



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التربية والتعليم

الميثاق
الوطني
للتعليم

The National Education Charter

School Guide
2026

تربية
وتعليم

الميثاق
الوطني
للتعليم

الميثاق الوطني للتعليم

نحو تعليم يُرسخ الهوية الوطنية وينمي السمات الشخصية والمهارات لدى كل متعلم



Introduction

Every school day, thousands of students walk through school doors carrying unlimited potential. The mission of schools goes beyond teaching, it is about building a deep-rooted identity and a well-rounded character alongside it.

From this belief, the National Education Charter was born. It defines the profile of the learner the UAE seeks to develop, supporting an education that reinforces national identity and builds the future skills of every learner. The Charter sets the national goals for education and identifies the values, traits, and skills that should be reflected in both the school environment and the daily learning experience, where knowledge, behavior, responsibility, and belonging all come together in practice.

This guide was developed to show how the Charter can be activated within schools, and how a national reference can become a living daily practice across decision-making, the classroom, and school culture for all learners across the UAE.



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General Framework of the National Education Charter

What is the National Education Charter?

The National Education Charter is the highest-level reference document that defines the national goals of education in the country, the traits of the Learner, national identity and societal values, and the targeted competencies and skills.



Goals of the National Education Charter

01

Establishing a unified national direction for education that ensures its stability and sustainability

02

Safeguarding identity and reinforcing national belonging

03

Building a knowledge-based society led by science and skills

The National Education Charter

Defines the Learner in the UAE Across Three Core Pillars



National Identity

- Loyalty & National Belonging
- Arabic Language
- Islamic Faith
- Integrity
- Generosity and Humility
- Respect and Kindness
- Resilience and Adaptability
- Initiative and Perseverance
- Extended Family



Traits

- Self-Regulation & Discipline
- Teamwork
- Self-Confidence
- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Cultural Awareness
- Lifelong Learning



Skills

- Critical Thinking
- Effective Communication
- Mastery of Artificial Intelligence
- Reading and Writing
- Creativity
- Numeracy Skills
- Financial Literacy

First Pillar: National Identity

What Does National Identity Mean in the Context of the National Education Charter?

National identity refers to the values, principles, and ethics that shape the learner in the UAE, anchoring them in their culture and heritage.



Loyalty and National Belonging

Strengthening a sense of belonging and pride in Emirati identity



Arabic Language

Preserving the national language and linguistic heritage



Islamic Faith

Reinforcing Islamic values in behavior and daily conduct



Integrity

Honesty and transparency in all situations



Generosity and Humility

Fostering a spirit of generosity, service to others, and humility



Respect and Kindness

Building positive relationships with appreciation and care



Resilience and Adaptability

The ability to face challenges with confidence and composure



Initiative and Perseverance

Taking initiative and pursuing goals with determination



Extended Family

Strengthening family and community ties and maintaining strong bonds

Second Pillar: Traits

What Do Traits Mean in the Context of the National Education Charter?

Traits are the personal and behavioral characteristics that a learner in the UAE is expected to demonstrate in their daily interactions, both inside and outside the school environment. They reflect students' personal and social maturity, and include self-regulation and discipline, teamwork, and self-confidence.



Self-Regulation and Discipline

Managing time and responsibilities independently

Teamwork

Collaboration and effective contribution within a group setting

Self-Confidence

Belief in one's abilities and confidence in self-expression

Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Caring for physical health and emotional wellbeing

Cultural Awareness

Appreciation of cultural diversity and openness to others

Lifelong Learning

Curiosity and continuous pursuit of knowledge

Third Pillar: Skills

What Do Skills Mean in the Context of the National Education Charter?

Skills are the practical and cognitive competencies the learner in the UAE needs to succeed in a changing and evolving world. This includes critical and analytical thinking, effective communication, mastering artificial intelligence, reading and writing skills, creativity, numeracy skills, and financial literacy.



Critical Thinking

Analyzing information and forming sound, objective judgments

Effective Communication

Clear expression and active listening across different contexts

Mastery of Artificial Intelligence

Using artificial intelligence effectively and responsibly

Reading and Writing

Proficiency in Arabic and English as tools for learning and expression

Creativity

Generating new ideas and solving problems in innovative ways

Numeracy Skills

Using mathematical concepts and tools to understand the world

Financial Literacy

Managing money wisely and making informed financial decisions

Roles and Responsibilities



01

School Leadership

Set the Overall Direction for Implementing the Charter in the School

- Align the Charter with school plans and adopt it as a core reference.
- Oversee implementation of the Charter and monitor school-wide commitment to it.
- Empower educators to implement the Charter through continuous guidance and support.



02

Teachers

Implement the Charter in the Learning Environment

- Integrate the principles of the Charter into daily practices and teaching methods.
- Guide student behavior and reinforce commitment to the values set out in the Charter.
- Strengthen students' role in activating the Charter through interactive school activities.



03

Parents

Reinforce the Charter at Home

- Reinforce the Charter's values through everyday practices at home.
- Embody the Charter's values through behavior at home and family dialogue.
- Build an active partnership with the school to strengthen their children's commitment to the Charter's values.

Roles and Responsibilities



04

Academic Counselors

Provide Guidance and Support to Students and Strengthen their Commitment to the Charter

- Provide individual and group guidance sessions to support students' understanding of the Charter's values.
- Follow up on behavioral challenges and use the Charter as a reference for guidance and counseling.
- Coordinate with teachers and parents to support students' commitment to the Charter.



05

Students

Embody the Charter's Values in Personal Behavior and Daily Practice

- Demonstrate commitment to the Charter's values through personal behavior and interactions with others.
- Actively participate in initiatives and activities related to the Charter.
- Make decisions that reflect the Charter's values across different situations.

Charter Activation Mechanisms

This guide provides a set of practical suggestions for activating the National Education Charter across various aspects of the school environment, in ways that can be adapted to each school's context.

01

Alignment

Align existing school policies and practices with the values of the Charter.



02

Activation

Strengthen interaction and participation through activities that embody the Charter's values.



03

Evaluation and Development

Document the outcomes of the activities and presenting them in ways that reflect students' experiences, and the results achieved.

Leadership and Operations Area

Where the Charter is managed as an institutional practice

- Incorporate the Charter into the school's annual operational plan.
- Design school initiatives linked to the Charter's dimensions.
- Track the impact of those initiatives.

Learning Area

Where the Charter is translated into knowledge and skills

- Connect learning objectives to the values of the Charter.
- Design learning activities that reinforce the Charter's values.
- Highlight how students apply the Charter's values.



Behavior and School Culture Area

Where the Charter's values are practiced daily

- Reinforce positive behaviors and link them to the Charter.
- Use the Charter as a reference for addressing behavioral challenges.
- Highlight role models and celebrate achievement.

Family and Community Partnership Area

Where the Charter extends beyond school walls

- Involve parents in Charter-related activities.
- Empower families to reinforce values at home.
- Design joint community service initiatives.



01

Leadership and Operations Area

Where the Charter is managed
as an institutional practice

Leadership and Operations Area

Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

Charter Team

Implementation Steps

A team of students and teachers forms the "Charter Team," responsible for proposing initiatives and recognizing peers who excel in putting the values into practice.

Covers from the Charter:



Initiative and Perseverance



Effective Communication



Teamwork
Self-Confidence



Value of the Month Board

Implementation Steps

A board in the school that displays the "Value of the Month" with practical examples, updated regularly to highlight and recognize students who embody it in their daily practices.

Covers from the Charter:



Creativity



Cultural Awareness
Self-Regulation and Discipline



Leadership and Operations Area

Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

Leadership Minutes

Implementation Steps

Set aside 5 minutes each week during morning assembly for a student to share an experience of applying one of the Charter's values, rotating between classes.

Covers from the Charter:



Effective Communication



Self-Confidence



School Innovation Challenge

Implementation Steps

Launch a termly challenge inviting students to propose solutions to school-related problems, such as reducing waste or improving the school environment, with ideas presented to the school administration.

Covers from the Charter:



Initiative and Perseverance



• Critical Thinking
• Creativity



Leadership and Operations Area

Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

Involving Students in Applying the Charter

Implementation Steps

Involving students in decisions about initiatives that activate the Charter, giving them a voice in shaping, developing, and carrying them out.

Covers from the Charter:



Initiative and Perseverance



Effective Communication



• Teamwork
• Self-Confidence



School Policy Lab

Implementation Steps

Hold regular workshops with teaching and administrative staff to review and update school policies so they align more closely with the Charter's goals.

Covers from the Charter:



Teamwork



• Critical Thinking
• Effective Communication





02 Learning Area

Where the Charter is translated into knowledge and skills

Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

“What If?” Question

Implementation Steps

At the end of each lesson, pose a question that ties the content to a real values-based decision, for example: You've been asked to submit a report, and a ready-made copy is available online that would save you time. Complete the sentence: The decision I would make is...

Covers from the Charter:



Integrity



Critical Thinking



Personal Budget Planning

Implementation Steps

Ask students to draw up a simple budget (weekly or monthly) covering income and expenses, using basic arithmetic to organize and analyze it.

Covers from the Charter:



Self Regulation and Discipline



- Critical Thinking
- Numeracy Skills
- Financial Literacy



Links to the Charter:  National Identity  Traits  Skills

Cooperative Learning Implementation Steps

Encourage students to support one another through joint learning sessions, taking turns explaining concepts and listening to each other.

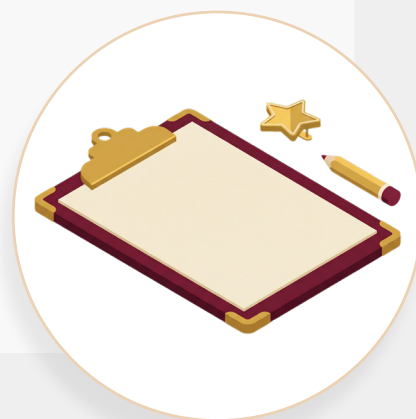
Covers from the Charter:



Initiative and
Perseverance



Teamwork



Artificial Intelligence Challenge Implementation Steps

Divide students into groups and present them with scenarios involving AI use. Groups compete to classify each scenario as responsible or irresponsible, justifying their reasoning.

Covers from the Charter:



Teamwork



- Mastery of Artificial Intelligence
- Critical Thinking



Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

Emirati Reading Club

Implementation Steps

Establish a reading club to discuss books and stories reinforcing national identity and the history of the UAE, and to encourage students to write summaries in Arabic.

Covers from the Charter:



- Loyalty and National Belonging
- Arabic Language



- Reading and Writing



Designing a Symbol for the Value

Implementation Steps

Students choose one of the Charter's values and design a visual symbol, a logo or icon, that represents it, explaining what the design means and how it connects to real situations in their daily lives, in and out of school.

Covers from the Charter:



- Creativity
- Critical Thinking





03 Behavior and School Culture Area

Where the Charter's values are practiced daily

Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

Appreciation Cards

Implementation Steps

Have students and teachers write small appreciation cards then exchange them with each other. Then, collect and display the cards on an appreciation wall.

Covers from the Charter:



Respect and Kindness



- Effective Communication
- Creativity



A Day Without Timetables

Implementation Steps

Organize a day centered on hands-on activities and practical projects without strict timetables, allowing students to choose their activities from a set of options.

Covers from the Charter:



Resilience and Adaptability



Self-Regulation and Discipline



Behavior and School Culture Area

Links to the Charter:  National Identity  Traits  Skills

The Majlis

Implementation Steps

Set up a space in the school modeled on the traditional Emirati majlis, where students practice the etiquette of hosting, hospitality, and dialogue. Sessions are held weekly around a chosen topic.

Covers from the Charter:



Arabic
Language



Cultural
Awareness



Health Champions

Implementation Steps

Each student tracks their progress in a simple weekly log that encourages healthy habits — exercise, good nutrition, and adequate sleep.

Covers from the Charter:



- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Self-Regulation and Discipline





04 Family and Community Partnership Area

Where the Charter extends beyond school walls

Family and Community Partnership Area

Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

Community Professions Day

Implementation Steps

Invite parents and community members to share their professional experience and how they apply the Charter's values, like integrity and perseverance, in their own work.

Covers from the Charter:



Initiative and Perseverance



Effective Communication



Lifelong Learning



Community Map

Implementation Steps

Students identify community institutions — such as the hospital or the police station — and explore the role each plays in serving the community.

Covers from the Charter:



• Critical Thinking
• Creativity



Cultural Awareness



Family and Community Partnership Area

Links to the Charter:  National Identity  Traits  Skills

Interactive Parents' Council Implementation Steps

Turn traditional parent meetings into interactive workshops discussing how to reinforce the Charter's values at home.

Covers from the Charter:

-  Effective Communication
-  Creativity
-  Teamwork



Day Outside School — Field Learning Trips Implementation Steps

Organize visits to national and cultural institutions that connect the curriculum to real life, with students preparing a reflective report after each visit.

Covers from the Charter:

-  Creativity
-  Cultural Awareness
-  Lifelong Learning



Family and Community Partnership Area

Links to the Charter:



National Identity



Traits



Skills

"My Grandparents, My Pride" Initiative

Implementation Steps

Invite grandparents into the school to share stories from the past, or have students record interviews with their grandparents about the Charter's values.

Covers from the Charter:



- Extended Family
- Generosity and Humility



Cultural Awareness



Family Projects Exhibition

Implementation Steps

Hold an annual exhibition where families join their children in presenting shared projects — artistic, scientific, or volunteer-based — that reflect the Charter's values.

Covers from the Charter:



Creativity



Teamwork



Frequently Asked Questions

01 **Will implementation of the Charter be mandatory for schools?**

Yes. The National Education Charter is a mandatory framework, and its core values and principles must be embedded in the educational practices of all schools.

02 **Does implementing the Charter require the addition of new lessons?**

No. Implementing the Charter does not require adding new lessons or subjects. Rather, it is integrated into classroom practices, school activities, and the everyday learning environment.

03 **When will the Charter be implemented?**

The Charter will be implemented gradually. Awareness-raising and guidance activities will begin first, followed by its phased integration into school systems over the coming academic years.

04 **Will the implementation of the Charter lead to changes in the curricula of subjects taught and assessed in schools?**

The Charter will not lead to immediate changes in the Ministry of Education curriculum, but it will serve as a foundation for future development and alignment with the Charter's principles.

International curricula (American, British, etc.) taught in schools will not be subject to change as a result of the Charter.

However, the Charter's pillars should be reflected across all schools' wider experience, ensuring that all learners, regardless of curriculum, are supported in developing the values, traits and skills it sets out.

05 **Is the Charter linked to student assessment?**

The National Education Charter is not linked to grades, assessment, or measurement of student academic performance. Its purpose is to guide development and strengthen shared expectations, rather than to assess students individually.