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ADEK's School Digital Policy, explained for schools

What Abu Dhabi schools need to have in place, with a readiness checklist.



The policy in one page

ADEK's School Digital Policy sets out how every private and charter school in Abu Dhabi should plan, protect and govern its use of technology.

Who it applies to. All private and charter schools regulated by ADEK in Abu Dhabi.

What it asks for, in brief:

A digital strategy: a documented plan for how the school uses technology over the next five years (§2.1).

A Digital Wellbeing Committee or named lead.

Clear rules for devices: including personal devices, on the school network and premises (§4.1). Where a school runs BYOD for staff or students, it must set and apply safety precautions for those devices, such as minimum device specifications and antivirus (§5.1).

Filtering and monitoring: of student internet use on school devices and systems, with regular review of what the filter blocks and of worrying trends (§4.2.2(b), (c)).

Restricted student VPN use: schools must restrict VPN use by students on school premises or networks, unless explicitly authorised (§4.1.2(a)).

Incident records: digital incidents recorded for audit (§4.3.3).

Parents involved: schools must require parents to monitor how children use devices outside school (§4.4).

Security and data protection: strong cyber security (such as multi-factor authentication, encryption and backups) and a data protection plan.



Key dates and penalties: compliance was due in academic year 2025/26, so the policy is now in effect. Failing to comply can lead to legal accountability and penalties under ADEK's regulations (§9.2).

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What it means for your school

For school leaders.

This is a strategy and governance policy, not just an IT one. The policy asks schools to set a digital strategy and have a Digital Wellbeing Committee or Lead.

Ask: Is our digital strategy written down and approved? Who chairs our Digital Wellbeing Committee?

For IT and digital leads.

Several requirements are easier to meet when you control the device itself, not just the network: restricting VPNs, supporting students on trips, and applying precautions to personal devices.

Ask: On how many student devices is our safety software running today? Can a student switch it off or bypass it with a hotspot?

For safeguarding and wellbeing leads.

ADEK wants you to spot trends, not just block websites. That means reviewing what students search for and what the filter catches, and acting on it.

Ask: When did we last review filter reports for patterns of concern? Do we record digital incidents in one place?

Checklist for your school

- [ ] Five-year digital strategy and a Digital Wellbeing lead in place
- [ ] Acceptable use rules for students, parents, staff and visitors
- [ ] BYOD rules and safety precautions applied, on and off site
- [ ] Filtering and monitoring on all school devices, student VPN use restricted
- [ ] Filter trends reviewed, incidents recorded and escalated
- [ ] Parents asked to monitor devices at home, with tools
- [ ] Cyber security: MFA, encryption, backups, incident response
- [ ] Data protection plan documented and reviewed yearly

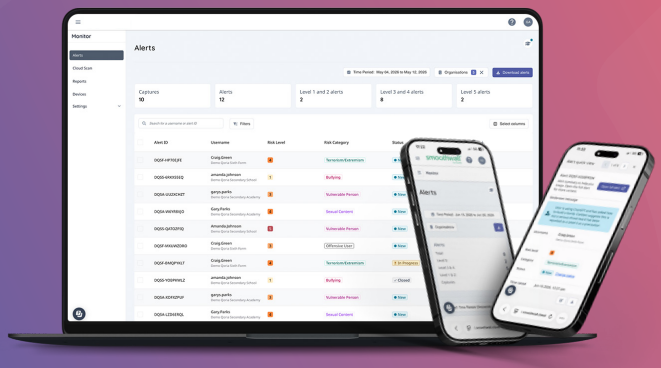
How Qoria helps

Qoria Filter protects every device on any network, blocks VPNs and proxies, and resists tampering. Reports show you trends, not just blocks.

Classroom Manager lets teachers see and guide student screens in real time, so learning devices stay on task.

Qoria Monitor flags signs of risk early, with an evidence trail for each incident, ready for audit.

Qustodio gives parents the tools to monitor device use at home, as ADEK asks you to require of them.



Book a 30-minute review with our UAE team: enquiries@qoria.eu

Sources: ADEK School Digital Policy v1.1 · All ADEK school policies. Plain-language summary of ADEK policy for information only, not legal advice. Always check the official texts.

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