



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

Guiding Statement

To enhance the international mindedness of all members of the school community by promoting awareness of intercultural understanding and interconnectedness between the local and global community.

Key Definition – International Education

To ignite an international minded community who have a sense of identity, compassion, skills to learn, diverse experiences and can address global issues affecting our communities at a local and international level.

School's International Context

ACS (International) is an academically selective school that offers a blend of the academic rigour of a Singapore school, with the liberal education approach of an international school. The school has between 50%-65% Singaporean students, with the remainder of the student population coming from mostly Asian nations. There is a large population of students from China and South Korea, with other students coming from nations such as Japan, India, Thailand and Indonesia. There are a number of students who hold passports of countries such as US, UK and Australia but have an Asian heritage. The majority of our students would speak at least two languages. It is not uncommon for our students to have lived in several different countries prior to their arrival in Singapore.

The staff at ACS (International) come from a diverse background of countries. Around 50% of the staff are Singaporean or Singapore Permanent Residents (PR), with the remainder of the staff coming from a wide range of countries from around the world, the largest group coming from the United Kingdom.

Due to the international nature of Singapore, the students and the staff at ACS (International), it is important that the school outlines its approach to International Education.

To ignite an internationally minded community

Our students come from a variety of different countries and cultures. Many of our students express at enrolment their desire to broaden their understanding of the world through an international curriculum, to get to know and understand students from other countries and for our international students, to experience the different cultures that are found in Singapore. The staff of the school, who also have a diverse cultural background, seek to inspire and foster that approach within the school.

Therefore, ACS (International) commits to be an internationally minded community through:

- Committing to the values inherent in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)
- Respecting the dignity and equality of all individuals, groups and cultures
- Offering an international curriculum that meets internationally agreed standards
- Offering co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that reflect the international mix
- Promoting global citizenship throughout the school
- Enrolling students from a diverse international mix, while meeting our Singaporean student quota as mandated by the Singapore Government
- Employing staff from a diverse international mix, while meeting the Ministry of Manpower's employment requirements.
- Being a member of international accreditation bodies such as The Council of International Schools (CIS) and International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO)
- Understanding and respecting cultural differences.

<i>Prepared By</i>	<i>Approved By</i>	<i>Review and Revised</i>	<i>Reviewed by</i>	<i>Next Review</i>

Sense of identity, compassion, skills to learn, diverse experiences

It is important that students understand their own cultural identity while being able to develop their cultural understanding of others. The school provides an environment that promotes and encourages students to develop their sense of identity based on their own cultural background. Key components of self-identity are culture and language as they bind communities and cultures together, and so both these components are actively outworked as the school conducts its business. The school also promotes and encourages students to develop their cultural understanding of others in order to develop mutual understanding and use education as a force for peace. In order to achieve this aim, the school seeks to develop a deep compassion for humanity within its students through developing their skills and exposing them to a diverse set of learning experiences.

Therefore, ACS (International) commits to developing a sense of identify through:

- Enabling all students to gain access to the curriculum and to have the opportunities for success in their learning, relative to their abilities
- Encouraging students to learn about their own culture
- Providing opportunities for students to learn and experience other cultures.

Compassion through:

- Engaging with people in an increasingly globalized, rapidly changing world
- Providing service opportunities both locally and internationally
- Supporting charitable organisations in Singapore
- Supporting suitable charitable organisations globally, including fund raising for disaster relief as required.

Skills to Learn through:

- Encouraging students of all ages to think critically and challenge assumptions
- Become more culturally aware, through the development of a second language
- Providing students access to develop their mother-tongue languages.
- Providing students access to learn additional languages.

Diverse experiences through:

- Maintaining a balance of student and staff nationalities throughout the school
- Providing international students with introductions and tours of Singapore
- Offering a range of local and international excursions and trips
- Providing access to curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to all students regardless of cultural background
- Promoting cultural diversity, freedom of thought and mutual understanding.

Address global issues affecting our communities at a local and international level

It is important that students are aware of global issues both past and present and the impact that they have. The school will endeavor to make students aware of these issues and provide them with the skills to critically determine their own views. Students will be encouraged to think how these issues might affect local situations, including within Singapore and the student's home country. In addition to this, students will be encouraged to consider the impact these issues might have on an international scale in the short and long term.

Therefore, ACS (International) commits to addressing global issues affecting our communities at a local and international level through:

- Encouraging students of all ages to consider both local and global contexts
- Provide students access to local and international resources.
- Using local and global issues in curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities as appropriate.
- Supporting students and staff who engage in local and global issues as appropriate.
- Engage with local and global organisations to support the mission of the school.

References

IBO – Benefits of the IB CIS Code Of Ethics.

CIS Membership Standards.

“What Is an IB Education?”, International Baccalaureate Organisation

Cambridge International Education – IGCSEs

Safeguarding Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the Context of Global Citizenship, UN Chronicle

Cultural Diversity, Mutual Understanding Formed Bedrock of United Nations, 66th General Assembly, United Nations

In Pursuit of Peace, Dr Abiodun Williams, IB Community Blog