



ARCADIA GLOBAL SCHOOL

AGS Innovation Policy

2024-2026

Al Furjan

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ALTRUISM **R**ESPECT **C**OMPASSION **A**SPIRATION **D**ETERMINATION **I**NTEGRITY **A**DVENTURE
GRIT **L**IFELONG **O**PTIMISM **B**RAVERY **A**LACRITY **L**EARNING



Rationale

Our school aspires to lead in innovation by fostering a culture of imagination and creativity among pupils, staff, and leadership. This environment will drive authentic growth and collaboration, ensuring all stakeholders contribute to a forward-thinking and dynamic learning ecosystem.

Aims

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure the school remains at the forefront of innovative practice for teachers, students, and leadership.
- Foster a culture of creativity and imagination across the entire school community.
- Establish a structured review and assessment cycle for innovation to support continual growth.

This policy applies to students, staff, parents, and all stakeholders involved with the school.

Key Literature

Our innovation framework is guided by leading international standards and local education visions:

1. **UAE Vision 2021**
2. **International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards**
3. **Dubai School Inspection Bureau (DSIB) Report**

UAE Vision 2021

“The United Arab Emirates Vision 2021 has education as its foundation, both explicitly and implicitly. Vision 2021 includes aspirations for citizenship, a spirit of entrepreneurship, enhanced educational attainment, and a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation, research, science and technology. The realisation of these aspirations requires a world-class education system, responsive to national needs and aligned to international standards.”

Innovation is at the core of the National Agenda in the UAE, aiming to make its schools the most innovative in the world. It sets out its approach with regard to ‘innovation’ and ‘innovative leadership’. Based on this, we aspire to create an innovative ecosystem within our school that will innovate in these key areas:

- Curriculum design
- Teaching and learning strategies
- The use of learning technologies

- Classroom/school design
- Assessment
- Timetabling
- Partnerships beyond our school

Staff recruitment, training, development and reward

ISTE Standards

ISTE Standards provide a comprehensive framework for innovation in education. They focus on developing skills for **students, educators, and leaders**, with actionable areas that enhance teaching, learning, and leadership.

Arcadia has used the ISTE standards to form its innovation policy and guidelines. The ISTE standards focus on three key areas for innovation:

- Students
- Educators
- Educational Leadership

These are then broken down into five to seven key areas for innovative practice. These areas in turn are broken down into further goals to assess the innovation in a school.

DSIB Report on Innovation in Education

“More than any other time, we need to boost innovation among young people, build nurturing environments in our society, and encourage our schools and universities to equip our youth with skills in research and discovery methodologies.” – Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai (2014)

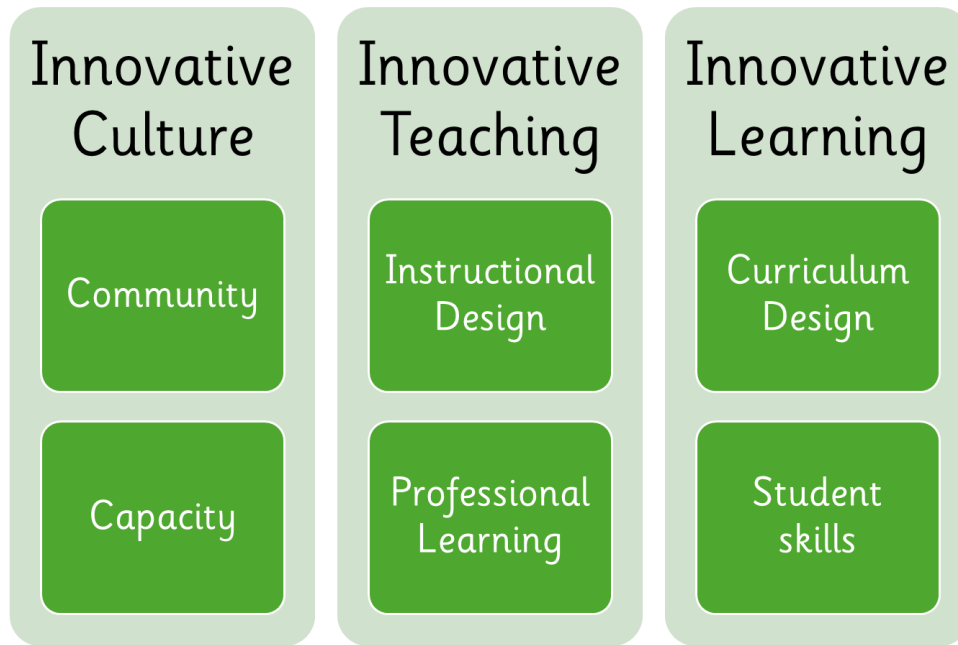
Promoting a culture of innovation in schools involves generating new and creative ideas, adopting improved approaches, and encouraging entrepreneurship. Innovation includes areas like curriculum design, teaching methods, classroom spaces, and partnerships, all of which are integral to our school’s culture. Our commitment to fostering curiosity, taking risks, and challenging the status quo reflects these principles.

Our Approach

We have developed a tailored innovation philosophy by drawing on the principles of UAE Vision 2021, ISTE Standards, and insights from the DSIB Report. Our framework is structured around three strands, each broken into two key areas, ensuring a balanced approach across culture, teaching, and learning.

Vision

To maximise every student’s potential through innovative learning designs that prepare them for the challenges of the future.



3 Strands and 6 Key Areas

1. Innovative Culture

- *Community*: Engage all stakeholders in our innovative approach.
- *Capacity*: Equip the school with tools, resources, and infrastructure to support innovation.

2. Innovative Teaching

- *Instructional Design*: Create engaging, innovative lesson plans that inspire creativity and critical thinking.
- *Professional Learning*: Provide opportunities for staff to develop their skills and embrace innovative teaching practices.

3. Innovative Learning

- *Curriculum Design*: Integrate STREAM and digital projects into the curriculum to enhance real-world relevance.
- *Student Skills*: Build digital competencies and problem-solving skills that prepare students for life beyond school.

Timeline of Objectives

2023

- Establish a vision for innovation and introduce it to staff and parents.
- Form an innovation team for different age phases and subjects.

2024

- Develop strong partnerships with parents and external organisations.
- Elevate the profile of Student Digital Leaders by involving them in school-wide initiatives.
- Identify and plan potential innovation projects.
- Define roles and responsibilities for Student Digital Leaders.
- Host the first Innovation Week in School

2025

- Involve Student Digital Leaders in the conference and similar events.
- Embed real-world projects into the curriculum across all subjects.
- Teachers have projects linked to the real world embedded throughout the year.

Detailed Strands and Key Areas

Year-wise Innovation Plan

2024

- Community: Introduce the innovation vision and outline goals to all stakeholders.
- Capacity: Establish foundational systems, including Mobile Device Management and tracking IT support priorities.
- Instructional Design: Develop video exemplars of innovative teaching and align with global schools known for similar practices.
- Curriculum Design: Enter students in external competitions and build industry partnerships.
- Community: Host community-driven events like the innovation week to showcase student achievements.
- Instructional Design: Map STREAM and digital projects into the curriculum.
- Student Skills: Introduce the Digital Skill Passport across primary school and aim for online safety certification.

2025

- Community: Partner with local organisations and parents to bring real-world contexts to school projects.
- Capacity: Fully resource STREAM spaces and embed their use in the curriculum.
- Instructional Design: Continuously refine instructional approaches based on ongoing research and feedback.
- Professional Learning: Create advanced training modules for emerging technologies and teaching strategies.
- Curriculum Design: Evaluate and expand the STREAM curriculum based on global best practices and local needs.
- Student Skills: Ensure students demonstrate proficiency in advanced digital tools and collaborative problem-solving techniques.

Embed real-world projects throughout the curriculum, ensuring performance pathways for high-achieving students.

- Student Skills: Introduce the Digital Skill Passport across primary school and aim for online safety certification.

Commitment to Excellence

Our school is a hub of innovation, empowering students to solve real-world problems and embrace lifelong learning. By combining STREAM education, advanced technology, and community partnerships, we prepare students and staff to excel in an ever-evolving global landscape.

Policy Implemented: September 2024

Policy Review Date: August 2026

Policy Responsibility: Digital Innovation Lead

Version: 1