Introduced on: April 2025	**Next Review –** March 2027
Revised: March 2026	**Implemented by –** Principal

Community and Parental Engagement Policy

1. Purpose

This policy establishes a comprehensive framework for structured, meaningful, and legally compliant collaboration between our school, parents, and the wider community. It aims to enhance student academic achievement, wellbeing, safeguarding, and holistic development. The policy reflects ICSE principles of holistic education and aligns with KHDA expectations, including the Parent–School Contract initiative and inspection framework, as well as UAE laws, ensuring parental and community engagement supports learning while maintaining safety, child protection, and wellbeing at all times.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all members of the JSS International School community including parents and carers, students, teaching and non-teaching staff, school leadership, governing bodies, volunteers, visitors, and community partners. It covers all school-organized activities where parents and community members are involved, both on-site and online.

3. Policy Statement

At JSSIS, we recognize that education is a shared responsibility between the school and families. Parents and community members are valued partners who contribute to students' intellectual, emotional, moral, physical, and social development. All engagement is conducted in a respectful, inclusive, and transparent manner, with safeguarding and wellbeing as non-negotiable priorities.

4. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy aligns with:

- UAE Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 (Wadeema's Law) on Child Rights
- UAE Federal Decree Law No. 31 of 2021 on Protection of Children and Vulnerable Individuals
- UAE Cybercrime Law
- Dubai Health and Safety regulations and Civil Defence requirements
- KHDA regulations and inspection framework
- UAE Civil Law governing contractual relationships between schools and families

All parental engagement activities comply with these legal obligations and KHDA expectations.

5. Alignment with ICSE Philosophy

In line with the ICSE framework, the policy promotes holistic education, values-based learning, citizenship, social responsibility, and strong home–school continuity. Parental involvement supports academic rigour, co-curricular participation, and character development.

6. Parent–School Partnership Agreement

In line with UAE law and KHDA expectations, the school formalises its relationship with parents through a Parent–School Partnership Agreement (also referred to as a Home–School Agreement).

This agreement:

- Defines shared responsibilities for learning, behaviour, attendance, safeguarding, health and safety, and wellbeing
- Confirms parental commitment to school policies and UAE regulations
- Is signed at enrolment and reaffirmed annually

- Aligns with KHDA's guidance to strengthen parent-school collaboration

7. KHDA Alignment and Expectations

KHDA inspection framework includes a dedicated quality indicator (6.3) on Partnerships with Parents and the Community. This policy aligns with KHDA expectations by ensuring:

- Active parental involvement in learning and school life
- Effective communication channels
- Use of parent feedback in school improvement
- Structured community engagement
- Evidence of formal parent-school agreements and acknowledgement

The school also participates in KHDA parent surveys as part of self-evaluation and inspection readiness.

8. Engagement Through Academic and Community Events

The school actively engages parents and the community through structured events such as Parent–Teacher Meetings (PTMs), student-led conferences and academic review meetings, open days, school carnivals, cultural celebrations, exhibitions, and Sports days, wellness events, and cocurricular showcases All events:

- Are planned with risk assessments and are supervised by designated staff
- Comply with safeguarding and child protection procedures
- Include visitor management, security, and health and safety protocols

9. Safeguarding During Engagement

- All engagement activities prioritize child protection
- Staff and volunteers adhere to the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

- Clear reporting procedures exist for safeguarding concerns
- Parents are educated on safeguarding expectations, online safety, and wellbeing
- Photography, data sharing, and communication comply with consent and privacy laws

10. Health and Safety

- Risk assessments are conducted for all school events
- Parents and visitors must comply with school safety rules, emergency procedures, and medical protocols
- The school maintains compliance with Dubai Civil Defence and health regulations

11. Inclusion and Accessibility

- Equitable access is provided for parents of students of determination and highly able learners
- Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings and review cycles are maintained
- Flexible meeting options and support mechanisms are provided
- Language and accessibility support are available where feasible

12. Digital Communication and Online Safety

- Communication platforms are used securely and professionally
- Staff and parents adhere to acceptable use and cyber safety guidelines
- Online behaviour aligns with UAE cyber laws and school policies
- Digital engagement prioritises student data protection and wellbeing

13. Complaints and Feedback

- Parents can raise concerns through formal communication channels.

- All concerns are addressed respectfully, confidentially, and in line with the school's Complaints Policy
- Parent feedback is used to inform policy and practice improvement.

14. Monitoring and Review

- Effectiveness of parental and community engagement is monitored through attendance records, surveys, feedback, and impact on student outcomes
- Policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with ICSE expectations, KHDA regulations, and UAE laws

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