

Ras Al Khaimah American Academy				
Subject: Parental Engagement Policy			SOP No: RAKAA-DC-03	Controlled Copy No:6
			Revision No: New	
Written by:	ICT Teacher/Asst Online Leader Officer	Date:	Policy based on: Online Safety Policy	
	Farhat Riffat	22/12/2021		
Checked and updated by:	OSL, SLT	Date:	Supersedes: New	Issued on: 31/12/2022
	Dr. Sandra Zaher	31/12/2022		
Approved by:	Principal	Date:	Distributed to:	Pages: 6
	Dr. Sandra Zaher	31/12/2022	Principal	
Authorized by:	Principal	Date:	Policy effective as of: 1/1/2023	
	Dr. Sandra Zaher  	31/12/2022	Policy review date: May 15, 2022, Dec 2022	

Contents

Objectives of the Policy	2
Scope of the Policy	2
Parental Engagement Policy	2
Development and review of the policy	3
Policy statement	3
Roles and Responsibilities	3
Education-Wider Community	4
Key responsibilities of parents	4

Objectives of the Policy

As technology users become gradually younger, the regularity of exposure and risk in the use of technology continues to increase globally. Around the globe, Digital citizenship is growing rapidly. As students enter Kindergarten or elementary school already a part of technological explosion, educative policies and practices to be expanded to younger year levels. RAKAA is progressively taking a lead role in supporting its entire community's development as digital citizens.

Scope of the Policy

In progressively challenging, connected and promptly changing world, it is critical for every RAKAA community member to develop the skills needed to flourish as healthy, confident, and digitally literate citizens.

Online safety and Digital Citizenship are important components of keeping students safe at RAKAA. We have developed procedures to help safeguard our students from potential dangers or inappropriate material. Online Safety and Digital Citizenship are taught to all students, explaining and representing how to stay safe and behave properly online.

We at RAKAA can only be successful keeping our school community safe online if we work together with parents to ensure that Online safety and Digital Citizenship message is consistent. The most significant thing is that parents talk to their kids about right practices to be safe online.

Parental Engagement Policy links to other school policies

This online safety policy considers all school other policies along with the national regulations such as:

Online safety policy:

https://rakaa.sch.ae/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/RAKAA_eSafety-Policy_2021-22.pdf

Cyber safety Policy:

https://rakaa.sch.ae/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/RAKAA_Cyber-safety-Policy_Updated.pdf

Anti-Bullying policy: https://rakaa.sch.ae/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/RAK-AA_Anti-Bullying-Policy.pdf

Child protection policy

<https://rakaa.sch.ae/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/RAKAA-Child-Protection-Policy.pdf>

Acceptable Use policy

<https://rakaa.sch.ae/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Student-Personal-Laptop-Acceptable-Use-Policy-2020-2021.pdf>

Data protection policy:

[Safeguarding rights of the children https://www.tamimi.com/law-update-articles/new-uae-law-safeguarding-rights-of-children/](https://www.tamimi.com/law-update-articles/new-uae-law-safeguarding-rights-of-children/)

Development and Review of the Policy

This policy is subject of revision and update at least once annually according to the local, national or child protection requirements. The change in technology is considered as well in updating this policy.

The review and updating process of this online Safety Policy is performed for:

- Ensure that the school monitors the use of the internet and its online safety procedures used to ensure that the online safety policy is implemented optimally.
- Strengthen the supervisory role of school principals, where they will be informed with the appropriate precautions for online safety.
- Encourage Online Safety Officer to submit periodic reports to school management about online incidents and its consequences.
- Include online safety issues in school development plans.

Policy Statement

RAKAA feels responsibility to facilitate the safe and responsible use of technology to support learning and sustainability. To educate the school community (teachers, staff, students, and parents) to protect themselves from inappropriate, illegal, and harmful content or contact.

Roles and responsibilities

Many parents have inadequate understanding of online safety risks and issues, still they play an vital role in the education of their children and in the observing of the children's on-line behaviours. Parents may underrate how often children and young people come across possibly unsafe and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond.

The school will consequently pursue to deliver knowledge and awareness to through:

- *Curriculum activities*
- *Letters, newsletters, web site, Learning Platform, Parents evenings, sessions*
- *High profile campaigns e.g., Safer Internet Day and Digital Citizenship Week*
- *Provide parents with consultations for online safety issues.*

Education – The Wider Community

The school will offer prospects for members of the community to gain from the school's online safety awareness and experience. This may be presented through the following:

- *To offer relevant and regular online safety sessions with parents.*
- *To have interactive engagements with parents to aim to build confidence and right set of skills to support their children in managing online concerns.*
- *Regular communication, awareness-raising and engagement on online safety matters and reporting routes such as school website and newsletter.*
- *To spread regular awareness continuous opportunities*
- *Providing family learning courses in use of new digital technologies, digital literacy, and online safety*
- *Online safety messages targeted towards grandparents and other relatives as well as parents.*
- *To offer regular and relevant*
- *The school website will provide online safety information for the wider community*

Key responsibilities of parents

- *To read and make sure to focus on the school Acceptable Use Policies, encourage their kids to observe mentioned rules and regulations where appropriate.*
- *To reinforce appropriate safe online behaviours at home.*
- *To act as Role model in the safe and appropriate uses of technology and social media.*

- *To Identify changes in behaviour that could show that their child is at risk of harm online.*
- *To seek assistance and support from the school, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child come across online problems.*
- *To participate in the development of the school/ online safety policies.*
- *To use school systems, such as learning platforms, safely and appropriately.*
- *To take responsibility for their own awareness and learning regarding the opportunities and risks posed by new and emerging technologies.*