



RIS Statement on Innovation in Education

Raffles International School defines Innovation as the process of encouraging students and teachers to collaboratively create design or inspire something new. Innovation at RIS also affords students and teachers the opportunities to take risks, promote originality in the classroom and beyond.

“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 our school

Innovation is the generation of new and creative ideas and the use of new or improved approaches. It is one of the most effective drivers of economic growth in the modern era for stimulating entrepreneurship and enterprise. The UAE Vision 2021 sets out the National Agenda for the UAE to be among the most innovative nations in the world.

Innovation is driven by a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. Innovation is based on curiosity, the willingness to take risks and to experiment to test assumptions. Innovation is based on questioning and challenging the status quo. It is also based on recognising opportunity and taking advantage of it. Being innovative is about looking beyond what we currently do well, identifying the great ideas of tomorrow and putting them into practice.

Innovation comes in many forms. There are innovations in the way schools are owned, organised and managed; in curriculum design models; in teaching and learning approaches, such as the ways in which learning technologies are used; classroom design including virtual spaces; assessment; timetabling; partnerships to promote effective learning and engagement in the economy; and the ways in which teachers and leaders are recruited, trained, developed and rewarded. These innovations can be small or large, recognisable or entirely new and different.

UAE School Inspection Framework 2015-2016 p.12

References to Performance Standards; Indicators; Elements; Brief descriptors and Illustrations:

- **1.3 Learning Skills 1.3.4 Innovation, enterprise, enquiry, research, critical thinking and use of learning technologies**
- Brief descriptor- Students are innovative and enterprising. They are independent learners and can find things out for themselves using a variety of different sources. They use learning technologies independently and very effectively. Critical thinking and problem solving skills are intrinsic features of learning.



The quality of learning skills illustrated below would be evaluated as outstanding.

Students demonstrate proficiency in finding out new information and are able to apply successfully their critical thinking to tasks. They are innovative and creative. They hypothesise and draw inferences with ease and so their abilities to solve problems are excellent. Their work will often reflect maturity and independence of thought and they readily find things out for themselves by using books and other resources, including technology. Through the effective use of different sources of information, students are able to make accurate and appropriate conclusions and present their learning with confidence.

- **3.1 Teaching for effective learning 3.1.5 Teaching to develop critical thinking, problem solving, innovation and independent learning skills**
- Brief descriptor- Teachers skilfully develop students' critical thinking, problem-solving, innovation and independent learning skills.

The quality of teaching illustrated below would be evaluated as outstanding.

Teachers expect students to take responsibility for their own learning. They promote collaborative and/or independent learning, as appropriate. Problem-solving and opportunities for students to be innovative and engage in enterprise activities are intrinsic parts of learning. Teachers give ample time for reflection and require students to reason and think deeply.

Resources/ links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTbuFN8_D_s#t=27

<http://www.p21.org/our-work/resources/for-educators#defining>

<http://www.expansiveeducation.net/page-1730762>

<https://k12.thoughtfullearning.com/FAQ/what-are-learning-skills>

<https://k12.thoughtfullearning.com/resources>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9LeIXa3U_I

<http://www.winchester.ac.uk/aboutus/lifelonglearning/CentreforRealWorldLearning/Pages/CentreforRealWorldLearning.aspx>