzing monitoring measures, including the annual wellbeing survey sections dedicated to sustainability.
3. Developing action plans to address insights from monitoring and evaluation.
4. Ensuring initiatives are accommodating students with additional learning needs.

### 3.3 Teachers are:

- 1 Integrating sustainability principles into lesson plans and classroom activities.
  - . Facilitating practical learning experiences (e.g., recycling, gardening).
- 2 Encouraging a green digital footprint by prioritizing digital resources over paper where
  - . appropriate.
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### 3.4 Operations and Admin Staff are:

1. Managing the collection, sanitization, and redistribution of used uniforms and physical resources.
2. Implementing "zero waste" protocols for school events and meetings.
3. Ensuring sustainable procurement practices are being followed for school supplies and electronics.
4. Managing the sustainable disposal of lost and found items.

## 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Annual Survey: GVIS includes a section on sustainability in the annual wellbeing survey to capture community feedback and knowledge.
2. Continuous Improvement: The school regularly updates the sustainability strategy based on feedback and evolving standards.
3. Reporting: We administer any ADEK-mandated evaluation measures to assess sustainability practices as required.

## 5. Compliance

This policy is effective as of the dates outlined below. Failure to comply with this policy shall be subject to accountability measures in accordance with ADEK regulations.

Effective Date	April 10, 2024
Compliance Date	April 10, 2025
Next Review Date	April 10, 2026


