



مدرسة الواحدة الخاصة
AL WAHDA PRIVATE SCHOOL
An American Curriculum School

Teaching and Learning Policy

2025-2026

Teaching and Learning Policy

(Applicable to Grades K–12 / American Curriculum)

Effective: August, 25

Review Date: June, 26

1. Introduction

At Al Wahda Private School, we are committed to delivering a rigorous, inclusive, and engaging educational experience that nurtures the academic, social, and emotional development of every student. Grounded in the principles of the American curriculum and informed by global best practices, our approach to teaching and learning emphasizes **critical thinking, inquiry, creativity, and collaboration**.

This policy outlines our instructional philosophy and pedagogical framework, ensuring consistency and excellence across all grade levels—from Kindergarten through Grade 12. It reflects our belief in **student-centered education**, where each learner’s potential is recognized, valued, and cultivated.

2. Approaches to Learning

Our instructional approach is guided by research-based practices that support **active, personalized, and holistic learning**. We believe that students learn most effectively when they:

- Engage meaningfully in tasks that are relevant and connected to real-world contexts.
- Explore, question, and reflect as part of their learning process.
- Develop both **independence** and **collaboration skills**, building self-awareness and resilience.
- Take ownership of their learning through **voice, choice, and goal-setting**.
- Receive differentiated instruction that meets their **academic level, interests, and learning styles**.

Classrooms at Al Wahda Private School are **constructivist environments**, where students co-construct knowledge through experience, dialogue, experimentation, and reflection.

Instruction is scaffolded to support varying levels of readiness and promote growth for all learners.

3. The 5E Instructional Model

We utilize the **5E Model of Instruction** across content areas and grade levels. This research-based framework supports **inquiry-based and experiential learning**, aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Common Core, and other US curriculum benchmarks.

1. Engage

- Stimulate curiosity and activate prior knowledge.
- Set the purpose for learning and establish relevance.
- Examples: provocative questions, multimedia, storytelling, hands-on provocations.

2. Explore

- Allow students to investigate through guided or open-ended tasks.
- Encourage collaborative inquiry and student-led exploration.
- Emphasis on observation, experimentation, and questioning.

3. Explain

- Facilitate student articulation of ideas and connections.
- Teachers clarify concepts, introduce academic vocabulary, and guide conceptual understanding.
- Emphasis on dialogic teaching and peer explanation.

4. Elaborate

- Extend learning through application in novel, cross-disciplinary, or real-life situations.
- Use projects, case studies, and authentic tasks to deepen understanding.
- Encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation.

5. Evaluate

- Use both formative and summative assessment to measure understanding.

- Include student self-assessment and reflection to promote metacognition.
 - Assessments drive future instruction and individualized support.
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4. Child-Centered and Inquiry-Led Pedagogy

Al Wahda Private School embraces a **child-centered, inquiry-led pedagogy** that empowers learners to drive their own educational journey.

Through structured inquiry and problem-based learning, students are encouraged to:

- Ask meaningful questions and design their own investigations.
- Explore topics of interest and engage with local and global issues.
- Use technology, literature, and diverse resources to construct knowledge.
- Reflect regularly on their learning processes, progress, and areas for growth.

Teachers cultivate a climate where **student voice is honored**, curiosity is nurtured, and risk-taking is seen as part of the learning process. Inquiry is integrated across disciplines, aligning with STEM, literacy, and project-based learning approaches.

5. The Role of the Teacher: Instructor and Facilitator

At Al Wahda Private School, teachers play a **dual role** as **instructors** and **facilitators** of learning. This balanced role ensures that students receive both structured guidance and the freedom to explore.

As Instructors, Teachers:

- Deliver explicit teaching of core concepts and foundational skills.
- Use modeling, scaffolding, and guided practice to ensure mastery.
- Align lessons with curriculum standards and learning objectives.
- Use data-driven instruction to inform planning and differentiation.

As Facilitators, Teachers:

- Guide inquiry and support student-led investigations.
- Encourage collaboration, problem-solving, and critical dialogue.

- Design open-ended learning experiences that foster autonomy.
- Create inclusive, equitable spaces that celebrate student diversity.

Teachers collaborate across departments and grade levels to ensure consistency in pedagogy and vertical alignment of skills.

6. Learning Environment and Resources

We strive to provide dynamic, learner-friendly environments that support **engagement, interaction, and innovation**:

- **Flexible classroom design** to accommodate diverse learning needs and styles.
- **Digital integration**, including interactive boards, tablets, and educational platforms.
- **Print-rich and multimedia resources** to support language development and content mastery.
- **Hands-on materials and manipulatives** for experiential learning in STEM and the arts.
- **Learning support services** and inclusive practices for students with additional needs.

All learning environments are designed to reflect our commitment to **universal design for learning (UDL)** and **21st-century skills**.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability

To ensure high-quality teaching and continuous improvement, Al Wahda Private School implements a rigorous system of monitoring and evaluation:

- **Classroom observations**, walkthroughs, and instructional rounds by academic leaders.
- Regular review of **student performance data** to identify trends and adjust instruction.
- **Teacher self-reflection tools**, coaching cycles, and peer collaboration.
- **Student voice feedback**, collected through surveys and focus groups.

- Ongoing review of **curriculum implementation** and pedagogical practices.

Findings are used to support individualized teacher development and school-wide instructional planning.

8. Professional Development and Growth

We are committed to the continuous professional growth of our educators. Teachers participate in:

- **Ongoing professional learning communities (PLCs)** focused on curriculum, assessment, and pedagogy.
- **Workshops and training** in inquiry-based learning, differentiation, culturally responsive teaching, and digital integration.
- **Instructional coaching** and mentorship programs.
- Attendance at **national and international conferences** and webinars.
- **Reflective practices** include goal setting, lesson study, and action research.

Professional development is strategically aligned with the school's vision, student needs, and evolving educational trends.

9. Conclusion

At Al Wahda Private School, our approach to teaching and learning reflects our belief in every child's ability to achieve excellence. By integrating child-centered, inquiry-led practices with the structure and rigor of the American curriculum, we create a **balanced, future-ready learning environment**. This policy serves as a blueprint for ensuring all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to thrive as compassionate, capable, and globally minded individuals.