



DOHA  
BRITISH  
SCHOOL

AIN KHALED

# Educational Resources Guidelines and General Cultural Sensitivity



Last Review: June 2023

Next Review: June 2024

Reviewer: Policy Committee





## Educational resources Guidelines and General Cultural Sensitivity

We must continue to be mindful of the context in which we live. We are visitors to the State of Qatar which has some traditional values that differ from ones that we may be used to. Whilst we understand we are an international school and celebrate different values we must be alert and aware of our surroundings. We are not permitted to teach any values that go against Qatari/Islamic values/culture.

### The general guidelines for the topics included in the educational resources:

#### 1. Religion

- Religions other than Islam are not allowed to be taught in private schools and kindergartens in Qatar.
- An exceptional approval should be obtained from the Department of Private Schools Affairs in the Ministry to use resources other than that of the Ministry.

#### 2. Prohibitions and taboos

- **ALL Staff** are responsible for using appropriate resources/materials used in lessons or assemblies. Any video/YouTube clip must be previewed before showing to any students. All resources should comply with the conservative nature of the State of Qatar. Topics such as (sex, nudity, inappropriate relationships, drugs, alcohol, political sensitivities, promotion of anything considered haram etc) are not permitted under any circumstances.
- The Islamic concepts of “Halal” and “Haram” must be followed in all teaching aspects. It is forbidden to refer to alcoholic beverages and drugs and promote them to students in any form (resources and images), as well as pork eating or displaying human images on a pig’s body.
- If the curriculum contains material that is prohibited, it is necessary to refer to the department of private school’s affairs along with the justifications to use such materials, in order to establish appropriate controls and make exceptional approvals if required by any external/ international evaluation body.
- All images used must adhere to the religious values and Qatari culture, including indecent clothing images.
- Please avoid the use of and circulation/sharing of ‘rainbow’ images/pictures. These should not be on displays or presentations shared with children/students/wider community.

#### 3. Morality:

- It is strictly forbidden to include extramarital sexual relations, homosexuality, or any form of relationship that is not compatible with Qatar’s religion and traditions.
- It is not permitted to refer to sexual terms (images, insinuations and offensive phrases), outside of marriage for kindergarten and primary stages.



- If the curriculum requires reference to sexual terms as part of the approved curriculum (from 6<sup>th</sup> grade onwards), it is necessary that the relevant teaching staff and members of the SLT reviews these materials to ensure that it is aligned with the religious and social values in The State of Qatar. These materials should be taught by a teacher from the same gender as the students.
- If the school's international curriculum requires addressing culturally sensitive topics, such as holding celebrations and organising events for other communities and cultures, the Department of Private Schools must be aware of the curriculum requirements (international external assessment) in order to obtain approval in advance.

#### **4. Reproduction in Science and Biology:**

- All reproduction topics taught in (grades 6-12) in American curriculum and (grades 7-13) in British curriculum must be handled with extra caution in line with the local culture.
- Only still anatomical images can be used, no GIF images or videos are allowed.
- Male and female students are taught these topics separately.
- Taking the age of students into consideration.

#### **5. Politics:**

Focusing on topics that promote the values of citizenship, belonging and positive and inspiring models, and not to delve into controversial topics that arouse sensitivity among individuals in society, while emphasising respect for the principles of the State of Qatar and its consistent agreement on Arab and Islamic issues, notably Palestine (including but not limited to books, maps, media, images and media) in accordance with Qatar's official recognition of the State of Palestine and its territorial borders.

#### **6. Human Rights:**

Appropriate topics and modern human rights issues must be addressed in accordance with the aspirations and achievements of the State of Qatar in this field and the policies, regulations and values of Islam.

#### **7. Legendary tales:**

Greek or other legendary tales can be covered if they relate to the curriculum in History and Literacy subjects, while avoiding mythical and morally unacceptable drawings.

### Conclusion

In accordance with Law 23 of the Emiri Decree of 2015, which regulates the work of private schools. The school is fully responsible for any complaint concerning the curriculum, educational resources, or the way they are applied.



Thank you