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Learning

## Innovation Policy

Subject Area	Subject Lead	Date Reviewed
Innovation	Thomas Gayler	January 2024

### Rationale

The Arcadia School aspires to be a leader in innovation by establishing a culture that will foster imagination and creativity in our pupils, staff and leadership alike. This will facilitate the authentic growth of the school through a collaborative learning environment.

### Aims

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Ensure that Arcadia is at the cutting edge of innovative practice in regard to our teachers, students and leadership.
- Create an innovative culture that fosters imagination and creativity in our entire school community.
- Provide a cycle of review and assessment of innovation, so we can continually grow.

The policy statement applies to all key stakeholders: students, staff, parents and any other key personnel involved in Arcadia School.

### Key Literature

We have aligned our approach and assessment of innovation in our school on three key organisations' approaches:

- UAE Vision 2021 (Knowledge and Human Development Authority)
- Innovation in Schools (Apple Education)
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards

### UAE Vision 2021 (Knowledge and Human Development Authority)

*“The United Arab Emirates Vision 2021 has education as its foundation, both explicitly and implicitly. Vision 2021 includes aspirations for citizenship, a spirit of entrepreneurship, enhanced educational attainment, and a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation, research, science and technology. The realisation of these aspirations requires a world-class education system, responsive to national needs and aligned to international standards.”*



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Innovation is at the core of the National Agenda in the UAE, aiming to make its schools the most innovative in the world. It sets out its approach with regard to 'innovation' and 'innovative leadership'. Based on this, we aspire to create an innovative ecosystem within our school that will innovate in these key areas:

- Curriculum design
- Teaching and learning strategies
- The use of learning technologies
- Classroom/school design
- Assessment
- Timetabling
- Partnerships beyond our school
- Staff recruitment, training, development and reward.

### Innovation in Schools (Apple Education)

*“Apple Distinguished Schools are centres of leadership and educational excellence that demonstrate Apple’s vision for learning with technology — and we believe they are some of the most innovative schools in the world.”*

Arcadia School is an Apple Distinguished School and uses Apple learning technology to innovate and improve our teaching and learning. We have a one-to-one iPad program in the school and use MacBooks and iMacs as part of our teaching and learning resources. Arcadia received this recognition in 2018 and it is reassessed by Apple Education every 3 years, to make sure we are continuing to grow and innovate.

In their publication, Innovation in Schools, Apple identifies key elements when innovating which come under 3 categories: learning, teaching and environment. These are then subsequently broken into further areas to be developed.

#### Learning

- Teamwork
- Communication and Creation
- Personalization of Learning
- Critical Thinking
- Real-World Engagement



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## Teaching

- Instructional Design
- Professional Learning

## Learning Environment

- Learning Spaces
- Infrastructure Design

## International Standard for Education Technology (ISTE) Standards

*“The ISTE Standards are a framework for innovation in education. These standards help educators and education leaders worldwide prepare learners to thrive in work and life.”*

Arcadia has used the ISTE standards to form its innovation policy and guidelines. The ISTE standards focus on three key areas for innovation:

- Students
- Educators
- Educational Leadership

These are then broken down into five to seven key areas for innovative practice. These areas in turn are broken down into further goals to assess the innovation in a school.

## Our Approach

Taking the three key organisations (detailed above) guidelines and standards, we have created our own philosophy and outlook on what innovation will look like for Arcadia students, educators, leadership and the whole school community. This will be broken down into 3 strands: Culture, Teaching and Learning. This is further broken into 2 key areas for each strand: community, capacity, instructional design, professional learning, curriculum design and student skills.

## Vision

Maximise every student’s experience through an innovative design of learning to prepare them for the future.



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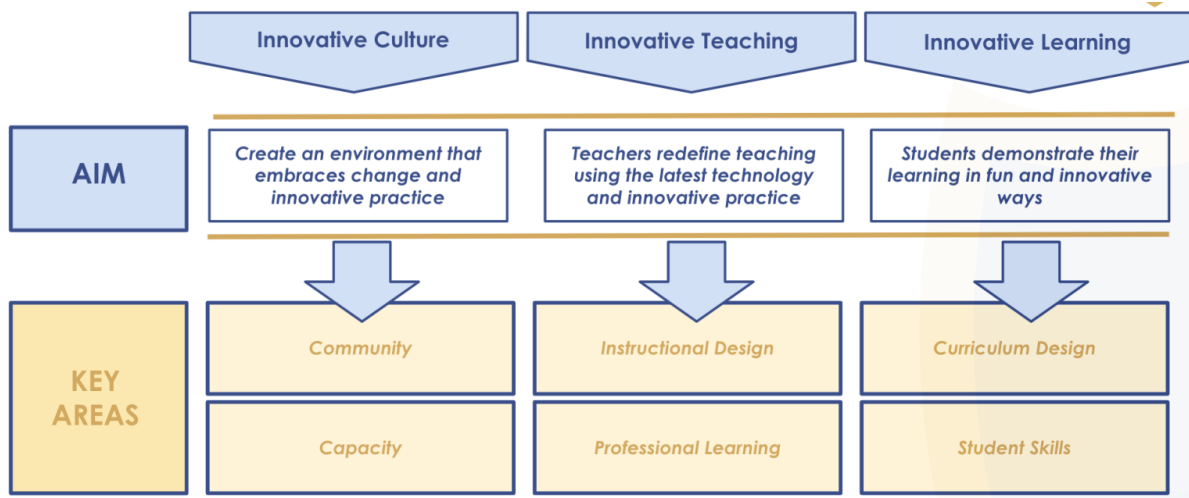
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### 3 Strands and 6 Key Areas

- Innovative Culture: Community and Capacity
- Innovative Teaching: Instructional Design and Professional Learning
- Innovative Learning: Curriculum Design and Student Skills



### Community

The entire school and wider community are engaged and participating in our innovative approach

2022

- Establish a vision and innovation approach with staff and introduce it to parents.
- Create a clear structure with roles and responsibilities for Student Digital Leaders.
- Establish an 'innovation' team for age phases/subjects.

2023

- Build strong connections with key external partners including parents.
- Raise the Student Digital Leader's profile and have them working throughout Arcadia.
- Begin to map potential innovation projects.

2024

- Host the first 'innovation' conference at Arcadia.
- Students Digital Leaders take part in the conference and participate in similar events.
- Teachers have projects linked to the real world embedded throughout the year.



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*“Arcadia’s students, teachers and community are driving the innovative approach that has been adopted. Arcadia is a hub for innovation in the region, hosting an annual ‘innovation’ conference for educators across the Middle East. It regularly is nominated for innovative education awards. Its students engage in learning that has a real-life outcome and significance to the local and global community.”*

## Capacity

Arcadia has the tools, resources and environment for innovation to occur

2022

- The Mobile Device Management system is established and running correctly.
- Create the ‘Collaboration’ area in Primary.
- Create a system to track and monitor priorities for IT support.

2023

- Begin to create a Media centre (PLG\*) and STREAM spaces along with resourcing these areas.
- Introduce MacBooks into our student ecosystem.
- Establish a system for technical support to manage key priorities.

2024

- Dedicated spaces are fully resourced and are mapped into the curriculum for full use and coverage all year round.
- Introduce innovation ‘coaches’ to the teaching team.
- Clear roles and processes embedded for support.

*“Arcadia has a world-class infrastructure to allow innovation to happen. It has dedicated spaces for STREAM and multimedia learning to occur with well-resourced programs. When you enter Arcadia, you can see the digital approach from reception to the classrooms and throughout the school. With the highly skilled support established, teachers can concentrate on teaching.”*

## Instructional Design

Lessons have an innovative design that engages students and higher-order thinking skills

2022

- Establish teacher's definitions of innovative teaching.
- Study the world's most innovative schools and their approach to instructional design.
- Create an innovative lesson descriptor with the Advanced Skills team.

2023

- Create example video lessons of innovative practice to go with the new descriptor.
- Create affiliations with other schools renowned for innovative practice.



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- Create a program to get the best out of core software.
- 2024
- STREAM and digital projects are mapped into the curriculum.
  - Ongoing research on the best practices in innovative teaching and learning.
  - Teachers are taken through a clear program to improve their skills with core software.

*“Teachers engage their students in fun, exciting and innovative ways. They use new technology such as augmented reality, virtual reality and artificial intelligence to inspire their class. The use of STREAM learning is embedded across many subjects along with creative digital tasks. Teachers expertly use Arcadia’s core software in their day-to-day teaching. They select the best software and tools for particular outcomes so effective learning can take place.”*

## Professional Learning

Teachers have a range of opportunities to learn independently and collaboratively

- 2022
- Continuation of Apple Teacher program.
  - Establish drop-in tech sessions for less confident teachers.
  - Map through the year what CPD will need to happen with key staff and groupings.
- 2023
- Offer a wide range of qualifications and CPD opportunities to staff.
  - Establish the Innovation satellite website with CPD videos.
  - Network established of Innovation Leads in Dubai and beyond.
- 2024
- More skilled and qualified teachers are used in teams to offer CPD and support.
  - STREAM and multimedia training are offered to raise confidence in those areas.
  - Innovation coaches were introduced to help integration and upskill.

*“All teachers at Arcadia are very confident with using technology effectively due to the robust professional learning opportunities they have. All teachers are Apple Teachers and many have completed extra qualifications to bolster their skill set. Teachers receive professional learning from internal and external experts in a variety of ways: face-to-face and online workshops, informal how-to videos and co-teaching with their peers and innovation coaches.”*

## Curriculum Design

Our curriculum provides students with opportunities for innovative learning with a focus on the real world

- 2022
- Continue to work with the STREAM team to create future strategies.
  - Research external opportunities for our students around STREAM/digital-based competitions.



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- Map where digital projects will go into the topic curriculum.
- 2023
- Begin to map how STREAM learning will weave into our curriculum.
  - Build strong connections with key external partners including parents for real-world projects.
  - Enter the first external robotics competitions (FLL).
- 2024
- STREAM and digital projects are mapped into the curriculum.
  - Teachers have projects linked to the real world embedded throughout the year.
  - Performance pathways embedded for the more able.

*“Arcadia has a well-planned curriculum with digital and STREAM learning threaded to enhance many subject areas and topics. Students engage in projects from key partners and affiliates that have a real-life significance and context such as the UAE sustainability goals. Students at Arcadia have the opportunity to compete in STREAM-based competitions in the UAE and internationally.”*

## Student Skills

Students have key digital skills and knowledge that will prepare them for the next stage of their life

- 2022
- Map where digital projects will sit in the topic curriculum.
  - Create the skills needed for the Digital Skill passport in collaboration with teachers.
  - Map into the curriculum a digital safety program based on the National Online Safety
- 2023
- Oversee the digital projects, collecting evidence and adapting it.
  - Introduce Student Digital Passports into Primary.
  - Begin the process of becoming a National Online Safety Certified School.
- 2024
- Digital learning projects linked to the Arcadia Learning Skills.
  - Student Digital Skill passport introduced from FS - Year 9.
  - Embed and adapted the digital safety program as a National Online Safety Certified School.



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*“Students leave Arcadia in Year 13 with highly advanced digital skills. Students can demonstrate their learning in a variety of creative ways such as movie creation and digital publishing. They can use technology to collaborate and solve problems. Students understand their role as global citizens, using technology safely and responsibly when communicating with the wider world. They use their devices to be more efficient and make themselves more independent thinkers and learners.”*

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Policy Responsibility: Head of Digital Innovation  
Board Approval: July 2021  
Version: 5



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