



Coeducation Policy

Academic Year 2026 – 2027

1. Introduction

Belvedere British School strives to create a safe space for young people to learn, explore and grow together. We serve the national and international section of the population who see the advantages of boys and girls, men and women learning and working together, developing professional respect for each other and confidence in collaborating to get things done. We understand that, within our community, there is a wide range of sensitivities around the matter of coeducation. For this reason, we strictly adhere to the local stipulations and guidelines as per the ADEK Cultural Consideration Policy. This policy sets out the basic requirements for coeducation and the gender of staff in schools.

2. Purpose

- Identify requirements for schools regarding the sharing and/or separation of spaces according to gender.
- Identify requirements for schools regarding the gender of staff according to school type and student grade level.

3. DEFINITION

Coeducational	Having students of both genders interacting in a defined space.
Cycle	A stage in the primary and secondary educational process, and is classified in Abu Dhabi as the following: Early Years (EY), Cycle 1 (G1/Y2-G5/Y6), Cycle 2 (G6/Y7-G8/Y9), and Cycle 3 (G9/Y10-G12/Y13).
Gender Status	The classification of a school depending on its gender mixture, defined as coeducational, shared, or single-gendered.
Physical Education (PE)	The subject that is concerned with developing students' physical literacy and their ability to use their literacy to perform in a range of activities for the progressive development of their physical health. PE is planned, progressive learning (theory and practice) that takes place in a timetabled class with a documented curriculum that is delivered to all students by a qualified PE teacher. For the purpose of this policy, any reference to PE also includes other physical activity-based subjects where intentional physical contact between genders is possible (e.g., dance, yoga).
Section	An administrative grouping of students (e.g., by cycle, grade, class, bus, or any other dividing parameter). A section can have a different gender status than that

	of the school (e.g., a school may be coeducational in Cycle 1 but have single-gendered sections for Cycle 2 and above).
Shared	Having both boys and girls on a campus, but with completely separate sections for each gender. Students share common facilities (e.g., labs), but use them at different times to ensure that there is no interaction between genders.
Single-Gendered (SG)	Having students of only one gender in a defined space.

4. Policy

1. Gender Status

1.1 Communication of Gender Status: BBS publishes the school's gender status (coeducational) on our website.

1.2 Majority Parent Consent: Parents registering their children at BBS are fully aware of our coeducational status and the emphasis that we place on the safety of their children with respect to gender issues.

2. Gender Restrictions

2.1 Early Years (EY): Class teachers and all teaching support staff in EY are female only. In Y1-13, other grades/cycles, we have male and female teachers.

2.2 PE and Swimming (*Note: BBS does not provide Swimming lessons*)

- As a coeducational school, BBS adheres to the gender restrictions required for PE classes and as per Table 1. Gender Restrictions for PE.

Table 1. Gender Restrictions for PE

Class	Grades	Gender Status of School/Section	Teacher/Adult Gender
PE	PKG-G4/G1-Y5	Coeducational	Male or Female
	G5/Y6-G12/Y13	Coeducational	Male or Female

- Regardless of school type, students shall be separated by gender (male and female sections) from Grade 5/Year 6 onward for swimming.
- During swimming, students and teachers in Grade 5/Year 6 and above shall be of the same gender.
- Coeducational swimming classes are only allowed in Cycle 1 for schools that have separate changing rooms for each gender and are subject to ADEK approval.
- Activities in PE lessons are differentiated between boys and girls who follow separate tracks as recorded in the curriculum map.

2.3 Changing Rooms and Spaces

At BBS, staff and students are aware of and abide by the following guidelines:

1. Changing rooms are separated by gender.
2. Nudity is prohibited throughout BBS, and we ensure that students are aware of adhering to modest changing practices in changing rooms.
3. BBS provides completely separated spaces for all activities in the school that require the changing of clothes to the level of undergarments or beyond (e.g., during costume changes in a dance performance).
4. Changing clothes to the level of undergarments or beyond is not permitted outside of designated changing rooms or spaces for any activity taking place on BBS premises.

2.4 Prayer Rooms

1. BBS has separate male and female prayer rooms, which can be used by both staff and students.

2.5 Gender Restrictions for Other Staff

1. BBS adheres to the gender restrictions for bus supervisors, cleaners, and nurses as detailed in Tables 2-4.

Table 2. Gender Restrictions for Bus Supervisors

Grades	Gender Status of School	Staff Gender
G4/Y5 and below	Coeducational	Female
G5/Y6 and above	Coeducational	Female

Table 3. Gender Restrictions for Cleaners*

Grades	Gender Status of School	Staff Gender
G4/Y5 and below	Coeducational	Female
G5/Y6 and above	Coeducational	Male/Female

Table 4. Gender Restrictions for Nurses*

Grades	Gender Status of School	Staff Gender
At Belvedere British School, we employ both a female and a male nurse. The clinic provides two separate treatment rooms run by each nurse. This is in line with ADEK stipulations.		

*During official working hours (and with visible signage/notification otherwise)

5. Policy Awareness

Belvedere British School strives to ensure that all members of the school community are aware of the ADEK Coeducation Policy as applicable in our school through newsletter articles, Parent Association engagement and events to introduce the school to the parents through the year.

6. References

- Federal Decree Law No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law

7. Publications

- EdComplianceChecklist_2025-26Cycle_Schools20October2025.pdf
- 2024 (January) ADEK_School_Coeducation Policy_v.1.0
- Department of Education and Knowledge, Abu Dhabi (ADEK)
- This policy replaces Policy 64 (Health, Safety and Environment) specific to the gender of nurses and cleaning staff in the Private School Policy and Guidance Manual 2014-2015.

Review and Approval

Review Date: June 2026

Next Review Date: June 2027

Approved by:

Principal

BBS Board of Governors

School Stamp