

Innovation Policy

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Introduction

At Deira Private School (DePS), we believe that fostering a culture of innovation is crucial for preparing our students for the future. We emphasize the development of critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership skills, enabling students to thrive in a dynamic and competitive world. Innovation is central to our educational approach, guiding our commitment to high standards in teaching and learning. This policy outlines our commitment to innovation and provides a framework for integrating innovative practices across all subjects and phases.

Objectives

- **Cultivate a Culture of Innovation**
Establish innovation as a core aspect of our school culture by encouraging creativity, risk-taking, and the development of new ideas across all subjects.
- **Enhance Teaching and Learning**
Integrate innovative approaches into lesson planning, teaching, and assessment to cater to diverse learning needs and abilities.
- **Promote 21st Century Skills**
Incorporate skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy into the curriculum to prepare students for future challenges.

Forms of Innovation

1. Integration of Digital Technology

- **Curriculum Integration**
Embed high-level digital technology into the curriculum across all subjects. Utilize desktops, interactive panels, and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiatives, such as iPads and tablets, to enhance learning experiences.
- **Digital Library and E-Learning Platforms**
Develop and promote a digital library to support e-learning and reading, especially for primary students. Create e-learning platforms to stimulate curiosity and facilitate interaction.

2. Hands-On and Immersive Learning

- **STEM/STREAM Education**

Implement STEM/STREAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) and coding education through platforms like LEGO Education, PITSCO Education, PASCO Scientific, SAM Labs, and XYZPrinting.

- **AR/VR Solutions**

Enhance immersive learning experiences using Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technologies.

- **Critical Thinking in Science**

Emphasize critical thinking skills in science through hands-on education involving questioning, investigating, forming hypotheses, interpreting data, and solving problems.

3. Innovative Classroom and Assessment Practices

- **Classroom Setup**

Design classrooms to foster curiosity and investigation, promoting higher-order thinking and creativity.

- **Formative Assessment**

Expand formative assessment beyond written tasks to include hands-on and verbal assessments, catering to Multiple Intelligences.

- **Learning Menus**

Innovate lesson planning using Learning Menus to address individual student needs and Multiple Intelligences.

- **Alternative Learning Spaces**

Provide alternative learning environments such as the SOUL ROOM, ECO Labs, and gardening areas to enhance critical thinking and real-life problem-solving skills.

4. Real-Life Examples and Field Trips

- **Exploring Innovation in the UAE**

Incorporate real-life examples of innovation in the UAE, such as yacht races in Dubai, solar energy projects, hybrid energy factories, and sustainable energy uses. Organize field trips to expose students to these innovations.

5. Professional Development

- **Training and CPDs**

Conduct training sessions and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs to equip teachers with skills to think critically, solve problems, and generate new ideas.

Programs and Activities

1. Innovation in the Curriculum

- **Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS)**

Enrich the curriculum with CAS activities and other opportunities such as World Scholars, encouraging students to engage in innovative thinking outside the classroom.

- **Competitions and Events**

Participate in regional competitions such as the First LEGO League and Unified Robotics, Inclusive Youth Leadership where students engage in leadership roles, research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering, fostering teamwork and innovation.

Leadership and Promotion

1. School Leadership

- **Promotion of Innovation**

The principal and senior leaders will actively promote and support innovation across the school, ensuring that it is a central focus in all aspects of school life.

2. Continuous Improvement

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Regularly review and assess the effectiveness of innovative practices, making adjustments as needed to ensure continuous improvement in teaching and learning.

- The pedagogies and teaching models, such as problem-based learning or meta-cognitive strategies will be incorporated into the daily lesson plans which will help develop the skills for innovation in students.

PDCA (Plan Do Check Act)

PLAN

INNOVATION HUBS

(Inter-departmental meetings discussing innovative ideas for their subjects)



DO

PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION

(Lesson planning as learning menus and organizing resources)



CHECK

IMPLEMENTATION

(Implementing stem/steam education and innovation teaching)



ACT

REVIEW AND FEEDBACK

(Meetings with ICT team, Innovative Coaches, Senior Leadership team)

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